

# American Academy of Physician Assistants in Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology

## From the Desk of Bill Sanders, MS, PA-C AAPA-AAI Immediate Past President

Greetings from North Florida! I'm happy to say we've had beautiful weather lately. I can't believe half of the 2015 year is gone. Before you know it our annual conference will be here, and I believe it will be the best yet!

I have been a PA since 1988, and since that time I have seen our profession evolve into the great organization that it is today. I am amazed and impressed by the diverse and varied areas where PAs practice today. From jobs in clinical medicine and the vast amount of specialties available, to jobs in education, research, legislation, military and even overseas work, the opportunities seem endless. The growing need for healthcare in our country has led to an increased demand for PAs and NPs, and this has been a great thing for us.

I came from an emergency medicine background, having been a paramedic in Orlando and then a flight medic with the University of Florida in Gainesville. I got involved in allergy medicine in 1993 while moonlighting as a PA in the ER. In June of 2000, I opened my own allergy clinic with the help of a supportive staff and a supervising physician. It's not the path I chose when I started, and it's a long story with lots of struggles, but things have turned out well. The name of my practice is Allergy & Urgent Care, and we combine allergy medicine with urgent care. In the small town where I work, one has to find other ways to generate revenue in order to survive. And speaking of other revenue, I also work as a PA provider in the Army Reserves. This, I find, is a nice break in the normal routine. I spent most of 2008 in Iraq and then half

of 2009 at the Pentagon. Both were good experiences and my supervising physician covered the clinic while I was gone. Another job I have is working as an adjunct instructor at the local college. I teach some of the medical classes to allied health students. I find this enjoyable and it keeps me connected with the students.

It may sound like I'm super busy but it's actually a nice balance that keeps me challenged and stimulated. I am grateful for my profession that has allowed me to venture into other areas. So, whether you are a PA or NP, embrace your profession because the opportunities really are endless!

See you in Arizona!!



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## AAPA-AAI Mission

- Promotes the growth and development of physician assistants who have an active interest in the field of allergy, asthma, and immunology
- Provides the general membership with a forum for informal assembly regarding the issues that relate to physician assistants in allergy, asthma, and immunology
- Develops and maintains a speakers bureau for the Academy and its members
- Facilitates mutual assistance and support of physician assistants, health professionals, and health services by organizing and disseminating health care information through forums, panels, and other similar programs concerning the delivery and quality of health care services.



## A Different Approach... Working in Academia

By Susan Symington, DFAAPA, MPAS, PA-C

This year I chose to make a switch back to academia and decided to begin teaching in a PA program again. I had a discussion with one of my colleagues today about what other professions PA's have decided to go into. Some PA's are becoming Dean's at universities, CEO's of companies, hospital administrators, etc. The majority stay in clinical practice, which is a good thing as well. There are some, like me, who decide to go back to PA school again. For those of you who may be

The retirement is excellent and so are all of my other benefits. Becoming a PA faculty member isn't for everyone but for me I can say that in the last 3 months, since taking my current full-time position at MEDEX, I have educated over 200 PA students on asthma and the importance of when to refer patients to an allergist when practicing in primary care. I

wondering if this is something you might want to explore, I would encourage you to explore it. There are advantages to being in education. I still practice once a week in an allergy practice in Seattle, Washington. This is encouraged on the professorial track. There are other things that are encouraged, such as, publishing, speaking at a local, regional, and national level and becoming active in your community. This is all on top of practicing clinically and teaching duties. I do enjoy it and am happy to be back in the classroom and thinking about research projects and other topics to write about for

have also been able to educate those same students on ENT diagnoses and when a referral to an otolaryngologist is needed. It's great to be an expert in our field of

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publication. My greatest passion in life is educating patients, students, and fellow colleagues and I am able to do all of these things with my current employers. For me it is enriching and it gives me purpose. I also, selfishly, am hoping to educate these students well, as some day they will be taking care of me. I also have the benefits of being at a large university; The University of Washington.



allergy and I feel very blessed and privileged to have this opportunity. I'm giving back to our profession what my patients, colleagues and students have taught me over the years. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or are interested in discussing my journey back into education.

