



T A P A
 TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF
 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

PA Pulse

The heartbeat of TAPA

Bridging the Future of Healthcare

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From the President

TAPA continues to work hard to push for PA practice reforms in our state. In this issue of the newsletter, I want to update you on our efforts and let you know where you can help.

Legislation: In the last newsletter, I told you about the promise made to us about a summer task force that would draft a bill to make changes to PA (and APRN) practice in our state. Well, I’m disappointed to tell you that after the first meeting of the senators involved, the initiative has stalled. The task force seems to have disbanded with no legislation produced.

Therefore, TAPA must forge our own path. TAPA’s Executive Director Katherine Moffat has been working with the AAPA to finalize draft legislation that makes the changes to our profession that we desire. She has been meeting with representatives of the Tennessee Medical Association to see if any compromise can be reached, and that process will continue throughout the fall.

Practice Owners: Meanwhile, I have been working to bring together PA practice owners and other PAs to meet with legislators to make our case. Our group is also setting up a political action committee (PAC) that will work in concert with TAPA’s PAC. If you are a practice owner who would like to be involved with this group, please call me.

Meeting with Legislators: Too often, we talk to legislators who are unfamiliar with PA training, or who have listened to the misrepresentation of our profession by those who oppose us. It is imperative for each and every PA in this state to take control of our narrative and meet with your legislators to give them a full understanding of PA training, scope of practice, and clinical expertise.

Just last week, I hosted a gathering of legislators at my clinic. In attendance were Sen. Art Swann, who’s redrawn district now includes my clinic, Rep. Lowell Russell, and Senate candidate Adam Lowe. Many other PAs were there to talk to these legislators about PA practice, clinic ownership, and the barriers we face.

I realize that not everyone has the opportunity to invite their legislator to where they practice. Maybe you work in a busy ER or are a hospitalist. Maybe you are working at a large physician-owned practice that would

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Mission - TAPA’s mission is to promote accessible, quality healthcare, and to advance the education, profession and practice of physician assistants in Tennessee.

Vision

Protecting and empowering the practice of physician assistants in Tennessee.



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present a physician-centric narrative to a visiting legislator. You don't have to have them visit your clinic to make a difference – instead, invite them to meet you at the local coffee shop. This is something they do regularly with other constituents, so it will not seem strange for you to make that request.

In the coming months, TAPA will be ramping up our outreach to legislators before they convene in January. If you haven't yet reached out to your state senator and state representative, DO IT NOW. Send them an email asking if they have time to meet to talk about PA practice. If you are nervous and don't know what to talk about, call or email Katherine and she will help you develop talking points.

FallFest: Next week, Speaker Cameron Sexton will be addressing PAs and students during our annual Legislative Luncheon. This is a huge deal because Speaker Sexton is the #3 guy in our state. His presence at our meeting shows that he values PAs and what we bring to the table to care for Tennesseans across this state.

Throughout the week at FallFest, we will continue to network with one another and talk about ways we can influence decision makers in our state. If you are attending FallFest, reach out to us and let us know your desire to get involved. And be sure to attend the Membership Meeting on Thursday afternoon.

Now is not the time to sit on the sidelines. Defining the future of our profession is a heavy lift, and we need everyone to do their part.

Greg Cain
TAPA President

SAVE THE DATES!

FallFest
Oct. 3-7, 2022
Gatlinburg Convention Center

Spring Fling
April 14-15, 2023
Hilton Memphis



Get Ready for FallFest 2022

By Mallory Briggs, Special Event and Conference Coordinator

We hope we'll be seeing you in Gatlinburg! This year's conference represents the most CME credits ever offered - with a maximum of 54 CME credits, which includes the SA-CME bonuses awarded to NCCPA-certified PAs and optional workshops. Earn all of the Category I credits required each NCCPA cycle at just one conference!

TAPA is also offering a new format at this year's conference. Fifteen of the overall CME credits will be offered as pre-recorded content. This will allow us to shorten the daily schedule so that attendees can enjoy the sights and sounds of Gatlinburg and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, while still offering an incredible value for your CME dollar.

Of course, staff and your TAPA leadership thinks the conference is the best thing to do in Gatlinburg! But if you're interested in other things to do, see, or eat in your free time, Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge have added a ton of new things in 2022! Guy Fieri now has TWO restaurants in the area, Gatlinburg's Chicken Guy, and Pigeon Forge's Downtown Flavortown, which has been lovingly compared to Chuck E. Cheese with a Tiki bar by local news outlets.

