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SCHOOL of PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

PacificPulse

Spring 2012

Message from the Medical Director



**Charles J. Bentz
M.D., F.A.C.P.**
Medical Director

One of the most exciting changes this past year was the passage of Oregon Senate

Bill 224, the PA Practice Modernization Act, which both streamlines the licensing process for PA's as well as the practice agreement. The new law allows the Medical Board to approve the supervising

physician, after they have passed an online test. After going through this process myself, I feel that this is a good way to make sure the supervising physician understands the requirements.

From my point of view, the best feature of this law is that it places the responsibility for the relationship between the PA and the supervising physician back where it should be, between the PA and the physician. The ability to create a "Supervising Physician Organization" which allows for multiple PA's to be

supervised by multiple providers, included in this new law, should foster an environment that creates more PA jobs here in Oregon.

Here at Pacific, a priority of mine will be to increase awareness of this new legislation within Oregon's physician community. I am always looking for "success stories" so if you have something you want to share, send me an email: cbentzmd@pacificu.edu

I look forward to hearing from you. ◀

The Essential Health Clinic

Our didactic phase PA students continue to shadow faculty PAs at the Essential Health Clinic in Hillsboro, Oregon. Students and faculty are there on most Thursday evenings and have helped treat hundreds of patients from the surrounding area. Students get feedback on their interview skills, physical exam techniques, diagnostic hypotheses and SOAP notes while learning from a diverse group of clinicians. On a typical night there

will be four to six providers and approximately 30 to 40 patients seen. This partnership, which began in 2002, continues to grow and develop and we have several graduates who also come and donate their time. The clinic is open on Monday and Thursday evenings in Hillsboro and on Wednesday evenings in Tigard.

The "Decade of Difference" 10th Anniversary Business Leaders Breakfast will be held on May 18, 2012, from

7:30 – 9:00 AM at the Multnomah Athletic Club in Portland. This is the 7th annual breakfast celebrating the clinic's work providing free urgent care and access to health for low income, uninsured residents of Washington County. Pacific University faculty will attend and if you are interested in joining us, we would enjoy seeing you there! For more information, please go to: events@essentialhealthclinic.org ◀

Become a Preceptor!

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A PRECEPTOR:

An interview with Dennis Bruneau, PA-C

The North Lake Health Clinic, Christmas Valley, OR

“It is very rewarding for me as a preceptor to participate in someone’s education who is eager to learn and to help people feel better and get well when they become sick or injured. One of the joys of teaching in the rural/frontier clinical setting is to see the student gain a huge realization of how diverse primary care is and how the discipline is extremely challenging, requiring a broad set of skills and keeping an open mind to wide diversity of economic and medical literacy levels. I think PA students learning in rural clinics experience a greater connection to the patient by involving themselves more in the care of the whole patient at many levels. It is much more of a community experience for the student because of the patient’s frequent use of a community clinic to receive medical attention. I believe the result is that the practitioner and patient interaction and relationship is far deeper in the rural clinic setting. Lastly, they learn how to function in a locality that is far away from medical technology and far from the support of their peers.

Sometimes it is frightening to be on your own. It takes a special person. Some love it and end up teachers of others. Otherwise, they would not come and never know what it is like!” —Dennis

BENEFITS

We need more preceptors like Dennis. Of the many benefits there are for becoming a preceptor, none can compare to the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping not just the student in front of you, but helping to reach each patient that student reaches as well.

University Benefits

- Library Privileges to Online Resources including UpToDate, MDConsult, Medical Textbooks
- Category II CME
- Faculty Appointment as Adjunct Clinical Faculty

Intrinsic Benefits

- Giving back to your medical profession
- Enjoyment of mentoring and helping others

For more information, please contact Diane Van Dyke at: clinicalteam@pacificu.edu ◀

▼ *The North Lake Health Clinic, Christmas Valley, OR*



Awards

& ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOSIAH HILL SCHOLARSHIP

Brandon Smith has been named the recipient of the *Josiah Hill Scholarship* for 2012. This award is granted to an applicant for commitment to academic scholarship, participation in activities related to the PA profession and community, and professional goals in helping the underserved. Brandon utilized every opportunity to learn from his fellow classmates and faculty, often attending non-required lectures. He was an OSPA representative for his class and is continuing to work as a member of the legislative committee. Last, Brandon has the goal to work in medically underserved communities both domestic



Brandon Smith '12

and international. Specifically, he will be travelling to a hospital in Nepal to work for 6 weeks after graduation. It is amazing to witness his devotion.

