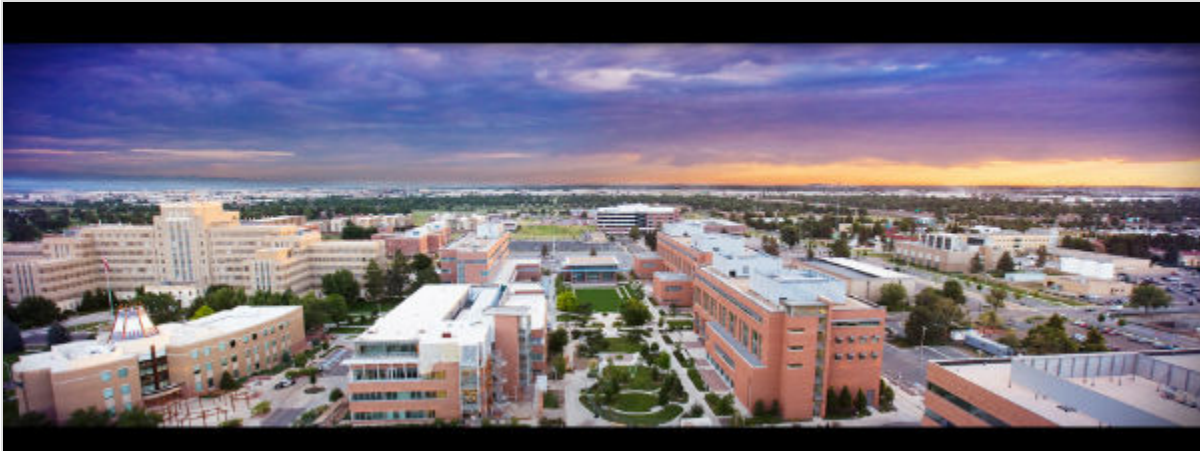


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Current information about the CHA/PA Physician Assistant Program at the University of Colorado Denver.



CHA/PA Newsletter

Read on to learn more about upcoming events, faculty and graduate accomplishments, scholarship recipients, and much more!



DAWN Clinic Seeking Volunteers

Do you speak Spanish?

The DAWN Clinic provides free health care to uninsured individuals in Aurora. A lot of patients at DAWN are Spanish speaking and we need your support in order to provide the best



CHA/PA Town Hall

On Tuesday, June 9th CHA/PA held a Town Hall virtual event with PA students and university faculty/staff. This event was a facilitated safe space to discuss racism, racial profiling, discrimination, diversity in healthcare professions, and resources for ally education. Those in attendance shared stories of pain, hope, and ideas for change.

care possible. Volunteering as an interpreter is also a great way to get involved with patient care in our community! If you are interested in volunteering or want more information, please email interpreters@dawnclinic.org to get in touch with Luisa Fernandez, a third year CHAPA student who will facilitate paperwork and testing for these awesome volunteer positions. All visits take place in the evening after class. To maintain your volunteer position as an interpreter, you only need to volunteer once a month.

–Luisa Fernandez
CHA/PA Class of 2021



Teaching Moments

Brianna Smith is a 3rd year CHA/PA student who just entered her final clinical year at the program this summer. In the attached story, Brianna tells of her experience as a student who was called to action in a crucial moment. Brianna is an inspiring leader to her peers and in the story linked below, she exemplifies this through a

For more anti-racism learning resources please see [this curated document](#) organized by Dr. Shanta Zimmer, Associate Dean of Diversity and Inclusion for the CU School of Medicine with contributions from many in the AMC community. The CHA/PA program firmly believes that black lives matter– we hear you, we see you and we stand with you.

(Pictured: Asni Solomon, year 2 PA student, and Jon Bowser, CHA/PA Program Director, attending the AMC protest)



Inspiring Tomorrow's Providers

On March 7th the other diversity committee members and I participated in the Undergraduate Pre-Health Providers Saturday Academy. We spent the day on the Anschutz Medical Campus running Clinical scenarios and hands on physical examination skills with participants from the Undergraduate Pre-Health Program (UPP). This program helps underrepresented students with interest in the healthcare field by exposing them to different aspects of being a

lesson regarding race and empathy with her preceptor. CHA/PA hopes this retelling of her encounter is as striking to you as it was for us. [Please read here.](#)



Society of Air Force PAs/Veterans Caucus Memorial Scholarship Recipient

Ronin Sullivan, PA S-2 and Class Representative for his cohort, was awarded the Society of Air Force PAs/Veterans Caucus Memorial scholarship as a veteran and Physician Assistant Student who served with distinction in the US Air Force. Congratulations Ronin!



healthcare professional. Students participate in learning experiences pertaining to health disparities, preparation with mock interviews and also a summer internship on the Anschutz Medical Campus.

The students were thrilled to learn about different medical conditions and see how these conditions present in patients as symptoms. The station I was facilitating was an asthma exacerbation scenario. It was wonderful to see the faces of the students as they heard wheezing and learned about potential causes of this respiratory distress. Amy Bouhabib, PA-S1, expressed how great it was to see how engaged these students were and eager to learn as they asked various questions and remained engaged throughout the day.

Ferougg Khaaliq PA-S2 and Asni Solomon PA-S1, both previous participants of UPP enjoyed being able to not only give back to the program, but also inspire these students that are following the same path as them. We build a strong connection with these students and were even able to change a few students minds about what profession they want to pursue and convince them that PA is the way to go!

