



ONCO News

The official newsletter of the Association of Physician Assistants in Oncology • Fall 2017

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Message from the President

By Richard Lindsay, PA-C, APAO President



We're about to wrap up another great year of APAO involvement and I'd like to take this time to re-cap our accomplishments and think out loud about some future plans.

First, we welcomed a new board member, Soonja Roberson, who currently works in community oncology in Atlanta, GA. Soonja brings a wealth of experience to our board as a PA educator and has been involved in conference planning in the past. She is a welcome addition to our board of directors.

We planned and executed our first regional conference this year. Thanks to board members Jeremy Heinerich and John Katsetos, it was such a success that a second regional conference is planned again in the New York area next year.

We are also branching out with our first—and hoping to be annual—Surgical Oncology conference to be co-sponsored by APAO and MD Anderson Cancer Center. Look for announcements coming soon as this two-day, CME-packed conference is set for April 13-14, 2018, in Houston, TX.

In San Diego, we celebrated 20 years of hosting our annual APAO conference. We had good attendance from around the country and hope to engage more PAs from the west coast to join our ranks. Thanks to Jeremy Heinerich and Zack Bernazolli, our co-chairs for a very successful event.

Our membership committee has been very busy this past year and our ranks have risen accordingly. We now can boast of a membership of 1000 PAs. We hope to be joined shortly by our

fellow PAs who work in Palliative and Hospice medicine. We have offered them reciprocal membership in APAO.

Our Board of Directors is committed to advocate on your behalf and will be attending AAPA's annual leadership and advocacy summit early next year. We want to learn how better to serve you, our membership.

We are currently in discussions with some of our sponsors to bring new educational material to our web site that will offer you a chance to earn CME. I would appreciate any members who share an interest in PA education to contact us as we develop material to offer to the membership.

I hope you all stay involved moving into the coming year and hope to see most of you at our upcoming meetings in Houston, New Orleans, and Chicago.

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Caroline Hempel Awarded APAO Scholarship



APAO is pleased to announce that Caroline Hempel was awarded the 2017 APAO Scholarship. Caroline just started work at MD Anderson in Surgical Oncology. She was a Physician Assistant Student at the Medical University of South Carolina. Even as an undergraduate, she possessed an innate interest for medicine and the fascinating field of oncology. While studying Spanish and International Health, she completed an internship with the Asociación Española Contra el Cáncer in Granada, Spain where she provided social and emotional support to pediatric cancer patients and their families. After graduating, her passion for oncology deepened while working at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. As a Research Assistant with the Lineberger Cancer Center, she interviewed gynecology oncology patients and collected specimens that were sequenced in order to deliver specific tailored therapy. Additionally, she often consented women to the study at their first clinic visit where her emotional intelligence allowed her to naturally communicate

with patients in an informative yet compassionate manner. It was at that point she knew she was destined to pursue a career in cancer and applied to school with the intentions of becoming a physician assistant in oncology.

As a PA student, she is continually fascinated by the innovative cancer research and therapy that has burgeoned in the past decade. While completing a rotation in Medical Oncology at MUSC, she had the opportunity to see new lung cancer patients and present at weekly tumor board. She is currently completing her last rotation at MD Anderson in Stem Cell Transplant and looks forward to embarking on her career as a PA in oncology. She possesses an analytical, curious mind and is tenacious about understanding, adequately diagnosing and properly treating patients on an individual basis. She believes each patient has his or her own unique story and genome and looks forward to working with a medical team that delivers the best-individualized care possible to cancer patients.

CONGRATULATIONS Caroline!

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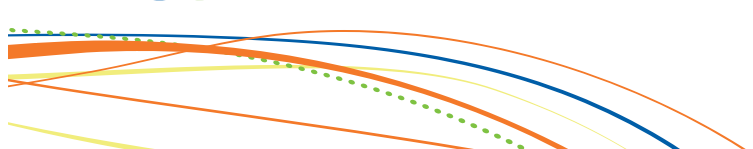


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Save the Date and Mark Your Calendars!

