

2021 TAPA Board of Directors and AAPA House of Delegates Nominations

President

David Roberts - What an important time in our profession. As I write this, many states are removing burdensome restrictions from our PA colleagues and allowing them to practice to their fullest potential (ex. Utah, North Dakota). In our own state, we have legislation in committee that would give PAs our own board so that we can take responsibility for our profession. Hopefully by the time you read this it has been signed into law or soon will be. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of TAPAs team as we continue to make advances in our state that will allow us to partner with our patients and provide the best care we can offer.



My main goal for TAPA during these next two years is to get OTP legislation passed. I think we can do it with your support. A secondary goal is to increase our membership. Now more than ever we need all our colleagues to be at the table. We need you to be involved and invite your colleagues to get involved as well. I will communicate regularly to keep you in the know about important topics concerning our profession in Tennessee and across the country. And if you ever need anything I am just an email or phone call away.

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Oh.... A little about me.... I have been a part of TAPA for the past four years, first as a Director-At-Large and now as Vice President. After working nearly a decade as a registered nurse I completed my Masters in PA Studies at Bethel University in 2007. I have worked in orthopedics, emergency medicine, and currently in cardiology in West Tennessee. I am author of the textbook Mastering the 12 Lead EKG, have served as adjunct professor, lectured at state conferences, and served as peer reviewer for JAAPA article submissions. I am the proud father of 6 loud and amazing children and married to my high school sweetheart.

Vice-President

Greg Cain - After serving six years active duty in the military as a corpsman I received my B.S from Vanderbilt University in 1999 after which I worked in the banking / finance industry for a few years and eventually started my own commercial real estate, development, and construction company. In 2007 I decided to go back to PA school and graduated in the inaugural class at South College in Knoxville. In 2011 I decided to merge my business background with my medical knowledge and started my own Internal Medicine Occupational Health practice in Madisonville, TN. Since then, I have grown the practice to include four PAs and two NPs, three office locations and 30 employees where we serve over 17,000 patients and 200 of the largest employers in McMinn and Monroe counties. I previously served on the TAPA board of directors from 2015 – 2017, 2019 – Present as Treasurer and have been a member of COPA since 2017. Additionally, in 2017 and 2020 I attended the AAPA Leadership and Advocacy Summit in Washington where I represented TAPA and lobbied our congressmen and Senators on Capitol Hill. I have been an active member of both TAPA and AAPA since 2007. In 2020 and 2021 I was able to get Senator Mike Bell to sponsor our legislation to

get an independent PA board separate from the Board of Medical Examiners and was heavily involved in lobbying that bill through the legislature.

I believe that the PA profession in general is at an important crossroads nationally as the AAPA continues to push for OTP as well as their recent consideration of a name change away from Physician "Assistant." I believe that these are vitally important issues that TAPA must continue to push forward on in Tennessee and to fail to do so would be akin to abandoning our post as the vanguard of PA practice in the state. To that end I believe that we need to redouble our efforts with regard to lobbying the legislature for OTP as well as developing a systematic coordinated approach to fundraising that will help strengthen TAPA's ability to achieve the statutory changes that are needed to accomplish OTP and allow Tennessee PAs to function at the highest levels that they are trained to.

If elected, I intend to work closely with the TAPA Board of Directors as well as our Executive Director (Katherine Moffat) to achieve the goal of getting every TAPA member in the state to pledge AT LEAST \$20 per month, every month in order to provide TAPA with the funding necessary to serve as THE advocate and protector of PA practice in Tennessee. Thank you all for your consideration.

Secretary

Iveylee Trump - Iveylee has been practicing since 2010 and has served on the TAPA Board of Directors since 2013 as the Nashville Region director. She practices dermatology in Brentwood, TN and resides in Nashville with her husband, 3 young children, and 2 dogs. She looks forward to continuing to serve on TAPA and advocating for the PA professional both locally and nationally.

Treasurer

Shane Apperley - Shane Ryan Apperley, MSc, PGCert, PA-R, is a UK-trained Physician Assistant with a clinical background in military medicine and trauma and orthopedic surgery. He currently works as an Associate Professor and Director of Didactic Education at LMU, where he has worked since August 2015. Before moving to the U.S., Mr. Apperley served as Vice-President of the UK Association of Physician Assistants (UKAPA) and was integral in promoting the PA profession Europe-wide.

Mr. Apperley has also completed secondments at NHS England (health care commissioning) and Health Education England (educational commissioning and oversight) where he served as national lead on the National Physician Associate Expansion Programme (NPAEP). Mr. Apperley currently serves as CME committee chair for the Tennessee Academy of Physician Assistants (TAPA) and is completing his Doctorate of Medical Science (DMS) degree through LMU.



Chattanooga Region Director

Megan Burrows - Megan is a native Tennessean growing up in the northeastern part of the state in Campbell County. She returned to her home town of Jacksboro after graduate school, but felt the pull for a bigger city and moved to Chattanooga in 2012. Since that time she has fallen even more in love with the city and everything it has to offer and plans to stay here for the remainder of her days.



