

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS in ALLERGY, ASTHMA, & IMMUNOLOGY

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Is everyone ready for some fun in San Antonio? As the time of the AAPA-AAI conference quickly approaches, get ready for some great times in this city, a chance to hang out with your colleagues, explore the river walk, and partake in an awesome learning experience. This will be my fourth time attending the conference, and I must say I always enjoy the experience of being in this southern Texas town, the home of the Alamo and, not to mention, the home of this year's national basketball champions.

Since I took over as president July 1st, our board has already taken on its first task which is the review of the National Standards for Asthma Self-Management. These standards have been drafted over a period of seven years by an interdisciplinary team of esteemed professionals for the purpose of payer reimbursement of non-physicians conducting asthma self-management education. This will give AAPA-AAI good recognition as it is acknowledged in the publication of these standards.

I began my career in allergy medicine in 1993 with my prior experience being in emergency medicine. In June of 2000 I opened an allergy practice in Lake City, Florida, a somewhat rural north Florida town. I have a good relationship with my supervising physician, and I provide coverage for his office in Gainesville when he's out of town. For several years I have worked one day a week in a primary care clinic in order to keep my skills up and network with other providers. I teach medical classes at the local community college, and I serve as an officer in the Army Reserves.

Continued on page 2



Bill Sanders PA-C
President

**NEWS FROM THE
PRESIDENT!
PAGES 1 & 2**

**2014 CONFERENCE
UPDATE!
Page 3**

**AN UPDATE FROM
THE BOARD!
PAGE 4**



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NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED

As Susan, our past-president said, we have been active over the past year. One of our accomplishments, and a major one, was to allow nurse practitioners to become members of our organization and to allow a seat for one nurse practitioner on our board. I encourage you to reach out to your nurse practitioner colleagues and invite them to this meeting. Membership for AAPA-AAI over the past year has been strong, and I will continue to make this a priority. As members, I want you to feel you have a voice in the organization and know we appreciate your continued support. Additionally, we have opportunities to serve on our board and would ask you to let one of the board members know if you feel so led.

This conference, I believe, will be our best yet. We've got a trusted group of speakers lined up to put out some new and exciting information. The vendor exhibits and product theaters are always informative, and the hotel accommodations should be top of the line. I'm delighted to serve as your president for the coming year, and I'm looking forward to meeting you in San Antonio!



As part of the admission procedure in the hospital where I work, I ask the patients if they are allergic to anything. If they are, I print it on an allergy band placed on the patients' wrists. Once when I asked an elderly woman if she had any allergies, she said she couldn't eat bananas. Imagine my surprise when several hours later a very irate son came out to the nurses' station demanding, "Who's responsible for labelling my mother 'bananas'?"



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AAPA-AAI 2014 CONFERENCE UPDATE

Hello all!

I hope you are having a cool summer- Just a quick conference update!

This year we are offering a new format. We will have a beginners and advanced rhinoscopy workshop, each two hours long. We are also offering several advanced allergy topics to include "Oral Immunotherapy for Food Allergy- is Ready for specialty practice" to be given by well-known researcher Dr. Lyndon Mansfield MD FAAAAI and "Angioedema: A Practical Approach to Diagnosis and Treatment- to be given by internationally known Dr. William Lumry MD- FAAAAI.

This year we will be have a new speaker at our conference, Dr. Meave O'Conner MD FAAAAI who will be lecturing on "Immunotherapy SCIT vs SLIT vs OIT" and "Headaches and Allergy-any connection?"

We will once again have a long time speaker at AAI- Dr. Adrian Casillas- lecture on "The relationship between allergies and infections". We will once again offer the ever popular workshops of skin testing, Advanced PFT interpretation, punch biopsy, and patch testing.

The AAI conference will offer three breakfast product theaters and two lunch time product theaters, to get the latest information on these respective products. One of these lunch time presentations will nothing like you have ever attended before.

We will also have a few regular speakers at this year's conference.

We also invite all interested attendees to attend the membership and board meeting Saturday evening at 6 pm.

We hope to see you all there in San Antonio August 1-3.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!

Updates from the Board...

Update from the Past-President...

As I pass on the gavel to our new President, I would like to update our members and associates of what has transpired this year. It is our continued goal to ensure that all of you get the information that is needed to practice effectively in an allergy, ENT, or pulmonary setting. We appreciate your membership and are excited about the 2014-2015 year. Our annual CME conference is coming soon in August in San Antonio, Texas and you won't want to miss it. I would encourage you to tell a friend and/or colleague about our organization and what we can offer you as a practicing health care provider.

This past year, one of my goals was to encourage new membership in our organization as I felt this organization to be very helpful for me when I took my first position in allergy over 7 years ago. The board passed a motion to allow our fellow nurse practitioner colleagues to join our organization and to also nominate one NP to our board to serve as a voting member. I feel that is important to bridge any gaps that we may have and work together with our fellow colleagues. This was approved last August at our annual board meeting in San Antonio.

Also, this year, a letter was sent to the FDA to not support the over the counter passage of Nasacort AQ. This is in line with our physician colleagues in the AAAAI and the ACAAI. Unfortunately, this was overruled but I wanted you to be aware that we do work on your behalf to represent our organization as best as we can. Another letter was also written for the importance of dose counters on albuterol inhalers.

Thank you again for your continued support of our organization. It is vitally important for us to continue to grow and we greatly appreciate it. If you have any questions or would like additional information on how you can become more involved, feel free to contact myself or any of the current board members. We are here for you.

See you in San Antonio!

Susan Symington, DFAAPA, MPAS, PA-C
Past-President, AAPA-AAI

Let's Welcome our new President Elect...

Brian Bizik MS PA-C

I am from Oregon but now live in SW Idaho in Twin Falls. Our town's one claim to fame is that we are where Evel Knievel tried to jump the Snake River Canyon.

I practice with two physicians and together we cover 6 clinics in Idaho and Nevada.

Like many, we have a powerful grass pollen season and this keeps us busy.

While I have started in Family Practice I have always had an interest in asthma and was fortunate enough to work

on the Idaho Asthma Collaborative. This state wide project made great strides in improving the treatment of persistent asthma, especially in kids.

At this time I enjoy our challenging population and have a full slate of asthma patients that I enjoy very much am looking forward to being a part of AAPA-AAI.

An Update from Monique...

What a great year July 2013- July 2014 has been for AAPA-AAI! We have accomplished a lot as an organization. The association has grown by 56% in membership since last July. Next month's annual CME meeting should be one of the biggest and most successful yet. The CME committee has moved the conference in 2015 to Scottsdale, Arizona at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort & Spa August 7-9, 2015.

AAPA-AAI formed a partnership with the Allergy and Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics. This partnership offers added benefits to our members such as membership to AANMA, copy of all Allergy & Asthma Today magazines, copy of all the MA report newsletters, access to AANMA online educational resources, and recognition on AANMA's website as an Asthma Community Expert.

New board members were elected at the beginning of July 2014. AAPA-AAI added two new board positions to the board of director's staff. Two members have been nominated as members at large positions. All positions will be announced and introduced at the Annual CME Conference.

We are looking forward to a great year in 2014- 2015 with the newly elected board and a successful conference next month in San Antonio. We hope to see you there!

Monique Mohr, CMP
Executive Director
AAPA-AAI