



The Pulse

Newsletter

The Association of Physician Assistants in Cardiology

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President's Message

Welcome to the new APAC Board for 2013-2014, and to another exciting year at APAC!

New Board Members/Positions include:

Shazhad Zeb, RPA-C, MPAS – President Elect
 Gulpin Antalapi-Zeb, PA-C – Treasurer
 Julie McCauley, PA-C – Director at Large
 Michael Clark, PA-C, MPAS, Ph.D., AACC – South Central Director
 Mark Buettner, PA-C – Secretary

Returning Board Members/Positions:

Sondra M. DePalma, MHS, PA-C, CLS, AACC – President
 Joseph Faiella-Tommasino, RPA-C, MHS, Ph.D. – Past-President
 Mary Winchester, PA-C, DFAAPA, AACC – Director at Large
 Mark Jackson, PA-C – Director at Large
 Eryn K. Smith, MS, PA-C – North Central Director
 John Tomasi, PA-C, MPAS – Northeast Regional Director

The position of **Southeast Regional Director** remains open.
Please email us if you are interested in filling this position.

Help me to welcome our new Board and our new APAC members!

I encourage everyone reading this to get involved with APAC either as an active member or in a leadership role. This organization will be as successful as the collective effort we put into it. We have the means to advocate for ourselves and our futures!

Sondra M. DePalma, MHS, PA-C, CLS, AACC
 President of the Association of Physician Assistants in Cardiology

Navigating APAC's Website

APAC Member Area

Find information about

- Job Postings
- CME Opportunities
- Partnering & Sponsoring Organizations
- New Message Boards

About APAC

- Information about Cardiology PAs
- APAC History

Resources

Links to other sites for

- Professional Resources
- Student Resources
- Advanced Certification

Hypertension Specialist Designation Under Development

The American Society of Hypertension (ASH) has assembled a Task Force to establish a Hypertensive Specialist designation for qualified non-physician health care providers with prescribing authority.

The Task Force consists of Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Pharmacists and Physicians. The group has been asked to establish application criteria and pathways for achieving the designation, as well as for maintaining certification.

ASH has recognized the extensive and critical role of PAs, and other non-physician clinicians, in providing health care and hypertensive management. PAs are well-suited to manage and treat hypertensive patients, especially those with difficult-to-treat hypertension.

The new designation will provide an opportunity for more in-depth hypertension education, training and recognition for PAs, while increasing access to care for hypertensive patients.

First International FH Summit

APAC President and certified Clinical Lipid Specialist, Sondra M. DePalma, had the opportunity to represent APAC at the invitation-only, inaugural Familial Hypercholesterolemia Summit. Invitees included FH experts from the international arena, government agencies, professional and patient advocacy organizations, payers, and industry.

The goals of the Summit were to share recommendations and develop effective solutions for increasing early detection of FH, identifying the diagnostic criteria for FH with the greatest public health impact, enhancing cascade screening efforts and supporting national patient registries.

The Summit was sponsored by the Familial Hypercholesterolemia Foundation, which is a patient-centered nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness of Familial Hypercholesterolemia through education, advocacy, and research. Their mission is to “save lives by increasing the rate of early diagnosis and encouraging proactive treatment.” If left untreated, FH leads to aggressive and premature cardiovascular disease in men, women, and children of all racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Additional information about FH for patients and providers can be found on their website at www.thefhfoundation.org.

Advocacy Update

American College of Cardiology

APAC members are involved in many committees and work groups of the ACC. Members continue to serve on the PA Work Group and PA Strategic Planning Subcommittee.

Two APAC members are also serving as Cardiovascular Team Content Experts for the 2014 Annual Scientific Session Program Committee.

Heart Rhythm Society

The Heart Rhythm Society has invited APAC for the first time to participate as a Partnering Society in the Joint Sessions of the HRS 2014 Conference. APAC has submitted a presentation proposal for inclusion in the 2014 conference in San Francisco, CA.

The International Board of Heart Rhythm Examiners (IBHRE) continues to offer advanced certification for PAs and other non-physicians as Certified Electrophysiologist Specialists and Certified Cardiac Device Specialists.

Heart Failure Society of America

APAC and the Heart Failure Society of America (HFSA) have been in active communication to promote opportunities for PAs in the management and treatment of patients with heart failure.

American Society of Hypertension

The Board of Directors of the American Society of Hypertension (ASH) voted to amend the ASH Bylaws to allow Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners to become full regular voting ASH members.

APAC President, Sondra DePalma, is one of two PAs serving on the Hypertension Specialist Task Force to create the new designation of PA Hypertension Specialist.

