



# Downeast Association of Physician Assistants

## DEAPA E-News Brief

DEAPA E-News | Nov 30, 2012 | Page 1

2012-13

### Board of Directors

#### Officers:

**Erika Pierce, PA-C**  
*President*  
erikasnowman@hotmail.com

**Emily Kumagae, PA-C**  
*President-Elect*  
emilykumagae@gmail.com

**Nate Sherman, PA-C**  
*Vice-President*  
nate.sherman429@gmail.com

**Gordon Murphy, PA-C**  
*Treasurer*  
gmurphy1@une.edu

**Anne Rolfson, PA-C**  
*Secretary*  
anne\_rolfson@hotmail.com

#### House of Delegates:

##### Representatives:

**Kirsten Thomsen, PA**  
*Chief Delegate*  
kthomsen7@gmail.com

**Laura Corbett, PA-C**  
lauracorbett@gmail.com

**Shawn McGlew, PA-C**  
shawnerpa  
@urgentcareofmaine.com

#### Directors-at-Large:

**Liz Bailey-Scott, PA-C**  
ebailey-scott@emh.org

**Cheryl DeGrandpre, PA-C**  
csdpa@comcast.net

#### Student Directors Class of 2013:

**Caitlyn Mahoney, PA-S**  
caitlinmahoney86@gmail.com

**Cheryl Deane, PA-S**  
cdeane1@une.edu

#### Student Directors Class of 2014:

**Nilaya Palmer, PA-S**  
nilayacurran@gmail.com

**Mary Claire Waksh, PA-S**  
mwaksh7@une.edu

### Another "Take" on the Name Change Question

Is DEAPA suffering an identity crisis? There has been recent discussion of a name change due to questions regarding members and non member PAs' understanding the meaning of Down East, and if it potentially alienates physician assistants from participating in our state's organization.

Do you feel that a name change from Down East Association of Physician Assistants (DEAPA) to Maine Academy of Physician Assistants (MAPA) would be a better representation of our professional association and the PAs practicing throughout the state of Maine?

We would like your input, and will report results in an upcoming edition of DEAPA News.

### Clarification on Medicare Rules for NPs and PAs

Neither NPs nor PAs can order home health or hospice services under Medicare rules. More on AAPA's successful and ongoing efforts to include PAs in all ways affected by federal legislation will appear in the December issue of DEAPA News.

### **Call to Action for DEAPA Delegate position to 2013 AAPA House of Delegates:**

Those wishing to apply should email letter of interest to Maureen Elwell at DEAPA office email address [melwell@mainemed.com](mailto:melwell@mainemed.com) by COB December 7, 2012. Please note applicants must be members of both DEAPA and AAPA. Should you wish to speak with a delegate about the position, please contact either Kirsten Thomsen ([kthomsen7@gmail.com](mailto:kthomsen7@gmail.com)) or Shawn McGlew ([shawnerpa@fairpoint.net](mailto:shawnerpa@fairpoint.net)).

*To submit a news item, contact either  
Maureen Elwell at [info@deapa.com](mailto:info@deapa.com) or  
DEAPA Newsletter Editor, Noel Genova at  
[noelpac@aol.com](mailto:noelpac@aol.com)*

**DEAPA**  
30 Association Drive  
PO Box 190, Manchester, ME 04351  
T: 207-620-7577 F: 207-622-3332  
[www.deapa.com](http://www.deapa.com)

## Since the last e-news blast, we have received 3 more responses regarding our request for comments about the future of the PA profession in Maine.

The first was a report from Downeast Maine, advising that NPs were being hired preferentially over PAs. A request for more specific information has not yet been answered. The more specific part of the report, though, was that PAs had been released from a local emergency department and replaced by *physicians*, not NPs, leading to the inference that NPs, and their ability to practice independently, are not the only threat to PA employment in Maine.

Here are 2 reflections, in the words of 2 Maine PAs. The first is from former DEAPA President Gregg Christensen, of Greenville, and the second is from Berkeley Williams, a UNE PA Program grad who works in southern Maine.

---

**Gregg's View:** I just got out of the woods last weekend (literally) and am catching up on e-mails. I read the 11/16 newsletter and saw Noel's & David's articles. I have a few comments.