Congratulations, Brandon. ◀

THE NEW RURAL HEALTH CARE TRACK

We are excited to announce a new opportunity for PA students to extend and personalize their learning. Students are invited to apply to be a member of the Rural Health Care (RHC) track. The RHC track is designed to better prepare students who plan to work in rural locations, particularly in Oregon and Hawaii. Five physician assistant students will be selected through a separate admission process to participate in the inaugural 2014 cohort. The admission process will include a separate application and an in-person interview to evaluate an applicant's commitment to practicing in an underserved community.

As a RHC track student, their interest in rural medicine will be nurtured through several structured opportunities during their physician

assistant education. During the didactic phase of the curriculum, the RHC cohort will participate in additional small group sessions to better prepare them to work in a rural setting. In the clinical phase, the RHC track students will complete their 12-week family medicine rotation and up to two additional 6-week rotations in a rural community. The students will live in the rural community and will be encouraged to be actively involved in the community during their stay. RHC track students will also complete a graduate project which focuses on a rural health or rural community topic. If you are interested in precepting one of the RHC track students, please contact the Clinical Team at clinicalteam@pacificu.edu

PA Alumni Updates

2005

Melissa Salazar's husband Arturo has completed his Med/Peds residency in Detroit. They will be moving to Eugene in July and look forward to being back in the NW after four years away.

Jane Girskis is enjoying western North Carolina with husband Ben, dog, cat, chickens, baby boy Sage Yona, and another on the way due in early November! She is in the midst of founding a new PA Society in her area. She also volunteers at the Good Samaritan Clinic (free clinic) and will have completed her first half marathon by publication.

2008

Katie Howell reports that she and Mike McElhaney are planning an April 2013 wedding. She is also anxious to begin precepting Pacific PA students.

2010

Holly Walkington is engaged! She will be marrying Dr. Matthew Brock this summer (2012).

2011

Holly Hawkins and Jonathan are getting married in McCall, Idaho on September 22, 2012.

1st Annual PA Alumni CME Conference

July 14th, 2012 8AM – 1PM

- Only \$20 -

HPC Campus Hillsboro, OR

Details at www.pacificu.edu/alumni

Simulation Lab

If you have happened to be walking by room 311 on the third floor of Creighton Hall lately you might have noticed the old OT wood shop is now a realistic looking hospital room and there seems to be one “patient” continually occupying the bed. This “patient” is the new Laerdal Sim Man Essential and he/she (the manikin can be either male or female) has been receiving expert medical attention from the PA class of 2013. The students have been performing a sequence of simple to more complex shortness of breath scenarios throughout the spring semester. The Sim Man talks, blinks and has tears, has heart and breath sounds and pulses, can have IVs placed and blood drawn, can have chest tubes and bladder catheters placed. He is as real a patient experience as one can have short of having a standardized patient in the room!

Through the leadership of retired PA Director Randy Randolph, current PA Director Judy Ortiz, retired and current



PA students diagnosing tension pneumothorax

CHP Deans Sarah Hopkins-Powell and Ann Barr, the College of Health Professions has established a Simulation Lab aka “SIM Lab” on the third floor of Creighton Hall. The vision of developing the SIM Lab has evolved over the past four years. Judy Ortiz, Randy Randolph and other PA faculty have attended SIM conferences and visited several SIM Labs in the region to get a sense of how simulation is being used in medical

education. There is also a growing amount of research on the use of SIM in medical education. Pacific University School of PA Studies faculty have been pouring over much of the foundational research to get a better feel for how SIM technology can be effectively used in PA education.