Susan sls47@uw.edu

## Want to join AAPA-AAI?

Please visit our website at [WWW.AAPA-AAI.COM](http://WWW.AAPA-AAI.COM)

This membership will include the following:

- One copy of all Allergy & Asthma Today magazines
- One copy of all The MA Report newsletters
- Access to AANMA's online education resources
- Support from AANMA on key advocacy and public policy issues
- Additional copies of publications and education resources
- Recognition on AANMA's website as an Asthma Community Expert

AAPA-AAI is proud to partner with Allergy & Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics (AANMA).

AAPA-AAI membership now includes a free individual membership (\$35 value) to AANMA.

**AAPA-AAI is currently offering \$10 cash to anyone who refers a new member.**

# AAPA-AAI 7<sup>th</sup> Annual

## Allergy, Asthma, ENT CME Conference!!!

### Where:

Sheraton Wild Horse Pass  
Resort and Spa in  
BEAUTIFUL Chandler,  
Arizona

It is the premier national  
educational event for  
physician assistants and  
nurse practitioners  
practicing in allergy,  
asthma & ENT!!!

and REGISTER  
TODAY!!!

We can't wait to see  
YOU in Arizona!!!

### When:

Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup> 2015-  
Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup> 2015

27 HOURS Category 1  
CME!!!

VISIT

[WWW.AAPA-AAI.com](http://WWW.AAPA-AAI.com)

## CME, Cutting Edge Knowledge, Networking...

A message from the CME Chair, Treasurer - Gabriel R. Ortiz, MPAS, DFAAPA, PA-C

This year we will be at the  
same hotel as our first  
CME meeting in 2007!

This is a great site, and  
now they have a casino!

This year our President,  
Brian Bizik, will open the  
conference with a review of  
the new rhinitis guidelines.

We will also have several  
up to date topics to include  
Alpha-Gal, eustachian tube  
dysfunction, dizziness and  
rheumatologic  
masqueraders.

On Saturday, we will have  
two timely lectures on oral  
immunotherapy tablets and  
oral immunotherapy for  
food allergies. These

lectures are by two leading  
researchers in the field of  
allergy/immunology. We  
will also have a new  
speaker this year, Randy  
Danielson, who has been in  
allergy/immunology for  
many years give a lecture  
on VCD-unmasking the  
asthma pretender.

We will have two breakfast  
product theaters and two  
lunch product theaters,  
provided by CSL Behring,  
MEDA, and Teva, helping  
to support our conference.

On Sunday, Dr. Maeve  
O'Connor will be back by  
popular demand to give two

lectures on Integrated  
Medicine and Atopy,  
and the use of  
biomarkers in asthma.  
We will also have Dr.  
Adrian Casillas give two  
lectures on Mastocytosis  
and Eosinophilic  
Esophagitis.

We will have the same  
popular workshops to  
learn about skin testing,  
PFT's, rhinoscopy-basic  
and advanced, patch  
testing and punch  
biopsy.

I hope to see all there!

# INTRODUCING THE AAPA-AAI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Brian Bizik, MS, PA-C

PRESIDENT ELECT: \*\*\*Amanda Hofmann, MPAS, PA-C (Has been nominated)

PAST PRESIDENT: Bill Sanders, MS, PA-C

TREASURER: Gabriel Ortiz, DFAAPA, MPAS, PA-C

SECRETARY: VACANT-This could be YOU!

DIRECTORS AT LARGE: Blaine Carmichael, DFAAPA, MPAS, PA-C  
\*\*\*Mike Calvin, PA-C (Has been nominated)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Monique Ochoa, CMP

## ELECTIONS COMING JULY/AUGUST 2015

**Do YOU have great ideas to share?**

**Do YOU have great leadership skills?**

**Do YOU want to get more involved?**

**HAVE YOU CONSIDERED BECOMING A BOARD MEMBER?**

**We currently have an opening for the position of Secretary!**

Secretary:

This is a great starting position on the Board of Directors, or a great leadership opportunity/resume builder that will not consume much of your time. The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the members and the Board and record all proceedings of those meetings. He/she may also perform like duties for the standing committees, when required. The Secretary shall give notice of meetings of the members and the Board, shall be responsible for sending membership applications to eligible physician assistants and students, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board or President.

**Please let us know immediately if you are interested by sending a brief description of why you are interested in the position to our Executive Director, Monique Ochoa. Elections will take place prior to and during the Annual CME Meeting. Thank you for considering it!**