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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!



### Annual CAPA Conference

On the weekend of February 8th, students, faculty, and staff attended the annual CAPA (Colorado Academy of PAs) conference. Attendees participated in workshops, fundraisers and several CHA/PA students won awards:



### Spring Info Session

Prospective students seeking more information about the CHA/PA program, admissions, and the PA profession are invited to join us for our Spring Information Session on Friday, May 1, 2020. Following presentations from faculty and staff, there will be a panel of current students to answer audience

Katie Ganser, Class of 2021, and Lauren Norheim, Class of 2022, both received scholarships.

The CHA/PA team "CHAPALETES" won the CAPA Challenge Bowl competition which tests students medical knowledge in a team-based competitive format.



### A Career Driven by Purpose

“You can’t change the whole world, but you can change the whole world for one person, and the next one and the next one.” Those are the words that have served to inspire the lifestyle and practice of CHA/PA Alum and Preceptor, Tracy Wall. The words were spoken to her by the Medical Director aboard a hospital ship off the coast of Africa through the Mercy Ships organization. After practicing in Family Medicine on dry land for 5 years, Tracy and her family made the decision to move aboard the ship together where they lived and worked for the next 4 ½ years. She describes the years she spent with colleagues on the ship as an amazing experience

questions. If public health conditions allow, students will then lead a short walking tour of the the Anschutz Medical Campus.

For more information & to register please visit our [website](#).



### Students Volunteer at NWSS

Many thanks to all the CHA/PA students who volunteered with faculty member Joyce Nieman, M.H.S., PA-C at the National Western Stock Show to provide free health screenings to attendees and participants this year. This booth is present at the show every year to provide free glucose, blood pressure, and vision testing, in addition to general health information.



### PA Students: Leading the Way

because they were able to help save the population who were dying from unmet surgical needs. Witnessing hope reinvigorate the hopeless highlighted the privilege she lived with and in turn led her to feel thanks for the opportunity to be a part of these patients' lives.

After returning to the US, Tracy resumed her work in Family Medicine where she enjoyed her role but lacked the same sense of purpose she felt when working with Mercy Ships. Through speaking with her supervising physician who was the only X-waivered provider in the entire region, she decided to get her certification as well and work to treat those struggling with addiction. Training to work with patients holding this burden reignited the flame of deeper purpose Tracy had been seeking. For the next 3 years she balanced work at a Suboxone clinic in addition to patients at the Family Medicine clinic. Last fall, a clinic called Providence Recovery specializing in addiction opened in her community and she was approached with the opportunity to provide Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) to patients at this clinic. Tracy decided to accept the offer and she has been working solely in addiction medicine since December of 2019.

Citing her mother who was a nurse as probable inspiration, Tracy has always wanted to work in medicine. In college she initially pursued her

As the buzz around the PA profession grows, PA students have the unique opportunity to shape what it means to be a PA leader. Serving as student leaders connects us to the larger medical community, builds our leadership and interpersonal skills, and helps us find meaning beyond the classroom. While serving patients is what drives us to medicine, we can impact a far greater number of lives as leaders and innovators.

The Colorado Curriculum was designed to decrease our cognitive load and help us find bandwidth to get more involved outside of the classroom – through Silver Society, DAWN Clinic, CAPA, AAPA, etc. This curriculum better prepares us to perform as PAs and to be leaders in our profession and in our communities.

I was drawn to the PA profession because it offers the opportunity for flexibility and growth while caring for the underserved. I found mentors (shout-out to Peggy Walsh) early in my journey to help guide my leadership within CHA/PA and within AAPA, first as a student delegate to the House of Delegates and, now, as President-Elect of the Student Academy. Through these opportunities, I meet and serve with incredible PA students, work with PA leaders to drive AAPA's strategy, and am inspired every day to continue to advocate for my peers, patients, and our profession. What I find the most rewarding, however, is helping passionate and energetic PA students

education in Physical Therapy but soon changed her mind after a visit to Mali in West Africa. The severe medical shortages she witnessed on her visit inspired her to change paths and pursue a career as a PA instead. The CHA/PA program, the medical community at large, and the countless patients she has helped are undeniably so grateful that she did.