**Name Change:** I feel that PAs have many more issues to be concerned with than what we're called. David's proposition is much too complex, and to eventually arrive at an "independent provider" is NOT where we want to go. At most, change to "Physician Associate", and be done with it, but I don't see it changing anything.

In our office we have had a couple of NPs whose abilities were atrocious and we have freed up their future. We are currently advertising for a PA. My supervising Doc refuses to even consider another NP.

From an administrative position the NPs are preferred for hiring because there is no supervisory requirement, and they are included in the EHR incentive. Missing out on that incentive is a major disappointment, and deserves comment from AAPA. (A response from AAPA on this and other issues has been requested, and will be published in the December issue of DEAPA News.)

My concern about the profession is the quality of the students. They are all very bright and well educated, but have minimal if any clinical background, which is not what Dr. Stead envisioned. I feel that many Colleges & Universities see the PA program as a cash cow and expand their class size beyond the limit at which they can manage. Many PA grads are doing what MDs are, coming out of school with huge debt, and going into specialty areas where the big bucks are.

Oh well, there's the rant of a guy who has been doing this for 33 years and has 8 years and 3 days to go before retiring.

---

**Berkeley's View:** I have worked as a PA in Maine for 8 years now, and while I was only in family medicine during the first year after graduation (I have worked primarily in urgent care these 8 years) I have never felt like I was in competition with or being passed over in preference to a nurse practitioner. I have worked in addiction medicine, at several urgent care sites, in hospital medicine, and primary care. In each of these settings I have worked side by side with PA's, NP's, DO's and MD's. In my experience, in most settings NPs and PAs are interchangeable and equivalent, lumped together under the name "mid level practitioner". I have only seen one place that actually seems to prefer NPs to PAs, and that is in a pediatric setting, where all of the non-physician practitioners are NPs. I assume this is because they are specialized as pediatric nurse practitioners, but I don't know for sure.

I personally don't feel the need or desire to be an independent practitioner. I really like the collegial nature of the team approach to medicine. And it is comforting to me to know there is someone who won't be annoyed and even expects me to bounce ideas off them or ask questions when I'm just not quite sure of something. PAs may technically work "under the supervision" of a physician, but that doesn't mean the doc has to be right there breathing over your shoulder. There are plenty of circumstances where PAs are working alone on site, and the supervising physician is reachable (only) by phone.

I think if you want to be a completely independent practitioner you should be a doctor. In fact, I think NPs shouldn't be able to practice independently either.

Anyway, I hope this helps in your data gathering.

Thanks for this interesting topic, Berkeley Williams

*23rd Annual Downeast*  
Association of Physician Assistants  
Winter CME Conference  
February 6-9, 2013



*Join us for this exciting educational event!*

*This conference offers a variety of exciting topics for all PAs.  
The resort has variety of amenities and activities sure to please!*

[www.deapa.com/conference](http://www.deapa.com/conference)—On-line Registration!  
[www.sundayriver.com](http://www.sundayriver.com) —Skiing/Winter Activities Information

# Preliminary Program Agenda

## Wednesday, February 6

- 11:30 am Registration Opens  
12:45-1:00 Welcome & Conference Objectives— *Erika Pierce, PA-C, DEAPA President*  
1:00-2:00 Smiles for Life — *Janet Sawyer, Public Health Specialist*  
2:00-3:00 Cases & Antidotes — *Tamas Peredy, MD*  
3:30-4:30 Geriatric Medicine “Stressors, Mediators & Moderators” — *Marilyn Gugliucci, PhD*  
4:30-5:30 DEAPA Annual Membership Meeting  
8:00 Government Affairs Committee Meeting

