

# Update from NCCPA:

*It's Not Just About PANRE*

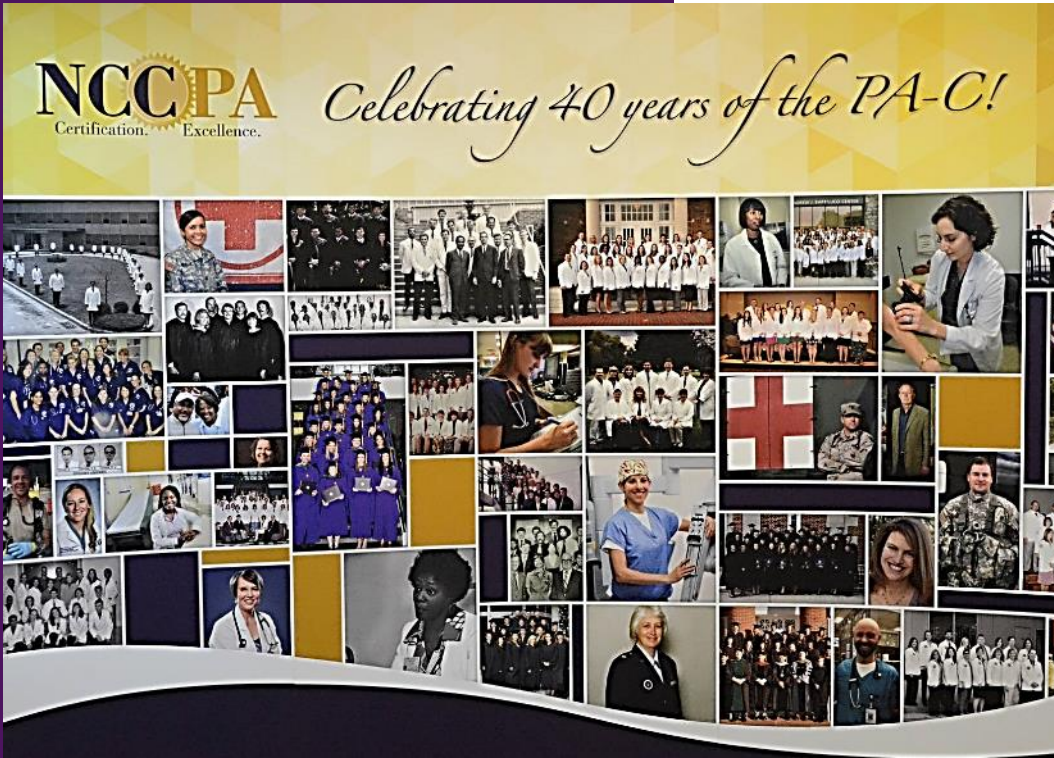
Denni J. Woodmansee, MS, PA-C

Immediate Past Chair, NCCPA Board of Directors



# Presentation Outline

- **About NCCPA**
- **The Certification Maintenance Process**
  - Focus on Recent Changes to CME Requirements
- **The Latest on PANRE**
- **NCCPA Celebrates the PA Profession**



# Brief Overview of NCCCPA

## Our Purpose

To provide certification programs that reflect standards for clinical knowledge, clinical reasoning and other medical skills and professional behaviors required upon entry into practice and throughout the careers of physician assistants.

Our Mission is  
More than  
Creating  
Exams

NCCPA is committed to helping you maximize the safe, productive, and competent practice of medicine by certified PAs.

## About NCCPA

- Only national certifying body for PAs
- Certifying PAs since 1975
- Passionate about PAs and the patients you serve
  - Rely on PA practice data to inform our certification programs
  - Publish statistical reports to inform employers, policy makers, the media, patients and others
  - Promote qualifications and roles of certified PAs to various audiences (physicians, employers, state medical boards, public, etc.)
  - Engage in significant communications/PR efforts on your behalf: [www.PAsDoThat.net](http://www.PAsDoThat.net)

*Certified*  
**#PAsDoThat!**

2017  
Board of  
Directors:  
Composition

**11 PAs, 4 physicians and 1 public member**

**PA Members**

- 6 PA Directors-at-Large
- 1 nominee from AAPA
- 1 nominee from PAEA
- 1 nominee from FSMB
- Immediate past chair
- President/CEO

**Physician & Public Members**

- 1 nominee from AMA
- 1 nominee from AOA
- 1 nominee from ACP
- 1 nominee from AAP
- 1 public member

