



UA

PA

# The Stone Crier

Fall / Winter 2013



## President's Message

Tim Irizarry, MS, NREMT-P, PA-C

I am very humbled to be writing to you today, as your new president. I have been blessed with meeting and forming bonds with those PAs in Urology who brought us to this point in our organization. It is because of them that I am able to take the helm of such a strong organization, which is not only an advocate for Urology but also for PA's in general.

Currently, we are experiencing many changes in Urology, all of which are felt by each of us, no matter where we practice. To start with, we are seeing our Urological Physician population shrink in size due to aging, retirement, and smaller Urological residencies across the country. As the professional population of Urology seems to be dwindling, our patient population is on the verge of explosion. Over the next decade, the "baby-boom generation" (of which I am a member), will need their Urologist more than ever. Prostates grow, testosterone wanes, frequency worsens, stones grow, ED/FSD, and cancer are still prevalent. It is up to us to fill the voids in our profession and take care of those patients who would not have access to a Urologist any other way. To do this, we must be our best in both education and skills. We must be the ones that our patients rely on and trust and who our physicians look to for assistance.

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## President's Report (con't.)

Tim Irizarry, MS, NREMP-T, PA-C

Let us not forget the monster lurking in the dark corners of the room: healthcare coverage and reimbursement. Reimbursements by insurance seem to change daily (and not always in our favor). As we strive to *do more*, they work to *pay less*. Government healthcare looms on the horizon, but very few can actually give a clear picture of how it will work once it begins. We need to be both smart and efficient in our delivery of healthcare. Recommending the most expensive option will, in many ways, limit the patient to no options at all for treatment. We need to know our patients well enough to the point that we can advise cost-efficient options for treatment.

As your officers, I and the rest of the UAPA leadership will continue to represent you, our specialty, and our profession, such that Physician Assistants in Urology will continue to have a voice in the American Urological Association and the American Association of Physician Assistants. As members, we need YOU to spread the word to all up-and-coming PA students that Urology is a specialty which gives the perfect mix of surgery, clinical practice, radiology, and procedures all rolled into one. We need to let them know that Urology has a place for them, and so does the UAPA, as a student member.

Again, I thank all of the membership for their faith in me to lead our group into a future which, in some ways, seems uncertain due to the impending changes in healthcare. It does not seem that all of the plans for these changes have been made known, or even written, yet here we are, bracing ourselves for the worst and hoping for the best.

As the old saying goes, "Work smarter, not harder," (Thank you, Scrooge McDuck). Encourage those PA's around you, make an effort to encourage PA students to consider Urology as a profession, make plans NOW to attend the 3rd Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee in March 2014. Update yourself regularly on the UAPA website at [www.UAPANET.org](http://www.UAPANET.org).

All my best to each of you.

## Secretary's Report

Jessica Nelson, MPAS, PA-C

After starting in Urology, I quickly became a member of UAPA. It has been a great resource and I am excited about working for you on the Board of Directors as your next Secretary. I encourage everyone to continue to spread the word about the UAPA and become active in the organization. As there continues to be more PA's entering the field of Urology, it becomes increasingly important to network, and the 3rd Annual Meeting is a great time to do this. The Board works hard to listen to the suggestions of our members to format the conference in a way that meets everyone's needs and we are excited about seeing all of you in Nashville next year.

## Treasurer's Report

Charlene Kreiensieck, PA-C

The UAPA has continued to grow since our 1st Annual Conference. The management services of WJ Weiser & Associates, in collaboration with our CME co-chairs, proved to be instrumental in providing a very successful 2nd Annual Conference. The goal now is to work closely with industry to obtain the monetary support needed to provide a substantial annual conference next year, and also to achieve a positive addition to our bottom line. Financially, our organization is strong, and membership numbers have continued to grow, which is extremely encouraging. Our relationship with WJ Weiser & Associates proves to be a very positive one and will be a key factor for the continued growth of our organization.

## Report on the AAPA

Wanda Hancock, PA-C, MHSA

The House of Delegates convened on May 25, 2013. The most pertinent resolution for UAPA was 2013-A-01, Changing Number of Specialty Organization Delegates. This was eventually voted down, but would have allowed two delegates in the House rather than the allocated one. While this is likely this change would not be that critical for our group, it would be very beneficial for large groups such as Orthopaedics, Dermatology, and Emergency Medicine. After considerable debate, the resolution was defeated.

At the February Board of Directors meeting, a change of the AAPA governance structure was approved by the BOD. This was a topic of great discussion in 2010 when it was debated that the BOD, not the HOD, as the body that would make decisions for the academy. The structure of the organization changed over the past three years from committees to commissions and work groups. The BOD decided in February to discontinue the work groups and volunteer system for accomplishing activity of the organization. This decision was the impetus for a number of resolutions, nine in total. All of these resolutions failed or were sent for evaluation and report. One of the resolutions included a recommendation that there be an Ad Hoc committee of the HOD and BOD members to investigate the possibility of the HOD electing the Directors at Large. This would give the HOD a greater voice in the composition of the board. In the end, the BOD met following the HOD and retracted its previous decision to change the volunteer system at this time.

