



CHA/PA Newsletter

As you are enjoying your summer, take some time to read and learn about our graduating class of 2023, our incoming class of 2026, and recent faculty and student accomplishments!



CHA/PA Celebrates the Class of 2023

Spring always brings many celebrations on campus and CHA/PA is no different. The CHA/PA class of 2023 definitely deserved to be celebrated as they were the class that started virtually as a result of the pandemic. After navigating some very unique times, the class of 2023 found their groove and finished strong. We had two days of celebration starting with a Graduation reception for friends



AAPA Annual Conference in Nashville

At the end of May, 17 CHA/PA students attended the AAPA Conference in Nashville, Tennessee! They attended 5 days worth of engaging lectures, networking events, and workshop style sessions. A subset of those students competed in the Annual POCUS iSCAN Competition and National Challenge Bowl and they received a great deal

and family at the Lowry Beer Garden. With all the rain this year, we got lucky and experienced a beautiful, warm evening with tasty food, desserts, and mingling among classmates and their families. We even had a couple of honorary CHA/PA furry friends that joined us.



The next day, the CHA/PA Class of 2023 and all the other graduating programs on campus were recognized at the School of Medicine Graduation Ceremony followed by a smaller personalized Convocation just for CHA/PA graduates and their friends and family. The CHA/PA Convocation was held at a wonderful new venue across from Campus, Central Green. Speakers included Dr. Daniels, Chair of Pediatrics; Tanya Fernandez, CHA/PA Faculty (invited speaker), and Jenna Wolff (chosen class speaker). Tanya sent the class of 2023 out to be the HEROs they were destined to be, with a touch of H - Humanism, E - Empathy, R- Resiliency, and Outstanding training and Growth.



And finally, class Speaker and Graduate, Jenna Wolff, left us with the

of support from their classmates.

In addition to amazing learning opportunities available at AAPA, our students had the opportunity to participate in a service project. Our volunteers served with Project C.U.R.E., an organization that distributes donated medical equipment to resource-limited countries across the globe. Students helped sort over 20 pallets of donated medical materials that will be shipped out to Malawi and Ukraine in the coming months.



We are extremely proud of our students and how they have represented CHA/PA by participating in both educational and service opportunities.



Faculty Member, Tanya Fernandez Receives Student

following words of wisdom, “You’ll be walking into patient rooms where this – this illness, sickness, check-up – is the biggest thing going on in their life. It will be all they can think about, yet you will be coming from a long line of other rooms that are all thinking the same thing. I ask that you step back and consider that – this is consuming their thoughts and they need a provider to listen intently and do their best to help them through. When the tone of the patient or their family is sharp, choose kindness.” All in all, it was an amazing celebration of resilience.

We commend the Class of 2023 on a job well done amid uncertainty and we look forward to the impact they will make in the healthcare field!



CHA/PA Introduces Guest Lecturer of the Year Award

This past academic year, CHA/PA faculty started a Guest Lecturer of the Year program in which Guest Lecturers were nominated and then voted on by the 1st and 2nd year classes.

Nominees must have presented a topic during the 2022–2023 academic year and must not be adjunct faculty.

The new program was well received by Nominees who commented, “I am

Senate Award

The Student Senate celebrated many who have contributed to our CU Anschutz community. The awards ceremony was student-led and held on May 4 at the Elliman Conference Center.

The nominees for outstanding advisor were as follows:

- Anna Christiansen
- Mona Pearl Treyball
- Jennifer Trujillo
- Tracy Price-Johnson
- Tanya Fernandez
- Lucas Orth

The awards for outstanding advisors went to Tanya Fernandez (CHA/PA) and Tracy Price-Johnson.

Congratulations to Tanya for being recognized for her dedication to our students. We are grateful for her commitment to the program.



Student Spotlight: Meet Sarah Lillrose

For this Summer’s Alumni Newsletter Student feature, we are introducing you to 2nd year student Sarah Lillrose. Sarah is originally from Michigan but has loved Colorado

honored to be nominated by CHAPA for this award. Having the opportunity to collaborate and work with the awesome faculty and wonderful learners through the years has always brought me joy through the trials and tribulations of clinical practice.”