National Lipid Association

The National Lipid Association (NLA) encourages PA membership and the Accreditation Council for Clinical Lipidology (ACCL) certifies PAs and other non-physician clinicians as Clinical Lipid Specialists.

Familial Hypercholesterolemia Foundation

APAC was asked to sit on the 100-seat inaugural international Familial Hypercholesterolemia Summit. Invitees included FH experts from the international arena, government agencies, professional and patient advocacy organizations, payers, and industry.

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Member Update

Michael G. Clark, PA-C, Ph.D. AACC, Past-President of APAC, was featured in the ACC's Winter 2013 edition of *Cardiology*.

Mark Zellmer, Ph.D. PA-C of the Mayo Clinic is serving on the ACC 2014 Scientific Sessions Program Committee.

Joseph Faiella-Tommasino, Ph.D. RPA-C, immediate Past-President of APAC, is the Chair of the Physician Assistant Program at Touro College, Long Island Campuses.

Whitney Gaydos, PA-C served as Conference Chair for a successful program entitled, *Collaborate for Quality: Dynamics of the Modern Healthcare Team in an Era of Reform* hosted by the New Jersey Chapter of the American College of Cardiology.

Are you, or a colleague, presenting at a local or national conference, serving on a PA committee, or receive an award or promotion? **Let us know** at apac.pulse@gmail.com.

APAC Welcomes Suggestions

Please let us know how we can serve you, our members, better!

Send suggestions and recommendations to apac.contact@gmail.com

We want to make this the best organization we can, and **we need your input!**

ACC Update

Ten Years of Cardiovascular Team Membership in the ACC

2003

ACC Board of Trustees approves new Cardiac Care Associate (CCA) membership category for PAs and nurses.

There are approximately 400 CCA members by December 2003.

2004

CCA membership reaches over 1,700 in the first full year.

2005

39 states appoint CCA State Liasons at the state chapter level.

2006

ACC designates 47 national level committee positions for CCAs.

2007

CCA membership extended to include Clinical Pharmacists.

2008

Cardiac Care Team Committee becomes the Cardiovascular Team (CVT) Council to act as an advisory group to the ACC Board.

CCA members become eligible to vote in ACC Chapter Elections.

2009

The Association of the American College of Cardiology (AACC) designation is approved.

2010

The online Cardiovascular Team (CVT) Section launches.

CVT Section Work Groups formed and CVT Section monthly e-newsletter initiated.

Additional position on the Board opened to non-physician member.

2011

AACCs participate along with FACCs in the annual Convocation Ceremony at ACC.11.

2012

CV Nurse, PA and Clinical Pharmacist researchers are invited to participate in Young Investigators Awards Program.

CCA CardioSmart Advisory Board formed.

2013

The first Distinguished Associate Award recipient recognized during the annual Convocation Ceremony at ACC.13.

CCA designation changed to Cardiovascular Team (CVT), with over 4,000 health care professional members.



Member Spotlight:

Camille Dyer, MS, PA-C, AACC, DFAAPA
Chief Physician Assistant
New Brunswick Cardiology Group

How did your career as a Cardiology PA begin? What is the composition of your practice?

As a student I spent 2 weeks with my current employer for my cardiology rotation which was an elective for me. I have been a practicing PA as of August 23, 1999 and have been with New Brunswick Cardiology Group since graduation. The Group is composed of 2 interventionalists, 1 electrophysiologist, 3 invasive and 1 noninvasive cardiologists.

What are your job duties and daily responsibilities?

Although I am privately employed, I am hospital based out of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick. Daily responsibilities include preparing patients for discharge including discharge summaries, discharge instructions including prescription writing and medication review, new consults, admissions, and follow-ups. As the Chief PA, I also serve as a liaison between the PAs, practice, office staff, hospital staff, and referring and consulting providers.

What is your personal philosophy on how PAs and the cardiovascular team influence the practice of cardiology?

As a member of the cardiovascular team we have an opportunity to help reinforce practice guidelines and help our institutions achieve compliance with core measures. We also have a great opportunity to educate our patients and help them assume some responsibility for their healthcare.

What advice would you give to a colleague starting in the field of cardiology?

To see and become familiar with as many diagnostics/procedures as possible so you have a better understanding of the patients' experience which will then help you better manage their expectations.

Are you active with any other cardiovascular associations?

Currently, I am a member of the NJ Chapter of the American College of Cardiology - Cardiovascular Care Associate Conference Planning Committee which presented its first conference entitled *Collaborate for Quality: Dynamics of the Modern Healthcare Team in An Era of Reform* at Liberty Science Center in NJ in May 2013. In addition, I serve as a member of the ACC: PA Work Group as well as the Strategic Planning Sub Work Group. I am also active in the NJ State Society of Physician Assistants as Co-Chair of the Awards Committee & Chair of the Diversity Committee, and serve a Chief Delegate of the AAPA for NJ.