1ST SURGICAL ONCOLOGY ADVANCED PRACTITIONER CONFERENCE

1st Surgical Oncology
Conference for the Advanced
Practice Provider

Co-Sponsored by the
Association of Physician
Assistants in Oncology and
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Division of Surgery

www.mdanderson.org/conferences

APRIL 13 – 14, 2018

Marriott Medical Center
6580 Fannin
Houston, Texas 77030



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Save the Date and Mark Your Calendars! 1st Surgical Oncology Conference for APPs

The goal of this conference is to foster collaboration and share best practices among Advanced Practice Providers (APP) working in surgical oncology by providing an educational forum that focuses on the latest advances in surgical management of solid tumors and the role of APP in clinical practice.

This conference will provide APP learners a broad overview of surgical oncology topics, including over 30 lectures on solid tumor disease-specific topics from head-to-toe, as well as peri-operative management and APP professional roles and leadership.

Additional highlights include several hands-on interactive workshops, such as beginner and intermediate suturing, imaging, and common hospital-based procedures.

Target Audience:
Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists and other healthcare professionals involved in the management of patients in surgical oncology

Call for Abstracts:
Abstracts will be selected for poster presentation at the conference. Please check our website for more information. Deadline for submission is February 16, 2018. Authors of selected abstracts will be notified via email by March 1, 2018.

Program Director(s):
Stephen Swisher, MD (Faculty Chair)
Steven Wei, MS, MPH, PA-C (PA Program Chair)
Susan Knippel, RN, FNP-C (APRN Program Chair)

www.mdanderson.org/conferences



APAO President Richard Lindsay, PA-C, addresses the APAO 20th Annual Conference attendees during the Annual Membership Meeting.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MD Anderson Cancer Center
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR



APAO 21st Annual Conference

August 9-12, 2018

Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel Chicago • Chicago, Illinois



APAO 22nd Annual Conference

August 29 - September 1, 2019

Sheraton Boston Hotel • Boston, Massachusetts



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APAO would like to THANK YOU for your support and membership in our organization. Without you, it would be difficult to make such an impact on our profession year after year. It's not too late to renew your membership and take advantage of the member benefits.

If you haven't renewed your 2017-2018 APAO Membership, please consider the great benefits that APAO offers its members, and if you have not yet joined APAO, please see what you are missing:

- ❖ **Free subscriptions to *Journal of the Advanced Practitioner in Oncology*, *Health Monitor Network*, and other journals**
- ❖ **10% discount on new ASCO affiliate membership**
- ❖ **Continuing Education opportunities** at the APAO annual oncology CME conference with discounted registration fees for members only
- ❖ **Exclusive job posting access to members only**
- ❖ **House of Delegates Representation at AAPA** – voting members can provide input on matters of concern to the APAO at the HOD
- ❖ **The APAO Website** offers a “Members Only” section that includes a searchable Membership Directory, networking opportunities, access to Forums/Message Boards that include Legislative Updates and important issues that affect our profession
- ❖ **More opportunities** to get involved in the organization that represents you, the oncology PA
- ❖ **Much, much more!**

If you would like to take advantage of these great benefits, please consider renewing your membership or joining TODAY!

To renew your membership or join, please visit the APAO Website at <http://www.apao.cc/user/register>. ***If you have forgotten your username or password, please click the forgot your password or forgot your user name link. You can contact APAO Headquarters at 407-774-7880 for additional assistance.***

We URGE you to renew your membership in APAO. Without your support, APAO would be unable to effectively provide all the services we currently offer to our members. *Did you know that APAO* maintains relationships with ASCO, including discounted ASCO membership for APAO members, a PA blog, PA liaison and upcoming joint symposia? Additionally, APAO continues collaboration with COA (Community Oncology Alliance), and several other professional oncology groups! **APAO membership is less than 17¢ per day – isn't this benefit alone worth that cost?**

Please don't hesitate. Renew your membership or join your peers as a new member TODAY! We look forward to seeing you at our next event.