

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Trans](#)

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!



Admissions Interviews— Gone Virtual

This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CHA/PA elected to conduct all admissions interviews virtually. Normally held on 4 different days on our campus for 144 invited applicants, this year was certainly an adjustment for interviewers,



Fall Info Session

Prospective students seeking more information about the CHA/PA program, admissions, and the PA profession are invited to join us for our Fall Information Session on Friday, November 13, 2020 via Zoom. For more information and to register, please visit our [website](#).

interviewees, and our faculty. In-person group and individual interview sessions were transposed to occur via Zoom meetings. Although not ideal, the necessary steps to keep all participants safe was a priority for the program. In addition to interviews being moved to the online format, interestingly the program saw a fairly massive uptick (25%!) in the number of submitted completed applications. The class of 2024 will be selected and notified this fall.



CHA/PA Alumni & Precepting Powerhouse

Elizabeth Gyorkos is a 1989 CHA/PA alumni and seasoned preceptor. She has worked primarily in pediatrics and over the last 27 years she has precepted approximately 100 CHA/PA students in the clinic. Undeniably a powerhouse of medical knowledge and experience for our students, she is an essential member of the CHA/PA family.

Elizabeth's journey to medicine began humbly at the age of 12 when she started babysitting for 25 cents an hour. This, she explains, is where she



My Springfield, Colorado Experience

During the month of July, I traveled to the rural town of Springfield, Colorado for my family medicine rotation at Southeast Colorado Hospital/Physicians Clinic. I was immersed into this quaint 1 square mile town with a population of about 1,400. I ate at the local restaurants, swam at the community pool, ran at the school track, saw a movie at the theater, and explored Two Buttes Summit and Water Hole nearby. I quickly bonded with the locals and felt I became a part of their community.

Southeast Colorado Hospital/Physicians Clinic is the only medical center in town, with the next closest hospital being 45 minutes away. This unique center has a clinic, emergency department, long-term care facility, Alzheimer's unit, and their own lab all on one campus. I had the opportunity to work in each setting alongside skilled, knowledgeable, and compassionate providers including nurses, PAs, NPs, and doctors. I saw a wide variety of patients with needs ranging from

fell in love with babies and caregiving for children. Coupled with an existing love for sciences, this matured into her active preparation to attend medical school. While volunteering at People's Clinic in Boulder, Elizabeth met her first PA, Kathie Dolce (CHA/PA class of 1981). At the clinic, Elizabeth had the opportunity to shadow Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, and Kathie. So impressed with Kathie's knowledge and ability to care for patients and educate families, Elizabeth made the decision to switch her aspirations from medical school to PA school.

Describing her 3 years at CHA/PA as "wonderful, exciting, challenging" and feeling like a "second family," Elizabeth looks back fondly at all the experiences in school that led to lifelong friends who are still active parts of her life today. After attending CHA/PA, she began her career in general pediatrics for 1 year and then moved out of state to work on a pulmonary team with Cystic Fibrosis patients at Duke University. Working there for 3 years, she describes learning how important a multidisciplinary team is for good patient outcomes, but she also grew homesick for Colorado. Deciding to return to the state, she accepted a position at National Jewish Health in the Pediatric Asthma & Allergy Day Program where she has worked for over 27 years.

At the Asthma & Allergy Day program, Elizabeth works closely with

diabetes, hypertension, sports physicals, and skin lesions to rattlesnake bites, lacerations, neurologic changes, and trauma. I was in awe as I witnessed my preceptors switch from counseling clinic patients to intubating and placing chest tubes in trauma patients. I was given countless opportunities to care for patients and perform procedures with the support of my preceptors. This environment fosters endless learning and provides opportunities for students to be involved in patient care.

I am grateful for my experiences at Southeast Colorado Hospital/Physicians Clinic. This rotation taught me how vital clinics and hospitals are in rural communities and how important it is for providers to have vast skill sets. I came to love Springfield, the medical campus they have built, and the warm, kind people who live there.

–Brittney Poggiogalle
CHA/PA Class of 2021



Planning for Spring 2021

The Anschutz Medical Campus has decided that remote learning will be extended through the entire Spring 2021 semester. Only essential in-

providers specializing in behavioral health, rehab, nutrition, respiratory, pulmonary, allergy, immunology, GI, ENT and many other consultants. The most rewarding part of her job as a PA in this setting is realizing the difference she and her team make in the lives of their patients and their families. Thank you Elizabeth for all you do for your patients, their families, and as a preceptor for other CHA/PA students– in turn touching the lives of their future patients as well.