***But that's only part of the story...***

# Board Composition After Full Transition to New Structure Will Be:

## **PA Members**

- 6 PA Directors-at-Large
- 1 nominee from AAPA
- 1 nominee from PAEA
- 1 nominee from FSMB
- President/CEO

## **Physician & Public Members**

- 1 nominee from AMA
- 1 nominee from AOA
- 3 physician Directors-at-Large
- 2 public Directors-at-Large



# PA Involvement with NCCPA Adds Up

- **51** PA item writers serve on **item writing committees**, writing questions that appear on PANCE, PANRE and the CAQ exams
- **59** PAs spent three days with us working to identify content that represents **core medical knowledge**
- **15** PAs serve on **promotion and publicity councils**, supporting our efforts to generate story ideas and press coverage for the profession
- In 2016, NCCPA hosted **58 PA team meetings** to **develop and validate exam questions, set passing standards**



# PA Involvement With NCCPA

- **72** PAs served on 2015 **Practice Analysis workgroups**, helping identify the knowledge, skills and abilities that were included on that survey
- Approximately **16,000** PAs responded to the **Practice Analysis survey**
- Over **100,000** PAs have completed the **PA Professional Profile**
- In 2016, **55** PAs participated in a 3-day **focus group** to talk about PANRE
- More than **30,000** participated in **nationwide survey of all certified PAs about proposed new PANRE model**





# Certification Maintenance Process

# Certification Maintenance Process

- 100 CME credits every two years
  - 50 Category 1 credits
  - Self-assessment CME and PI-CME are now optional
- PANRE every 10 years



## Reasons for the Recent Changes

### NCCPA Heard You!!

- NCCPA heard the concerns from PAs about the burdens of the certification maintenance process
- Conducted an **in-depth review** of existing SA/PI activities with particular emphasis on the gaps in availability of practice-relevant options for so many PAs
  - Found inadequate coverage of self-assessment in 31 specialty areas and of PI-CME in 13 specialty areas.
  - That means we ran the risk of PAs pursuing CME activities with little or no relevance for them just to meet this NCCPA requirement – never what we intended.



## Our Response

### Based on those findings, the NCCPA Board voted to make changes:

- SA and PI-CME are **no longer required** – now **optional**
- We remain committed to the concept that SA and PI activities are highly valuable forms of CME
- NCCPA will award **additional credit** – weighting SA and PI-CME more heavily than regular Category 1 CME



## The Specifics

- All approved self-assessment CME activities will be awarded 50% bonus credits by NCCPA
- In each 2-year CME cycle, the first 20 PI-CME credits logged will be doubled
- **The weighting is applied by NCCPA**
- Weighting will apply to all PAs – whether on the 6-year cycle or the 10-year cycle

## Finding Self-Assessment and PI-CME

- Lists of approved self-assessment and PI-CME activities now available on our website.
  - Organized by specialty with details on the number of credits offered and cost.
- To access that list:  
<http://www.nccpa.net/finding-sa-and-pi-cme>
- Navigate there through the “Maintain Certification” link at the top of our home page



Maintaining Certification

About CME Requirements

Category 1 and 2 CME

**Finding SA and PI-CME**

CME Sponsors and Providers

CME Audit Policy

Step by Step Logging Instructions

About PANRE

Regain Certification

Code of Conduct

## SELF-ASSESSMENT AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT CATEGORY I CME

### FINDING APPROVED PI-CME AND SELF-ASSESSMENT CME ACTIVITIES

Some PI-CME and Self-Assessment CME activities are relevant to all certified PAs (particularly those preparing for PANRE), and others are specialty related. Use the links below to browse the lists that seem most relevant for your area of practice.

**Important Note:** NCCPA does not endorse any particular CME programs. Inclusion of programs on the lists on the pages below or the order of their appearance within those lists should not be construed as an endorsement by NCCPA.