Do you have any recommendations on how other PAs can become further involved in APAC or other organizations?

Just do it!!! Volunteers are always needed especially in this important time in medicine. It is imperative that we keep our profession visible in this ever evolving healthcare climate. We are our best advocate!

PAs and Students: Be featured in an upcoming *Member Spotlight*

Learn more at <http://www.cardiologypa.org/news-a-events/newsletter>

New APAC Affiliate: Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation

The Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation (CCF) is a national non-profit organization focused on pediatric cardiomyopathy. Estimated to affect 30,000 children, it is the leading cause of heart transplants and sudden cardiac arrest in the young.



CCF believes that educating patients and their caregivers on the basics of their disease can empower them to more proactively manage their child's health and well-being. Research has found that there are many benefits of patient education, including enhanced patient participation in health-care decision-making, improved commitment to treatment, increased patient satisfaction, better ability to cope with illness, greater quality of life and decreased anxiety. CCF offers a variety of services and resources to meet the full range of patient and family needs.

A wide range of patient education materials are available to medical/health professionals and patients/families, which include "Understanding Pediatric Cardiomyopathy," "Cardiowhat? A Kids' Guide to Cardiomyopathy," "Ensuring a Good Learning Environment: A Cardiomyopathy Resource Kit for School Personnel and Parents," "Pediatric Heart Transplants: A Guide for Patients and Families," and "Secrets of the Heart – Living with Pediatric Cardiomyopathy" (video). These materials can be found on CCF's educational materials webpage. To provide families with opportunities to connect with medical specialists and other cardiomyopathy families, CCF offers a private discussion forum, support groups and phone or chat sessions.

In addition, CCF's Family Assistance Program helps qualifying families in need of financial assistance with cardiomyopathy-related medical and non-medical needs when insurance and other financial resources are inadequate.

All services and resources are available at no cost to CCF members, and member registration is open to family members, relatives, friends, and professionals (including PAs). For more information, please visit www.childrenscardiomyopathy.org or contact Gina Peattie, Patient Outreach and Support Manager, at gpeattie@childrenscardiomyopathy.org.



PA Week 2013

Held every year from October 6-12, National PA Week is a celebration of the PA profession. PAs across the country use National PA Week to increase awareness of the PA profession.

In celebration of PA Week, APAC has produced 4 Cardiology PA Promotional Handouts highlighting the unique skills and benefits that PAs add to the cardiology team. They are available as PDFs for distribution to patients, colleagues, administrators and legislators. The promos can be downloaded from our homepage at <http://www.cardiologypa.org/>.



Your article and picture could be featured here.

Get published in upcoming editions of The Pulse!

Have a topic that you'd like to write about? Want to see your thoughts and ideas in print? Have personal experiences or clinical pearls that may help fellow Cardiology PA's? We want to hear from you!

We are currently looking for members and students to submit articles on a variety of topics to APAC for consideration to be included in an upcoming edition of The Pulse newsletter.

Members may write about any topic of their choice, and should limit their scripts to 500 words or less. Suggested topics are clinical tips and tricks, brief case studies, and current events and issues facing the PA profession.

Students are welcome to write about topics such as student life, why they chose the PA profession, what they've experienced during their cardiology rotation and other topics relevant to students.

Although this is not intended for scholarly use, ideas that are put forth as factual should be supported with evidence and proper credit should be given to sources as appropriate to avoid intellectual infringement and plagiarism. There is no monetary compensation for articles selected for publication in The Pulse newsletter

Articles may be edited for length and/or content.

**Articles should be submitted to
apac.pulse@gmail.com for review**

The Association of Physician Assistants in Cardiology (APAC) is a professional organization for Physician Assistants who practice in Cardiology. Since recognition as a specialty organization in 2003, APAC has made considerable progress toward our goal of becoming the primary resource and advocate for all cardiology PA's.

As a Constituent Organization of the AAPA, APAC collaborates with the Academy and actively participates in the House of Delegates at the AAPA annual meeting to assure representation of Cardiology PAs.

APAC also works closely with the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and other national organizations to promote and advocate for increased utilization of PAs to provide high quality, cost-effective care to patients with cardiovascular disease.

We're online! Find, like, join, and follow us on these sites:



http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Association-Physician-Assistants-in-Cardiology-023586?gid=4023586&trk=hb_side_g



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Association-of-Physician-Assistants-in-Cardiology/140965989317?ref=ts>

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