Reference Committee B included resolutions on Health Information, Federally Employed PA's, Mental Health, PA Education Funding, Health Care Reform, and Competencies for the PA profession. All of these were adopted by consent of the HOD. There was discussion concerning 2013-B-01, Gun Control. There were specific regulation and control of guns included in this resolution. After debate, the resolution was defeated as many felt that this issue was not germane to our mission and would, if passed, direct our lobbying efforts. There was a resolution passed that would direct the AAPA to work toward reduction of violence in the media and one that would clarify the regulations for PA's who are federally employed. Also ratified was a resolution that would support the optimal utilization of PA's and recognize the contributions of PA's in computerized health information technology systems. A position paper on acknowledgement and apology for

adverse outcomes was approved as amended. The final resolution concerning the use of collaborative rather than supervised medical professionals was referred to an ad hoc committee for further investigation.

In summation, this year was primarily the HOD telling AAPA staff and the BOD that proposed changes in the governance and operations should be communicated to the HOD and that the HOD should begin to operate 365 days of the year. Based on information I have received since returning from the conference, I believe that this will begin to take place in the next month or so. If in fact this does occur, I will report on a quarterly basis to the board and or membership of UAPA. I would encourage UAPA Board of Directors to consider having at least two alternate delegates identified, as I found myself this year with no back up. This would be in the event that the elected delegate was unable to fulfil the duties either electronically or by presence at the AAPA HOD.

## Educational Committee Chair Report

Todd Doran, MS, PA-C, DFAAPA  
Brad Hornberger, MPAS, PA-C

The upcoming UAPA meeting on March 27 – 30, 2014 is shaping up to be a promising meeting. This year's location will be the Loews Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tennessee, a great place for a meeting with plenty of activities to keep the whole family entertained.

The program committee has been hard at work planning this meeting, and we have no doubt it will be both memorable and informative. There will be hands-on courses in cystoscopy, prostate biopsy, and office ultrasound, as well as state-of-the-art lectures on a variety of pressing topics. Some of the highlights include Prostate Cancer Updates, Robotic vs. Open Surgeries, Active Surveillance/Prostate Biopsy Strategies, Neurogenic Bladder, OAB, Point-Counter-Point: Slings for Incontinence, Preoperative Evaluation, NCCPA Certification Update, Pediatric Management of Common Urologic Problems, and many, many more. And of course there's no forgetting the ever popular Jeopardy game!

This year's program is going to be one of the strongest faculty UAPA has ever seen and it is guaranteed to be a can't-miss event for any PA involved in Urology or considering Urology as a focus. The need for Urological PAs continues to increase, as well as the need for us to be better educated and equipped to assist patients and our physician colleagues. UAPA is doing everything possible to prepare Urological PAs to fill the demand for knowledgeable and skilled Physician Assistants.

We look forward to seeing all of you in March, and please visit our website at [www.uapanet.org](http://www.uapanet.org) for updates on meeting details, CME information, and a detailed program schedule.



**2013 – 2014**

## OFFICERS

**President:** Tim Irizarry, PA-C

**Vice President:** Folusho Ogonfiditimi, DM, MPH, PA-C

**President-Elect:** Richard Pasquarella, PA-C

**Secretary:** Jessica Nelson, MPAS, PA-C

**Treasurer-Elect:** Charlene Kreiensieck, MPAS, PA-C

**Past President:** Kenneth Mitchell, MPAS, PA-C

## DELEGATE TO THE AAPA HOD

Wanda C. Hancock, MHSA, PA-C

## AUA REPRESENTATIVE

Michele Huebner, PA-C

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Wendy J. Weiser

## ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Heather Swanson

## Urological Association of Physician Assistants

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**DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION** for the UAPA Board of Directors? Please submit any questions to Lauren Shaffer at [lauren@wjweiser.com](mailto:lauren@wjweiser.com) for inclusion in the UAPA Newsletter.

## Featured UAPA Member: Louis Koncz, PA-C



The UAPA features one member for each edition in the newsletter. We hope members enjoy this addition to the newsletter, as well as learn more about their fellow members and their practice.

**Q: What first sparked your interest in becoming a Urology PA?**

**A:** I was a nurse for 19 years with most of those in Urology. I worked in a Urology office as a nurse in Loma

Linda, California. In 1990, I went to PA school at the University of Utah, and after finishing, I went back into Urology, which is a field I always enjoyed working in.