Megan attended East Tennessee State University and earned a bachelor's degree in Biology & Psychology. While attending ETSU she was a member of the Preview and Orientation Leaders Organization, Admissions Ambassadors, and Kappa Delta Sorority. After completion she moved to Phillippi, West Virginia to attend Alderson-Broaddus University (A-B) to obtain her Master of Science in Physician Assistant studies. While at A-B Megan was the class representative of the class of 2010.

Megan began her career as a Physician Assistant at a primary care pediatrics clinic in Jacksboro, TN. Here she learned how to care for and treat children from newborn into adulthood. This experience allowed for her love of pediatrics to deepen. In 2012, looking for a challenge, Megan made the choice to move to Chattanooga and experience life in a larger city and took a position in primary/urgent care adult medicine. Here she continued to sharpen her skills for managing chronic illnesses and address acute problems. Then in 2016 the opportunity to return to her first love of pediatrics opened and she jumped at the chance to begin her journey at Siskin Children's Institute. At Siskin Megan evaluates, diagnoses, and creates treatment plans for children with developmental disabilities. Being a resource for families to share their concerns and help them navigate life with a child with special needs motivates Megan to bring her best self to work every day. She appreciates working in a collaborative environment with many different professionals to address the concerns of the special needs community in Chattanooga.

Since moving to Chattanooga Megan has been involved in the community in several different ways. Most recently she was accepted into the Leadership Chattanooga Class of 2021 and will graduate from the program in May. Through this program she has connected with several programs in the community such as the Future Ready program at Howard High school where she is a guest lecturer in the health sciences program. Megan is also a TnAchieves mentor to college freshman who are a part of the Tennessee Promise program, as well as an alumni mentor for pre-med students at ETSU.

Nashville Region Director

Lisa Gronberg - Lisa grew up in Lexington, KY and graduated from Miami University in Ohio with a degree in biology. She came to TN for PA school at Trevecca Nazarene University in 2007. Initially she practiced family medicine in rural GA, and then moved back to TN where she has been part of an internal medicine group in Hermitage. Lisa currently lives in Nashville with her husband, two children, and two dogs.



Sarah Murawski - Fellow Nashville area PAs, I would like to introduce myself as a nominee for the Nashville Regional Director position on the TAPA Board of Directors. I am Sarah Murawski and I am in my 4th year of practice as a PA in the state of Tennessee. I have served the past two years as a representative for TAPA in the AAPA House of Delegates. I am deeply passionate about my work with cancer patients in the Nashville region and recently moved to a practice in the community setting. In addition to my clinical work, I greatly enjoy PA advocacy work and I hope to continue that as your Regional Director. We are in the midst of some exciting times as PAs in Tennessee and I hope to work with and for you to ensure your voices are represented as we pursue legislative action. I hope to build on the incredible work of your previous Regional Director and bring in some new ideas for networking and learning opportunities. Thank you for your consideration.

Tri-Cities Region Director

Shane Smith - Please allow me to introduce myself. I am Raymond Shane Smith (R. Shane Smith). Originally from east Kentucky where I enlisted at age 17 in the US Army and completed multiple training stations for several different (MOS's) jobs while in the Army. I exited the Army in 2004. Shortly after leaving my military service, I entered and graduated from Springfield College Physician Assistant Program in Springfield Massachusetts, 2007 (Mind, Body & Spirit). I trained and practiced Emergency Medicine in Boston and Worcester, MA where I was able to utilize my leadership skills as a lead PA. After several years I relocated to Johnson City, TN in 2013. Currently I am a practicing PA part time in Trauma Surgery/Critical Care/General Surgery and recently entered the world of academia. In 2020 (yeah, what a time for me to change direction in careers) I became an Assistant Professor at Milligan University with the Physician Assistant Program. My wife and I reside in Jonesborough, TN. Sharon and I are entrepreneurs and started a business in Johnson City, TN in 2018.



I wish to serve the Physician Assistants in the Tri-cities region as your state representative for Tennessee Academy of Physician Assistant (TAPA) Regional Director. I do have an interest in growing the profession in general but specifically in Tennessee. We are the voice for our profession and the patients we serve. As a Physician Assistant we need to guide our direction and develop a path that we wish to travel. By doing so we can help our communities and patients. I would like to help be part of that path in Tennessee. Thank you kindly.

At-Large Directors (2)

Patrick Brown - Mr. D. Patrick Brown, MSPAS, PA-C earned Bachelor's Degrees in Pre-Professional Health and Biology from Bethel University in McKenzie, Tennessee in 2013, and a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies from Bethel University Physician Assistant Program in 2016. He has been employed as a Physician Assistant for the past 4 years working in Emergency Medicine, Hospital Medicine, and Family Practice. Mr. Brown is currently employed as principle faculty and is an Assistant Professor with the Bethel University Physician Assistant Program, teaching as the course director for Clinical Medicine. He is also employed as a Physician Assistant with Carney's Family Clinic in Family Practice in Camden, TN, Henry County Medical Center in Paris, TN where he works in Emergency Medicine and Hospital Medicine, and Horizon Medical Center in Dickson, TN where he works in Hospital Medicine.