Initial consultations were held with Laerdal representatives as well as with other stakeholders including medical simulation experts from OHSU and the Oregon Simulation Alliance, audiovisual experts, Pacific University IT and facilities representatives and local contractors. One especially exciting partnership that has evolved from early discussions about developing the SIM Lab was with Pacific University College of Health Professions (CHP) health partner — Tuality Healthcare — located directly across from the CHP campus in Hillsboro. Tuality Healthcare has donated key medical equipment and supplies to outfit the SIM Lab making the lab as lifelike as any hospital room found at Tuality

Students Focus on International Service Learning

This year both didactic and clinical phase students had an opportunity to focus some of their attention on International Service Learning opportunities in Nicaragua, Kenya and Honduras.

Four didactic phase students, and for the first time a PA faculty member, joined a group of faculty and students from Pharmacy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Dental Hygiene on a two week trip to provide interprofessional health care outreach to elders in Nicaragua. Two teams were assembled with students and faculty from each program, and services were

provided to elders living in ‘hogars’, (assisted living facilities) in Esteli and Granada. While in Granada, students and faculty were honored by the mayor Eulogio Mejia Marengo for their years of service to the local community.

This year clinical phase students have traveled to Kenya, Africa and to Roatan, Honduras for Service Learning opportunities.

While in Kenya students worked with clinicians from Ray of Hope International. Groups of up to eight students at a time go twice a year to provide health care services to both urban underserved African and rural

peoples. In Kenya the services focus on maternal child health issues and students often come home with a highlight of their trip being the births they were able to be a part of! HIV/AIDS continues to be a major health issue in Africa and as such can be a large part of services provided in this service learning opportunity. While in Kenya students live with a host family and participate in various community projects which allows them the opportunity to become better connected to the people they are serving and learning with.

In Roatan, Honduras students



PA students performing PE in ED setting

Simulation Lab cont. from page 4 Healthcare’s hospital. These donations have proven invaluable in making the SIM Lab functional and the SIM experience as realistic for the students as possible.

While the PA students have been engaging in use of this new technology, other schools (pharmacy, psychology, dental science, PT, OT, audiology, MHA) at CHP as well as health professionals at Tuality Healthcare are learning of the SIM Lab’s existence and are being brought into a discussion on how the SIM lab might be used for the education of those students and health professionals and also for interdisciplinary education opportunities. Open Houses have been held and continue to be held to officially introduce the SIM Lab to Pacific University faculty as well as our partners at Tuality Healthcare and other interested stakeholders. For more information on the SIM Lab please contact Pacific University PA Program at 503-352-7272. ◀

Students Focus cont. from page 4

work at La Clinica Esperanza, a clinic serving the underserved people of the bay islands of Honduras. 60% of the patients served at the clinic are children and the clinic recently opened a birthing center and pediatric hospital. Students see patients in the clinic and provide health education programs to the community. Students go to Honduras in pairs, with a total of 16 students per year serving the clinic in Roatan. ◀

Faculty & Staff

Faculty

- Judy Ortiz, PA-C
Program Director & Professor
- Charles Bentz, MD
Medical Director & Professor
- Hector M. Rodriguez, DO
Associate Medical Director & Professor
- Saje Davis-Risen, PA-C
Academic Faculty & Assistant Professor
- James Ferguson, PA-C
Academic Faculty & Assistant Professor
- Eric Foote, PA-C
Academic Faculty & Assistant Professor
- David Keene, PA-C
Clinical Coordinator & Assistant Professor
- Mark Pedemonte, MD
Academic Faculty & Associate Professor
- Robert Rosenow, PharmD, OD
Academic Faculty & Professor
- Sheryl Sanders, PhD
Professor of Anatomy
- Annjanette Sommers, PA-C
Academic Faculty & Assistant Professor
- Mary Von, PA-C
Academic Coordinator & Associate Professor

Staff

- Debby Friscia
Office Associate
- Carol LePage
Manager of Administrative Services
- Diane Van Dyke
Clinical Team Manager



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ASSISTANT STUDIES**

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