## Thursday, February 7

- 6:00 am Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Hall  
6:30-7:30 PA Employment Contracts—*Gordon Smith, Esq.*  
7:30-8:00 Network with Exhibitors  
8:00-9:00 Pediatrics 5210 — TBD  
9:00-10:00 Substance Use and the Medical Professional: Identifying and Helping—*Lani Graham, MD, MPH*  
10:00-10:30 Network with Exhibitors  
10:30-11:30 Immunization Update — *Monique Petrosky, BSN, MPH*  
11:30-12:30 Helping the Hurting without Hurting the Patient: Safety & Effective Pain Management\*— *Erika Pierce, PA-C*  
12:30-1:30 Lunch/Product Theater Program: *The Management of Hyponatremia*—*Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc.*  
1:30-3:30 To be or KNOT to be: An Adventure in Suturing — *Jeffrey Gagnon, PA-C (Limit 30) \*Additional Fee\**  
1:30-2:30 Advocating for the PA Profession at the State House: Do’s & Don’ts—*Steve Detoy*  
2:30-3:30 POLST Update —*Elizabeth Hart, MD*  
3:30-4:00 Network with Exhibitors  
5:30-6:30 Welcome Reception & UNE PA Alumni Gathering

## Friday, February 8

- 6:00 am Breakfast in Exhibit Hall  
6:30-7:30 Trauma to the Athlete: Current Guidelines for Care — *Christopher Lutrzykowski, MD*  
7:30-8:00 Network with Exhibitors  
8:00-9:00 Overdoses & PMP Database\* — *Kenneth McCall III, PharmD*  
9:00-9:55 Affordable Care Act—*Jessa Barnard, JD*  
9:55-10:05 Break  
10:05-11:00 Antipsychotic Medications: Evidence-Based Prescribing —*Elisabeth Fowlie Mock, MD*  
10:30-12:30 Student Leadership Summit  
11:00-12:30 Understanding the Legal Tools: The Key to Law Suit Prevention & Tax Reduction — *Legally Mine, Inc.*  
12:30-1:30 Lunch/Product Theater for Registrants: *Tools for GI Regulation*—*Takeda Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*  
1:30-2:30 The Plight of the Perplexing Perineum: parsing the puzzling pudenda for PA’s — *Cynthia Rasmussen, MD*  
  
2:30-3:30 Complementary Medicine after Breast Cancer — *Barbara MacDonald, ND, LAc*  
  
3:30- 4:15 Reception with Exhibitors

## Saturday, February 9

- 6:00 am Breakfast in Exhibit Hall  
6:30-7:30 Fibromyalgia—*Marci Lowe, FNP*  
7:30-8:30 EKG Review — *John Raymond, PA-C*  
8:30-8:45 Break  
8:45-9:45 Cervical Cytology: An Update on Management of Abnormal Paps— *Michael Drouin, MD*  
9:45-10:45 Geriatrics—*Roger Renfrew, MD*  
10:45-11:45 Pediatric PEARLS — *Loraine Paradis, DO*  
11:45-12:00 Wrap Up, Complete Evaluations & Pick up CME Certificates

\*Talk meets Specialty CME Requirements for Maine PAs with Schedule II prescribing privilege

## DEAPA Career Center



Connecting professionals  
and employers in Maine's  
physician assistant community.



## Find the **people** and **careers** driving innovation.

Dedicated to the physician assistant community, the DEAPA Career Center is a valuable search and recruitment resource for professionals and employers in Maine. The DEAPA Career Center offers simple and easy-to-use tools to make searching for career opportunities and finding qualified candidates fast, efficient and successful.

### Tools for Job Seekers

The DEAPA Career Center gives job seekers access to inside opportunities available only through the Academy and provides the tools needed to quickly find and apply for jobs.

#### Advanced Job Search

Find the most relevant physician assistant jobs from top employers across the state.

#### Customized Job Alerts

Stay up-to-date on the latest opportunities by receiving automated notifications.

#### Apply for Jobs

Create an anonymous profile and resume to quickly apply for jobs and have employers come to you.

### Advantages for Employers

Employers can fill positions faster and at a lower cost than other job websites by reaching a qualified and targeted audience of Maine physician assistant professionals.

#### Recruit Top Talent

Target job seekers committed to the advancement of physician assistant careers.

#### Low-Cost Posting Packages

Reduce recruitment costs with flexible, affordable posting options.

#### Proactive and Direct Recruitment

Take advantage of search, email and online advertising options to recruit candidates.

### Visit the DEAPA Career Center

Discover the difference the DEAPA Career Center can make for you. To search jobs, post jobs or learn more, visit [www.deapa.com](http://www.deapa.com).

[www.deapa.com](http://www.deapa.com)