Increasing diversity in the healthcare field is something that schools all over the U.S. are trying to adapt. In particular, the CHA/PA program's

Masks in Solidarity

The Diversity & Outreach Committee was seeking a way to engage our student body in solidarity against the longstanding history of racial injustice in our nation during this period of the pandemic.

We were inspired by an Instagram post from a Nursing student, @maaatthew_72, regarding systemic racism, police brutality, responsibilities as healthcare providers, and our call to action.

It was riveting to see camaraderie among not only PA classmates from every cohort sending in [pictures with masks](#) and their statements, but also from our faculty who joined in the effort to bring awareness to the current and longstanding issues of injustice. I think (especially during the Coronavirus pandemic) it was moving to feel so connected with one another during a time where we feel physically apart. We linked a nonprofit organization, [Equal Justice Initiative \(EJI\)](#) in our post, that works to end mass incarceration, excessive punishment and racial inequality. We hope our peers can visit this organization and find ways to contribute to it!

–Asni Solomon
CHA/PA Class of 2022

Silver Society's goal for the year is to increase diversity within our PA program. As members of the diversity committee we value these opportunities we have to guide underrepresented diverse students and show them it's possible to achieve their goals of becoming healthcare professionals!

–Michelle Gomez
CHA/PA Class of 2021



Faculty Present at the APTR 2020 Annual Meeting

Faculty members Joyce Nieman, MHS, PA-C, Amy Akerman, MPAS, PA-C, and Kate Woodard, MHS, PA-C, presented their research poster at the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research 2020 conference. The poster titled "We're Only Human: Teaching Human Factors Science to Reduce Medical Errors and Improve Patient Safety" can be viewed [here](#).



How to Educate PAs Online in the Midst of a Pandemic:

Have you been wondering how CHA/PA has been driving its mission to educate world-class providers in our newly virtual reality? Check out our recipe below:

Step 1: Begin with 20 fiercely intelligent, hard-working, passionate faculty & staff.

Step 2: Admit 3 cohorts of 44 exceptional students dedicated to facing what storms may come in the name of learning how to best care for their future patients.

Step 3: Unexpectedly leave campus in the middle of the semester and move all scheduled lectures (and guest lecturers) to Zoom.

Step 4: Cancel all in-person spring and summer events (yes, including Graduation).

Step 5: Weather the global uncertainty one day at a time without forgetting the most important things that make us all human- empathy, compassion, relationships, communication, humor, creativity, spirituality, and so much more.



Changing Careers and the Push for PA Leaders

Travis Neill, CHA/PA Class of 2009, didn't always want to be a PA or to work in medicine at all. His first career was an 8 year path through the corporate finance world. Like others we've encountered through our program, Travis decided his life's journey needed to take a compassionate turn in caring for others. While working in finance, Travis volunteered for the [CASA](#) (Court Appointed Special Advocates) organization. The nationwide group with local chapters matches trained volunteers to child abuse and neglect cases with the purpose of advocating for and mentoring the involved children. This experience helping others drew Travis to the medical profession and led his decision to change careers. The choice to pursue his education specifically as a PA was made because of the wide range of opportunities it opened for him to be deeply involved in the care of others.

Most recently, Travis has been working in Geriatrics and as an Assistant Medical Director for a corporation that owns over 30 nursing homes. With a Physician



Congratulations Graduates!

On May 21st the CHA/PA Class of 2020 virtually gathered for their commencement ceremony. The Virtual ceremony content can be viewed [here](#). We wish our newest cohort of alumni the best and look forward to celebrating with you in person when possible!

Medical Director, he floats to around 12 different facilities helping with medical oversight which includes chart reviews, antibiotic stewardship efforts, psychiatric medication reviews, and quality assurance projects. He holds board positions on both the Colorado and American Medical Director Associations. This leadership position is very meaningful to Travis because (in the spirit of a true trailblazer) it took years of hard work and a few rejections to convince someone to give him the opportunity. As a PA, he frequently works to counter views that director positions are only suited for physicians.

Travis looks back fondly at his time in the CHA/PA program. Meeting his wife of 11 years when he started the program in 2006, they now have an 8 year old daughter together. Halfway through PA school, Travis also injured his back in a ski accident and gratefully recalls how his classmates went above and beyond to assist him when he needed surgery. Whether it was moving couches into the classroom so he could lie down for exams or bringing food to him as he recovered, the spirit of family in the program truly showed up for him.

Travis hopes his legacy in medicine as a PA is one that challenges the status quo for what “typical” PA roles look like. In the name of providing the best care for his patients, he is motivated to be a part of the

solution to the challenges the medical community faces. In his words: “Now that I have been a physician assistant for 10 years, I can say unequivocally that my worst days as a PA are better than my best days working in finance.”



Job Listings

Do you have a PA position to list with your practice? Email pa-info@ucdenver.edu to add a listing to our website. You can find [job listings](#) on the Alumni webpage.



Interested in precepting CHA/PA students?

Have you considered precepting CHA/PA students? Find out about the advantages of training up our next generation of PA students and find contact information on the [Preceptor section of our website](#).



Like & Follow us!

["Like" us on Facebook](#) and [Follow us on Instagram](#) to keep up with the latest CHA/PA news!

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Phone: (303) 724-7963; Fax: (303) 724-1350

Email: PA-info@ucdenver.edu

Web: <https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/physician-assistant-program>

MOVING? NEW CONTACT INFORMATION? Please email the office at PA-Info@ucdenver.edu so that we can keep in touch with you!!



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