Mr. Brown served as a combat medic in the TN Army National Guard from 2007-2013 including deployment from 2008-2009 to Baghdad, Iraq with the 267th MP Co from Dickson, TN. He serves as the youth pastor for Missionary Grove Baptist Church in Camden, TN. He is married to his wife Jordan of seven years and they have three children named Lottie (6), Della (3), and Sunny (1), as well as a dog named Cujo and cat named Maleficent. Mr. Brown enjoys working in many fields, but especially in guiding PA students at the Bethel University PA Program.

Rita Crews - Rita Crews is a current member of TAPA. Long standing member of AAPA and FAPA. Has served as an area representative for one year. She is currently a principal faculty member at South College, School of Physician Assistant Studies. She attended the Military Physician Assistant Course, and subsequently completed her BA degree in Allied Health-Physician Assistant from Creighton University in 1984. She also has a master's in health service administration from St. Josephs College, Maine. She is enrolled at Rocky Mountain University of Health Profession working towards her Doctor of Medical Science degree.



As a Physician Assistant her clinical experience includes General Medical and OB/GYN ambulatory care as Warrant Officer in the United States Army and then as an Army Civil Service Employee. As a civilian she has practiced as a General and Minimally Invasive Surgery PA, and most recently specialized in Family Practice for over 17 years. She provided patient care and managed the operations for the family practice along with her husband who is a Family Practice Physician.

Her current professional interests are process improvement and patient safety, health care systems as well as appropriate and efficient use of Electronic Health Records. She is a Certified Professional in Health Care Quality.

Paula Miksa - Paula Miksa is running for an At-large position on the TAPA board. She is currently the Assistant Dean and Program Director for the Lincoln Memorial University's Doctor of Medical Science Program. Paula has been a PA for almost 20 years and has worked in PA education for over 12 years and currently works clinically at her local free clinics. She has a heart for serving the underserved in her local area and abroad.

Paula has served on the Tennessee Academy of PA's (TAPA) board, on several TAPA committees, and as one of the TAPA House of Delegate (HOD) representatives in 2017 and 2018. She is currently the Graduate Advisor for the AAPA Student board and the advisor to the Student HOD representatives. She has also been a PA Foundation Scholarship evaluator for many years. Paula enjoys working with practicing PA's and PA students and especially enjoys promoting the PA role both locally and nationally and most recently attended the AAPA's Leadership and Advocacy Summit and was able to speak to the offices of both of TN's senators and two of the state's representatives about pressing PA issues. When she isn't working, Paula enjoys hiking, running and camping with her husband, three children and her Golden Retriever, Copper.

House of Delegates (2)

Sarah Murawski - Hello fellow Tennessee PAs! I am Sarah Murawski, a PA in my 4th year of practice in hematology/oncology who recently transitioned to community cancer care from an inpatient PA position. This past year has been a difficult one for us in healthcare and for our loved ones at home; and yet Tennessee PAs have risen to the occasion time and time again. I have been honored to represent you all as a member of the House of Delegates over the past two years as our profession has been faced with new challenges and new opportunities to innovate the delivery of medicine while battling a global pandemic. While we have not been able to meet in person to discuss and debate in the House as we typically would, we have been able to meet virtually and continue working to move the profession forward. Thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility. It is a responsibility I take on with great seriousness and pride. As our state pushes to modernize PA practice for Tennessee, it would be a privilege to continue to represent the state of Tennessee at the AAPA House of Delegates. Outside of my duties representing you at our virtual HOD meetings, I have continued to grow my advocacy and leadership skills by attending the AAPA's Leadership and Advocacy Summit this year. PA advocacy brings me as much joy as caring for my patients and I would love to continue advocating for you in the House of Delegates in Indianapolis and when the house returns to Nashville in 2023. Thank you for your consideration.

Brendan Lucas - My name is Brendan Lucas. I am an early career PA beginning my second year of practice in emergency medicine and urgent care. I have been passionate about health policy and advocating for our profession since PA school. I served two terms in the House of Delegates representing the Student Academy. I also completed a Health Policy Fellowship through PAEA. Since then, I've remained active in local, state, and federal PA organizations. I currently serve on AAPA's Commission on Government Relations & Practice Advancement. I am excited to bring my skills and experience to TAPA and continue advocating for our profession.



Natalie Stafford - My name is Natalie Stafford, and I would like to be considered for the House of Delegates' role to represent Tennessee PAs. I am currently practicing at Mays and Schnapp Neurospine and Pain in Memphis. I graduated from Baylor College of Medicine in December of 2018 and subsequently completed a post-graduate Geriatric Medicine residency at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston. My Memphis-native husband and I relocated to Tennessee in January 2020. In my free time, I enjoy reading and baking. I have also worked with another PA at my practice to implement a monthly journal club. I am passionate about PA involvement not only on the local and state level but also nationally. I believe our profession has so much to offer and would be honored to work alongside fellow PAs to guide the future of the profession. While in PA school, I served as the Treasurer of our student association, the Robert Luchi Society, and I was an active member of local and state organizations, including lobbying for several bills related to PA practice during the 2017 Texas legislative session. I have also served this year on the TAPA Government Affairs Committee and hope to continue working with TAPA in this capacity.