Awards were presented to the winners at the Staff and Appreciation Luncheon on 4/26. Our first Annual Guest Lecturer of the Year Award Winners were Dr. Nsangou Ghogomu MD and Laura Erdman PA-C (pictured above). You can read a little about each award winner below:

Dr. Ghogomu grew up in Cameroon, West Africa, then moved to the Chicago Illinois area for high school. He completed medical school and Ear/Nose/Throat Surgical Residency at Washington University (WashU) in St. Louis Missouri, then completed an Endoscopic Sinus/Anterior Skull Base Fellowship at Northwestern University in Chicago. Dr. Ghogomu worked at WashU St. Louis for 2 years then came to Kaiser Colorado in 2017 and has been here ever since. He has taught medical students throughout his residency, fellowship, and as an attending physician. Dr. Ghogomu was introduced to the CHA/PA Program and began working with Denise Ogden, PA-C and Amy Akerman, PA-C in the Derm/HEENT Block. He has been lecturing ever since. In his free time, he enjoys the outdoors including running, skiing, biking, and swimming. He also enjoys game night with friends and has a 6-month-old son who he can't wait to do many activities with!

since she moved here for school.

She earned her Biology Degree from Hope College in Holland, MI.

Sarah has always known she wanted to be in the medical field, and when she shadowed several PA's, she knew exactly what she wanted to do. Completing an international medical internship in Kenya where she worked alongside PAs was really encouraging because she saw their collaboration with the rest of their team, and the direct patient care they provided.

Figuring out how to overcome challenges in the PA program is a normal part of being a student here and Sarah was no different. She discovered the Notability app on her iPad has been a lifeline for taking notes more efficiently in class.

Since joining the program, her favorite experience was her first rotation in the PICU at Colorado Children's. Sarah learned so much in such a short period of time and loved seeing the application of material she had learned in the classroom. Her dream job is to be a Pediatric Emergency Medicine PA.

When asked to share anything else about herself, Sarah said the following: "What Makes Me ImPORTant is the very first book I've written and published. After my nephew was diagnosed with Severe Hemophilia B, he began to require weekly infusions through a chest port. I wrote this book to help encourage and educate him, as well as other children, about their condition and their ports."

Laura Erdman PA-C is an Assistant Professor within the Division of Hospital Medicine at the University of Colorado Hospital. She graduated from the CHAPA program in 2015, then went on to complete the Hospital Medicine Advanced Practice Fellowship in 2016. Laura began lecturing for the CHAPA program in 2019; her current lectures are focused within the GI/GU and CV blocks. She is also core faculty for the CHANGE (Care of the Hospitalized Adult in a Novel Graduated Experience) program and has regularly participated in patient simulations and clinical coaching for PA students.

We are grateful to have such committed educators be a part of our program. It is one of the things that makes CHA/PA special.



CHA/PA News

We are proud to be among the University of Colorado programs recognized in a recent edition of U.S. News and World Report. The University of Colorado's Department of Pediatrics is tied for eighth in the nation for "Best Pediatrics Programs" in rankings released by the magazine. The Department of Pediatrics consistently ranks among the best in the nation. The Department has been ranked in the top eight in each of the past 13 years.

In addition to the No. 8 ranking by the Department of Pediatrics, the CU

The book teaches children all about their port; why they have it, how to access it and how to take care of it. The story uses medically accurate language and illustrations, while remaining at a level that children can understand. It was designed specifically for children with clotting disorders, such as hemophilia, but the concepts can be applied to other conditions that may require a port-a-cath.

"My goal is that this book inspires inclusivity and helps children with ports know that they are not alone. In the future, I would love to continue this work by publishing additional children's books about other medical devices."

We are so proud to have Sarah be a part of our CHA/PA family!

You can find "What Makes Me ImPORTant" on Amazon for purchase at the following link!

<https://a.co/d/6QyOkpD>



School of Medicine specialty program of Family Medicine was ranked seventh. Additionally, the University of Colorado's School of Medicine was ranked eighth in the magazine's list of best medical schools for primary care, and CHA/PA was ranked No. 8.

The magazine provides rankings of specific specialties based on ratings provided by medical school deans and senior faculty from surveyed schools.



Alumni Spotlight: Meet Brandon Nuechterlein

We are excited to feature Class of 2009 CHA/PA Alumni, Brandon Nuechterlein. Brandon has a special story, which has fueled his work as a PA. Enjoy what he has shared about his journey below:

“I joined the bone marrow transplant program (BMT) at Children’s Colorado in 2009 as a new grad from the CHA/PA program. For the first ten years of my career, I was the inpatient anchor. Additionally, I helped to create a BMT specific late effects clinic and ran that clinic for almost a decade. I really enjoy teaching and have trained over 100 fellows, residents, and APP’s over the course of my career and have given over 25 lectures both locally and nationally.”

When asked, “What drew you to the PA profession? Was there a defining motivation or life event that redirected you toward this path?” This was Brandon’s response. “At fifteen years old, I was diagnosed with bi-phenotypic leukemia and underwent an experimental 4/6 expanded cord blood transplant. Once I recovered, I knew I wanted to give back and to be involved in medicine. The PA profession was particularly appealing because it



Welcome New Staff Member!