Responding to Community Needs in the Time of a Pandemic

As the CHA/PA program transitioned to online classes, students sought out a myriad of ways to help their neighbors and communities during this uncertain time. Colin Jenks and his wife, Corey Jenks, collected gloves, N-95 masks, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant wipes from schools, classmates, and their own home to donate to Denver Health. Katie Ganser has been volunteering with the Colorado Hospital Association to help get masks to rural hospitals and using her position within AAPA to help coordinate the student response

person learning will occur for hands-on clinical skills education. These in-person sessions have been occurring this fall and will continue to be held in socially distanced small groups following all public health mandates from state and local governments.

Students will also continue to attend clinic normally, although a growing shortage in preceptors is proving to be tough to navigate. If you are a clinician interested in precepting CHA/PA students, please contact Janice.S.Baker@cuanschutz.edu to learn more about the benefits of educating tomorrow's providers. PPE is provided to students by the program.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
Accountability Committee



This summer racial injustices, their deadly consequences, and the push for systemic change to address these issues were spotlighted across the country. In response to these injustices and joining the nationwide momentum to challenge them, CHA/PA students initiated the formation of the CHA/PA Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Accountability (DEIA) Committee. The purpose of this group is to work towards

and ensure needs are met. Lauren Norheim created flyers for her neighborhood that included information about local resources like free counseling, employment services, food pantries, and emotional support lines. Melanie Logan volunteered to pack and deliver food boxes to families in need through the Village Exchange Center, a community center in Aurora that serves immigrants and refugees. Megan McInnis has been volunteering bimonthly at Florence Crittenton, a non-profit organization for teen mothers and their children. Molly McCollough volunteered as a tutor with Project SHINE at the Spring Institute Tutoring, an organization that provides services to refugee and immigrant families in the Denver and Aurora Community.

A handful of second- and third-year students including Kirsten Daly, Katrina Pine, Hattie Scott, Jacob Bellinder, Tori Cohen and Betsy Dunbar participated alongside peers from the MD, pharmacy and nursing programs in the UCH Older Adult Outreach Program to contact socially isolated patients for both casual conversation and to connect them to local resources. Phoebe Lamb, Molly McCollough, Brendan Tammarath, Annalise Grammerstorf, Hattie Scott, Emily Angell, Luisa Fernandez, Itzel Martínez and Melanie Logan have continued their involvement with the DAWN clinic and have been instrumental in the transition to virtual care and now back to safe, in-

achieving specific goals to address inequities in opportunity for underrepresented minorities in medicine and specifically within the CHA/PA program and the PA profession at large. This group will be a long-standing part of the CHA/PA program and will address and advocate for diversity and equity across the student body, admissions, faculty & staff, and the curriculum. Student support for diversity initiatives has been tremendous. Students presented an action plan to faculty and staff outlining various initiatives that they hope we can partner with to achieve.



Denver CASA Seeking Volunteers

The Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for children Denver office is seeking new volunteers to serve children with abuse & neglect cases in the Denver Juvenile Court system. CASA volunteers serve one child or sibling group for the duration of their case as advocates for their best interest and mentors. Research has shown that children and youth with a CASA receive more services, re-enter the foster care system fewer times, and are more likely to graduate high school. Volunteering requires a

person care. The students at CU have found no shortage of ways to help while continuing to succeed in their coursework so that the next time our healthcare system needs assistance they can serve on the front lines.

–Annalise Grammerstorf and Katrina Pine
CHA/PA Class of 2022

2 year commitment and around 6 hours a month in dedicated time. Giselle Cabrero from the CHA/PA staff is happy to answer questions about her personal experience as a volunteer and how much of a fulfilling opportunity it has been– you can email her at giselle.cabrero@cuanschutz.edu.

If you are interested in learning more or training to be a CASA please visit their [website](#).



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!

Contact Information:

CHA/PA Program
Mail Stop F543
13001 E. 17th Place, Room E7019
Aurora, Colorado 80045

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!!



[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)