Smoky Mountains Creperie has opened on the Parkway in Gatlinburg. With a chef with more than 12 years of experience in restaurants and a caring and committed staff, the creperie serves up a fantastic experience and delicious treats to match. Also Located in the heart of Gatlinburg, Cumberland Jack's LeConte Kitchen has a unique exterior design and interior decor that will remind you of a rustic mountain lodge. Cumberland Jack's has a fantastic history to go along with

FallFest, continued from page 3

incredible food. The name of the restaurant commemorates the memory of Cumberland Jack, who was the sidekick, companion, and friend of Paul Adams back in the 1920s. Adams is known as the first person and caretaker to build a shelter on the top of Mount LeConte back in 1925.

Don't forget all the great Fall things the area has going on during October! There is Autumn at Anakeesta and Oktoberfest at Ober. Head over to Pigeon Forge for the Dollywood Harvest Festival and the Great Pumpkin LumiNights at Dollywood too.

For conference information, visit www.tnpa.com.

If you cannot join us at FallFest this year, we hope to see you at a TAPA conference in 2023! Spring Fling will be held in Memphis next year, and FallFest will return to Gatlinburg that first week of October.

Middle Tennessee State University



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Email: Shannon.Colvin@mtsu.edu,
if interested

FallFest Sponsors and Exhibitors

TAPA would like to thank the following companies for sponsoring and exhibiting at FallFest. Their support helps TAPA put on a first-class experience for conference attendees.

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Cory Davidson, PA-C
Metabolic Disease Associates

*Tennessee Academy of Physician Assistants
Fall Fest Conference*

Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at 11:15am EST

The Gatlinburg Convention Center

234 Historic Nature Trail, Gatlinburg, TN 37738

Register by 10/03/22

You may register for this program by calling or texting your UltraCare Liaison:

**Tammy McArthur at 415-720-3153 or
TMcArthur@ultragenyx.com**

All participants that choose to attend this in-person event must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19. If you are not fully vaccinated, please reach out to your Ultragenyx representative to learn about other program opportunities that may be available.



Donate to TAPA PAC

TAPA's political action committee (PAC) continues to grow! Because of your support, TAPA has been able to donate to the campaign funds of legislative candidates. Many of these are individuals who serve on key committees and have expressed support for PAs and their role in providing healthcare services to millions of Tennesseans each day - the people we want to see elected to the General Assembly because they will cast the votes that will move the PA profession forward in our state.

We are also thrilled to report that our students have gotten into the action! Lincoln Memorial University - Harrogate PA students banded together to donate \$976 for the PAC, and Trevecca Nazarene University PA students donated a total of \$931.60. This just goes to show that small donations can quickly add up to significant contributions to the PAC.

If you haven't already made a contribution to the PAC this year, please consider doing so before the end of the year. It can be a larger check of \$100, \$250, or \$500, or you can join the many PAs listed below who give automatically monthly donations. You probably won't notice a \$25/month autopayment on your credit card very much, but over the course of the year it will amount to \$300. Won't you make that investment in your profession? [Click here](#) to access the online PAC contribution form.

2022 PAC Contributors

As of 9/30/2022

Bridge Members

contributing \$250+

*Greg Cain
Jill Denney
Eric Elliot
*Richard Heint
Timothy Jenkins
*David Lennon
*Sarah McQueen
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*Johnny Nowlin
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Nicole Schtupak
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Contributing Members

contributing up to \$100

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South College Knoxville, Tennessee



The Master of Physician Assistant Studies program at South College located at the foothills of the Smoky Mountains in Knoxville, Tennessee is a rigorous 27-month curriculum that builds on your previous education to qualify you for advanced physician assistant positions throughout the medical field.

Physician assistants help improve access to medical care by expanding a physician's practice base, which is especially important in medically underserved areas. Many PAs are employed in primary care specialties, including family practice, pediatrics, and general medicine.

South College is passionate about providing the education and skills necessary to help you become a highly qualified physician assistant, able to deliver outstanding, professional patient care. In addition to our core faculty members, we bring in local physicians and physician assistants as adjunct faculty to give the program a hands-on focus.

Point of Contact Admissions: Ms. Michelle Crudup merudup@south.edu

PAC, continued from page 6

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 Rachel Cole
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