Manda Baker joined the CHA/PA team in May 2023 as the Clinical Coordinator managing all student clinical placements. She is a Colorado native with a love for nature and the outdoors. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from Metropolitan State University of Denver and a Graduate Certificate in Play and Learning from Bowling Green State University. Before moving into Higher Education, she spent over 10 years in Early Childhood Education first as a preschool teacher and then at Denver Zoo where she worked in Early Childhood Education and Nature play. She enjoys singing in a professional choir, painting and photography, traveling and spending time with her family and friends, especially if it involves being outdoors!



CHA/PA Welcomes the Class of 2026

On Monday, July 3rd our 1st year students joined the CHA/PA program. The incoming class was welcomed by Jonathan Bowser, PA-C and Tai Lockspeiser, MD and the rest of the CHA/PA faculty and staff. Comprised of 44 individuals, we have 17 students from Colorado and 27 students from out of state. In addition to their varied background of experiences, they represent the states of Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, and Utah.

Our incoming class had an impressive total of 2,584 median hours of experience consisting of shadowing, patient hours, health-related, or volunteer. We are looking forward to this class joining the CHA/PA family and adding to our shared experiences as a program. Jonathan Bowser and Jackie Sivahop will be leading them through some exciting content this Summer as the block leaders. Welcome, Class of 2026.

allowed me to have an impact in BMT much faster than if I had pursued the MD route and it has allowed me more time with patients, which I truly value. I have dedicated my life to improving the care for pediatric bone marrow transplant and cellular therapeutic patients.”

“Surviving a bone marrow transplant has given me a unique insight into what my patients are experiencing which has proved invaluable in understanding and implementing patient-centered care. My parents are of mixed racial background, which made it very difficult to find a suitable donor for my transplant. Consequently, from a young age I have been involved in efforts to improve access to care and have led efforts to help increase the donor pool for underserved communities. As a result of these efforts, I was elected co-chair the Consumer Advocacy Committee for the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR) consortium. This has allowed me to provide input into the national research agenda which has been extremely fulfilling. I am also passionate about minimizing late effects post-transplant and this is where I have focused most of my research efforts. I am a member of Recovery and Survivorship Working Committee for the CIBMTR, which is an amazing group of individuals dedicated to making transplant and cellular therapy less toxic.

When asked, “What type of legacy do you hope to leave within the medical community?” Brandon states, “One of Hope and Excitement. The advances



Save the Date

CHA/PA Alumni, please save the date for
our Annual Alumni Event:

Friday, October 20th, 6pm

More details to follow.

in Bone Marrow transplant over the last 25 years have been amazing. There is still much work to be done but I have no doubt that new discoveries in BMT and Cellular Therapeutics over the next 25 years will completely revolutionize how we practice medicine.”

Brandon reflects that, “Having cancer at such a young age imparted a sense of urgency to my life. I was the youngest APP to be promoted to Senior Instructor with Distinction in 2015. This year I had the good fortune of pulling off an academic hat trick. I was awarded the Lifetime achievement award, from the American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy, the Outstanding Service Adjunct Award from Children’s Hospital Colorado, and the first physician associate Senior Expert, in Clinical Practice Development. While I greatly appreciate these awards and the recognition that they have brought, I am most proud of my work with the CIBMTR to expand access to care for underserved populations and under resourced nations. A parent should never have to bury a child from a curable disease. Finally, my cycling team wheels of justice has given me a second family and an amazing avenue to connect with my patients outside of work. As of this month we have now raised over \$6 million dollars for the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Children’s hospital.”

Brandon concludes by saying, "I think having cancer taught me how to have grit, which got my foot in the door, but it also taught me the value of teams. I am truly fortunate to have had great mentors and teammates without which none of my accomplishments or survival would have been possible."

– Brandon Nuechterlein, CHA/PA, Class of 2009



Have an Idea for our Newsletter?

We love to hear from our alumni that are doing unique things in the PA field. If you are interested in being a part of a future alumni spotlight in our newsletter, please email pa-info@ucdenver.edu and we will follow-up with you.



Interested in precepting CHA/PA students?

There are so many advantages to training our next generation of PA students. If you are considering being a preceptor to CHA/PA students check out this area of our website [Preceptor section](#) and contact us today!



Job Listings!

Do you know that we have an active job listings page on our website? If you are looking for a new opportunity, you can find [job listings](#) on the Alumni webpage.

If you have an open PA position in your practice, we are happy to post the listing to our website. Email pa-info@ucdenver.edu to add a listing to our website.

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