### Inaugural Rural Health Lobby Day

Faculty and staff members Joyce Nieman and Janice Baker participated in the first ever Rural Health Lobby Day at the state capitol on Tuesday, February 25, 2020. This day was spent advocating for rural healthcare needs in Colorado.



### Students to Students– On Mental Health Education

A few CHA/PA students and I volunteered for a mental health

find a platform to put their ideas for changing the world into action.

My path has been defined thus far by serving in leadership roles. This is just one of many paths available to us as students. Whatever your passions are, let's work together to usher in a new generation of PA leaders and set this world on fire!

–Katie Ganser  
CHA/PA Class of 2021



### Rosh Review Scholarship Winners

Congrats to Betsy Dunbar (PA-S2), Lauren Norheim (PA-S1), Hattie Scott (PA-S1), and Annalise Grammerstorf (PA-S1) for winning Rosh Review's One Step Forward scholarship to support their participation at AAPA's National Conference in Nashville this May! To learn more about each awardee please visit their [website](#).

outreach project partnered with students in the Modern Human Anatomy Program. We spent the day at Hinkley High School in Aurora talking to students of diverse backgrounds ranging from 9–12th grade about mental health topics including anxiety, sleep, depression, and managing stress. We explained the science behind these conditions and why it's important to address now so that they can incorporate healthy habits over time. Michelle Gomez PA-S2, who is a graduate from Hinkley, enjoyed being able to give back to her own community through this outreach project in hopes that it would make a difference to at least one of the students.

The students were quite fascinated with the plastinated brains that we were able to bring with us for demonstrations on how depression and anxiety impacts different parts of the brain. As I ran the anxiety booth, the students began discussing various manifestations of their anxiety and what they do to cope with it. Many of these students have been in various difficult situations and pressures that they have unfortunately become accustomed to the level of stress and anxiety that they carry in their life. This became evident while Danielle Simon PA-S2 was running the sleep booth and talking to the students about the importance of building a sleep routine. Shockingly, many students reported having less than 6 hours of sleep on average. A handful of



### New CHANGE Clinical Program

Hospital medicine requires its practitioners to acquire a unique set of skills enabling them to care for patients with complicated needs. Such training can be challenging for PA students to acquire, due to the limited time apportioned for each rotation. Addressing this challenge, CHA/PA welcomes its first cohort of students to CHANGE (Care of Hospitalized Adults in a Novel, Graduated Experience), which will provide focused training in inpatient internal medicine through UC Health.

My classmate Hannah Terrazzino and I were selected as inaugural members and begin our first rotation this spring. The experience consists of longitudinal experience with a core team of nine faculty across our first-year clinical rotation, a second-year summer or fall clinical rotation, and one of our third-year clinical rotations. This format will allow us to collaborate with and learn from the same group of faculty over a longer period than would usually be possible for a CHAPA student. This sustained

students stated that it was difficult to get the rest they needed because of their nighttime jobs after school and early morning responsibilities, such as helping care for their siblings.

Mental health is a critical topic that needs to be addressed among all adolescents, but especially in at-risk populations who need it the most and where resources are often lacking.

–Ferougg Khaaliq  
CHA/PA Class of 2021



### VA Hospitals Urgently Seeking PAs

The VA hospital system is hiring for 157 temporary PA positions. The Physician Assistant will be assigned to interested facilities throughout VHA in support of COVID-19 operations and may be temporarily appointed (not-to-exceed 120 days) on an intermittent, part-time or full-time schedule in support of the VA facilities across the Nation. To apply please visit their [website](#).

exposure will equip us with the knowledge and skills to better provide the complex, multifaceted care needed by hospitalized adults.

I am grateful to have the opportunity to learn from a dedicated team of providers. Particularly, I am eager to gain a better sense for the overlap between my interest in inpatient internal medicine and my commitment to serving underserved patients, especially those who are incarcerated. More broadly, I hope, through my experience in CHANGE, to become a provider with a depth and breadth of knowledge that will allow me to provide compassionate, thoroughly excellent care to patients with complicated needs. CHANGE is a unique opportunity to participate in CHA/PA's continued commitment to providing unique experiences to students with specialized interests.

–Josiah Nunziato  
CHA/PA Class of 2022



## Job Listings

Do you have a PA position to list with your practice? Email [pa-info@ucdenver.edu](mailto: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](#).



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