

On Monday, Oct. 5, TAPA held a ceremony to present its annual awards and induct PAs into the TAPA Hall of Fame. This year, TAPA was pleased to induct one member into the Hall of Fame.

TAPA Hall of Fame

Past President Rex Hobbs has volunteered countless hours to serving his PA colleagues in our state. He held positions on the TAPA Board of Directors as the Knoxville Region Director and Treasurer, and he served for many years as TAPA CME Committee Chair. As the CME Chair, Rex spent many hours behind the scenes recruiting speakers for the conferences and helping with the onsite logistics to make sure that the conference ran smoothly.

In 2015, Rex was elected to serve as the vice president for TAPA's Board of Directors. Most vice presidents expect to spend the next two years in the shadow of the president learning about the Academy. But just nine months into Rex's tenure as vice president, the TAPA president accepted a position in another state and vacated the position. Suddenly, he was thrust into the Academy's top leadership position. He accepted the challenge with grace and didn't miss a beat. He took on these new responsibilities on top of his ongoing responsibilities as TAPA's CME Chair and even ran for re-election the next year, serving a second term as president.

Throughout his tenure with TAPA, Rex worked tirelessly to move the PA profession forward – whether through developing outstanding programming at TAPA conferences or giving wise guidance in the board's strategic planning. He was always generous with his time and attention, and he was a calming presence at the leadership helm. In 2017, he was selected as TAPA's PA of the Year and in 2020.

Rex was a kind and caring person who was very dedicated to the PA profession. He was an admirable example to his PA colleagues and mentored many students along the way. Sadly, Rex lost his three-year battle with cancer on Nov. 3, 2020. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Awards of Excellence

PA of the Year: Greg Cain, PA-C

This year's PA of the Year is truly an entrepreneur. In 2011, Greg Cain PA started his own clinic focusing on internal medicine and occupational health. He started with two employees and grew his clinic to six full time healthcare providers, 20 ancillary staff, two x-ray techs and one ultrasound tech at five locations. His practice also provides occupational health services for more than 150 large local manufacturing and construction companies. Not only does he provide critical medical care in rural and underserved areas, he has created dozens of good paying, professional jobs in his community.

He is also very active within the PA profession. He regularly precepts students from his alma mater, South College. He has been a member of both AAPA and TAPA since he was a student, and he served as TAPA's Knoxville Region Director from 2015-2017. He is currently serving as TAPA's treasurer on the Board of Directors, and he has served on COPA since 2016 and is currently the Committee's secretary.

He is an active member of his community, coaching the Englewood Little League Football. He sponsors an annual dove hunt which typically raises about \$40,000 a year for Children's Hospital of East Tennessee.

He has developed close ties to his state senator and representative, and these relationships have helped TAPA in moving forward PA initiatives. He is a monthly contributor to the PAC and regularly attends PA Day on the Hill.

Preceptor of the Year: Terri Jerkins, MD

Dr. Terri Jerkins is board certified in internal medicine and endocrinology. She is also a fellow of the American College of Endocrinology. She has been published many times in multiple journals and continues to conduct research in endocrinology in her current practice. She is active with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and serves on multiple committees at the River Road Church of Christ.

During the COVID pandemic, she agreed to double up on students to help them graduate on time. She precepts for other physician and PA programs, and she often tells her patients and the public that her PA students are of the highest quality and most prepared to rotate through her difficult practices. She strongly advocates for PA hiring and privileges at her own facility and Williamson Medical Center.

Student of the Year: Tim Schorkopf

PA student Tim Schorkopf is a student at the Lipscomb University PA program. He is currently in his clinical rotations, and he was working in the Cookeville ER when deadly tornados ripped through his community on March 3, 2020 – which also happens to be his birthday. He worked tirelessly to help staple and suture patients with minor injuries so that his more experienced teammates could focus on patients with more serious injuries. He was truly an asset to the medical community that day, and he represented the PA profession well.

He is also active in his community, volunteering at Second Harvest Food Bank, fundraising for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. He mentors elementary students in anti-bullying campaigns. He is also very active as a student member of TAPA, attending TAPA's PA Day on the Hill and he serving as a student mentor. He also volunteered with the PA school interviews in his program.

Educator of the Year: Kristopher Maday

This is the first year that TAPA has given an award in this category, and Kris Maday was overwhelmingly nominated by his students – with many of them writing individual paragraphs about how he has positively impacted them.

He is the program director at the University of Tennessee – Memphis, and he advertises the strength of PAs on multiple social media platforms reaching a national audience. He contributes to the PAEA Emergency Medicine and General Surgery End of Rotation Exams, and he serves on AAPA's Commission for Continuing Education and Professional Development.

He has received many accolades throughout his career, but it was the student comments that really impressed our selection committee. Some examples include:

- He's always available to help all of his students
- He's the best educator I've had in all of my years of schooling.
- He is one of the most dedicated practitioners and instructors that I have ever studied under.
- He has been a rock for us students to cling to as we go through these turbulent times due to COVID-19.

PA/Physician Team of the Year: PA Tim O'Leary and Dr. John Millspaugh

This year's PA/physician team exemplify team-based healthcare as they have worked together for more than a decade in family medicine. Together they precept students, modeling the collaboration that exists between PAs and physicians.