**Q: What is your biggest accomplishment since you have become a PA?**

**A:** Becoming the first PA in our Urology group 21 years ago and developing a collaborative practice on the utilization of a PA, and becoming an indispensable part of the Urology team. Currently, I am the President of the Washington Academy of Physician Assistants and have had the opportunity to be involved in legislative changes that are helping improve PA practice and patient access to care in our state.

**Q: How has the field changed since you first entered it?**

**A:** There were only a handful of PA's in Urology when I first started, and as Urologists have seen the benefits that we provide to the practice, the number of PA's being part of a practice has grown considerably, but there is still a lot of educating that needs to be accomplished. I am frequently asked by Urologists how they can utilize a PA in their practice.

**Q: How do you see the role of the PA in Urology changing in the future?**

**A:** The AUA has established an Education and Membership Committee for Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners. The AUA realizes that there is going to be a shortage of Urologists in the future and is looking to PA's and NP's to help fill the void. The AUA is providing increased educational opportunities for PA's and NP's every year. I foresee us broadening our utilization to serve our patients efficiently and competently.

**Q: What is the most satisfying part of your job?**

**A:** For me, the most satisfying part of my job is the interaction I have with my patients and the gratification I get when a patient is pleased with the outcome of their treatment. As I mentioned, I was the first PA in Urology in our multispecialty group. During that time, I have worked with several different Urologists. At one point, we had several different locum Urologists coming and going until a permanent physician was hired. Those were some difficult times for the practice. However, I matured tremendously as a practitioner and manager. We currently have three Urologists and two PA's, including me, in our department. I greatly enjoy working with everyone in our department. I get to make rounds in the hospital every day, assist in surgery, and see patients in the office. It is a very busy practice, but we work well as a team. We

not only work together, but also do activities outside of work together. We are co-workers and friends, which makes for a great working environment, and there is professional courtesy and mutual respect. What more could you ask for from your work?

## Job Posting Physician Assistant/Nurse Practitioner

**Department: Urology Clinic  
Yale-New Haven Hospital  
Full-time w/ Benefits**

The PA/NP will provide a full spectrum of clinical services in the care of adult patients with Urologic disorders in the newly formed Urology Department - a large academic urology practice specializing in benign and oncologic urology with a focus on surgery and ambulatory care. This department is an integral member of a multidisciplinary disease-based team in the delivery of patient/family-centered ambulatory care throughout the care continuum.

**Job Description:**

The PA/NP will work with the multidisciplinary team to implement current practice guidelines and clinical standards, monitor clinical quality and patient outcomes; serve as an educational resource for nursing and pharmacy staff pertaining to clinical care standards for this patient population; perform physical assessment and other direct patient care; participate in treatment planning and its implementation; consult with physicians and other team members regarding findings/changes in patient condition; and maintain longitudinal communications with referring providers regarding patient status in conjunction with a collaborating or supervising physician. In addition, the PA/NP will assist in identifying and enrolling patients for clinical research studies.

**Job Requirements:**

- License to practice in the State of CT as a RN and APRN or Licensed as a PA.
- Relevant board certification and minimum two years of experience as an APRN or PA in the relevant specialty or setting.
- Oncology experience.
- Experience with prescribing chemotherapy preferred.
- For NPs: ONS chemotherapy/biotherapy provider certification and ONCC certification a plus.

**About Yale-New Haven Hospital**

Yale-New Haven Hospital is the destination for patients who need more than ordinary hospitals can provide. As a Magnet-recognized, tertiary medical center, with over 1,500 beds, we are the 4th largest hospital in the country, with two acute care campuses, and three emergency departments, including a Level I trauma center. We're ranked among the best hospitals in the US, and as the primary teaching hospital for Yale School of Medicine, we're nationally recognized for our commitment to teaching and clinical research.

Yale-New Haven Hospital offers generous compensation, comprehensive benefits and exceptional opportunities for learning and professional growth. EOE

Interested candidates may send a resume/CV to [ann.lacamera@ynhh.org](mailto:ann.lacamera@ynhh.org) or apply online at [ynhhcareers.org](http://ynhhcareers.org)

## Mark Your Calendar:

UAPA 2014 3rd Annual Meeting  
March 28 – 30, 2014  
Loews Vanderbilt  
Nashville, Tennessee

A program designed specifically for the practicing Urological PA, featuring hands-on breakout sessions, state of the art lectures and unparalleled networking opportunities.

Program information and registration available online at: [www.uapanet.org](http://www.uapanet.org)

*A meeting you won't want to miss!*

## Thank You Again to Our 2013 Promotional Partners

*We invite your continued support.*

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# Mark Your Calendars: 2014 UAPA Meeting



UAPA 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting

March 28 – 31, 2014

Loews Vanderbilt | Hotel Nashville | Nashville, Tennessee



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