



UA

PA

The Stone Crier

Post-Convention 2014



President's Message

By Timothy Irizarry, MS, NREMT - P, PA-C

Another Convention Behind Us!

The 3rd Annual Meeting was a smashing success with even more attendees present than in the past two years. Of course, this further illustrates the positive growth of our organization and the constant dedication of physician assistants to urology. The breakout training sessions in ultrasound, OAB, ED and testosterone replacement were a big success with overwhelming positive reviews. Our president-elect, Richard "Rico" Pasquarella, and I were able to also have a one-on-one with the attendees and found out what we could do to make the meeting better in the future. We "crowned" another winner of the UAPA Jeopardy who has bragging rights for the next several months until they will once again be challenged in Austin, Texas (remember guys...EVERYTHING is bigger in Texas!).

I would like to say a big thank you to the members of the CME committee, the Board of Directors and WJ Weiser & Associates, Inc. I would like to thank Brad Hornberger and Todd Doran for their years of dedicated service to the CME committee and successful educational programs. We look forward to Jessica Nelson heading this committee and bringing quality educational opportunities to the next meeting. Thanks also to Ken Mitchell for his dedication to all things PA and UAPA. I am glad to have him as our voice and valued colleague.

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Wanda C. Hancock, MHSA, PA-C*

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Our committee heads are great people, but each committee needs members! Volunteer to fill a position on one of our committees and take an active part in our future.

As I outlined at the start of the Annual Meeting, it is up to us to introduce the field of urology to those who are entering into the field as physician assistants (it IS more than just catheters and urine). It is our job—no, our RESPONSIBILITY—to pass along the passion for urology to others. If we do not do this, why did we get into this field to begin with?

I urge each of you to go back to your alma mater or local PA School and share your passion for urology with those still looking

for the answer to the question, “What am I going to do in my career?” Become a preceptor; give a five minute talk on this awesome specialty called urology; spread the passion! Also, let them know that you are a member of the Urological Association of Physician Assistants: the premier organization for those PA’s in urological practice. Seek out those PA students who have an interest in urology and educate them on the opportunities for student membership in the UAPA. Teach them about urology and what makes this field the best for now and the future. Thank you for your passion and be sure to spread it to others!

See y’all in Austin in 2015...

Secretary’s Report

Jessica Nelson, MPAS, PA-C

It was exciting to see everyone at the 3rd Annual UAPA Meeting in Nashville. It continues to be a great place to network and earn CME. I encourage everyone to continue to spread the word about UAPA and urology. I encourage you to give back to PA schools if there is one in your town by giving lectures and serving as preceptors. Some of our goals are to continue to grow as an organization and to encourage others to become active in the organization. There are numerous opportunities to do so if interested. I look forward to serving you as your secretary in the coming year.

Treasurer’s Report

Charlene Kreienseick, MPAS, PA-C

The UAPA just had its 3rd Annual Meeting, which once again was a success. Financially speaking, we were able to present a well-rounded Annual Meeting with no change to our bottom line. Our membership has continued to grow since our 1st Annual Meeting. Increasing our membership will be key to our financial stability. Under the management of WJ Weiser & Associates, we continue to grow and, financially, are quite stable. Our plan for the future includes engaging industry for financial support for the Annual Meetings and perhaps for other future CME. Financially, our organization is strong and our future is bright.

UAPA Educational Committee Chair Report

Brad J. Hornberger, MPAS, PA-C
and Todd J. Doran, MS, PA-C,

We want to thank everyone who was able to make it to Nashville for our 3rd Annual Meeting. If your schedule did not allow for you to come, we hope you can join us next year. We had almost 100 attendees at the meeting and look forward to growth each year. The program committee worked hard to put together a dynamic program that would benefit everyone in urology. We have received over half of the attendees’ surveys from the meeting and hope to receive even more to help us plan next year’s agenda. We hope you found the meeting memorable and informative. It

is always exciting to get together as a group to help increase our knowledge base and network with others in our field. Our profession allows for a great mix of clinical practice, procedures and surgery, and we hope that you learned something new to take back to your practice.

We look forward to seeing all of you next year from March 27 to March 29, 2015 in Austin, Texas, for the 4th Annual Meeting. Information regarding the exact location will be forthcoming. Austin is a great city to enjoy the outdoors with lots of dining options as well! Please visit our website at www.uapanet.org for updates on next year’s meeting details as they become available.

Featured UAPA Member

Wanda C. Hancock, MHSA, PA-C



The UAPA features one member for each edition of 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: Urology really picked me. I spent the first 25 years of my professional life working as a radiation therapist, clinically, administratively and academically. As I progressed through

that process, I realized that patient care was missing from my life. I began PA School late in life, while continuing to work full time. When I graduated, I thought that general surgery was the perfect fit for me. Then I was approached by a friend who worked at Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center. There was a need for a PA in the Urology Clinic. I went for the interview and after some soul-searching, I decided that this would be the ultimate pathway to meeting my professional and personal goals. My past background in oncology and experience with bladder, prostate and renal cancer had prepared me for urology. My compassion and concern for patients made working with veterans an even more enticing opportunity. The diversity of the daily function in urology also supported my ADHD personality, as there was always something different. I knew I would never be bored.

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

A: Being an instrumental part of the leadership who resurrected the UAPA has been the highlight of my career. While I had been

a member and paid my dues for four years, I was disillusioned by the lack of activity of the group. Then I realized that I was part of the problem and could, as well, be a part of the solution. After four years of organizing, planning and growing the UAPA, I was able to see the fruits of our labor when I looked around the room during our meetings. We are a thriving organization with many energetic and successful PAs who are making a difference in the field of urology.

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

A: When I first started working in urology, there were only about 100 PAs. Over the years, that number has grown to 800 or more with the promise of continued growth with the shortage of physicians. The work that has been done by our representatives through AUA to foster continued growth and expansion of our scopes of practice has been exceptional and would not have been possible without UAPA. PAs are now an integral part of our practice. The UAPA holds a seat at the table of AUA now. In fact, we hold several seats! We have a delegate in the AAPA House of Delegates and we have fellowships available for those PAs who want to enter the specialty.

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

A: I believe that there will be additional areas of expansion in our scopes of practice and that most urology practices will have a non-physician provider. Patients are very accepting of our contributions to their care. This will continue, especially during a time when physician numbers are low and the future holds the promise of even less physicians. The urologists who taught me the most have since retired. That trend will continue and we will need to develop a more streamlined approach to introducing urology and its practice to PAs. More structure and education in the field for PAs is on the horizon and with that, an even more essential part of the field.

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

A: Patient satisfaction and understanding is by far the most satisfying part of my profession; feeling that it is a profession rather than a job. Patients need to be in control of their health care and involved in the decision-making process. I facilitate that every time I see a patient in pre-operative clinic or after the surgery when I teach him or her how to get back to square one. They are able and willing to ask me questions and receive meaningful answers. I go home at the end of each day knowing that I have made a difference.



2013 – 2014

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Mark Your Calendars: 2015 UAPA Meeting

UAPA 4th Annual Meeting

March 27 – 29, 2015

Sheraton Austin Hotel | Austin, Texas



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