#### Activities Relevant to All Certified PAs

#### Additional Activities by Specialty:

Adolescent Medicine

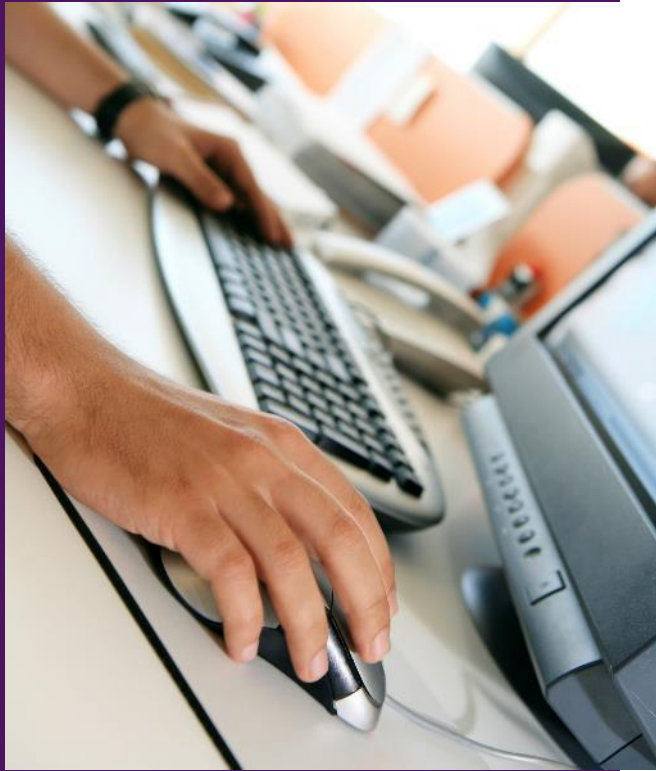
Anesthesiology

Critical Care

Dermatology

Emergency Medicine

Family Medicine



# The Latest on PANRE

# NCCPA's Responsibility

It is critical to our mission to provide a certification/recertification program that is:

- Meaningful and relevant; and
- Provides assurance for patients, employers, state licensing boards, and others regarding PAs' knowledge and skills.

To do this, we must continuously monitor and evolve the certification process because things change:

- Advances in technology
- Rapid changes in medicine
- Changes in the PA profession



# Our Underpinning Principles

1. The first concern must be the public's interest as we work to determine how we most effectively can deliver a recertification exam process that supports delivery of high quality, affordable, accessible health care.
2. To support the flexibility PAs have to change specialties during their career span and to work in multiple specialties concurrently, it is important to maintain the generalist nature of the PA-C credential.



## Other Beliefs that Have Driven this Process

- While ultimately NCCPA's responsibility, we make better decisions about changes to PANRE with the benefit of input from PAs and other stakeholders.
- While individuals often view issues from their personal perspective, organizations are able to view issues from a more global perspective.
- We must continually re-examine the content and format of our exams while recognizing that change takes several years.
- Health care providers should be held to high standards for maintaining current knowledge and skills.

# NCCPA Set Out to Obtain Data and Feedback

- To make the best, most informed decision, NCCPA:
  - Conducted research
  - Held focus groups
  - Elicited feedback from several key stakeholder groups

## Key Messages from the Public Comment Period

- PAs are very concerned about maintaining their ability to change specialties and do not want to see that threatened.
- PAs are very concerned about the cost and time required to maintain certification (CME and exam requirements).
- If they must take an exam, PAs would prefer one that is more relevant to their practice than today's PANRE.
- Exams matter to the public and to state medical boards.

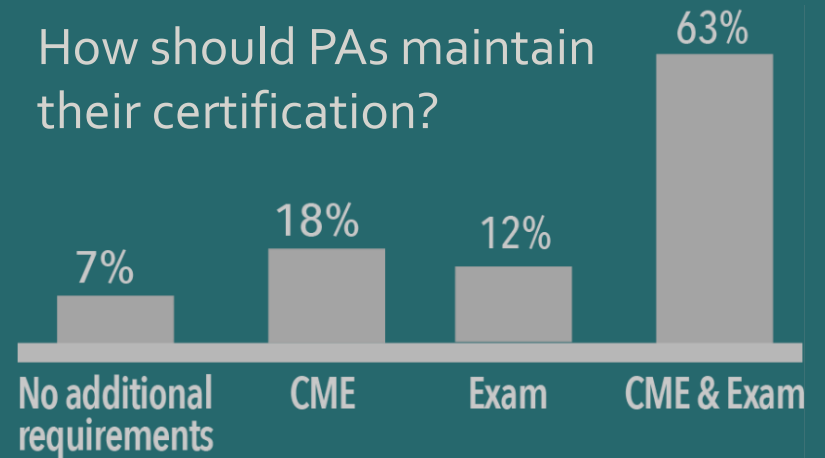
# Key Messages from the Public Comment Period

Public survey developed with the  
Citizens Advocacy Center:

Should all PAs be tested  
on general medical  
knowledge?

**97%**  
say "YES"

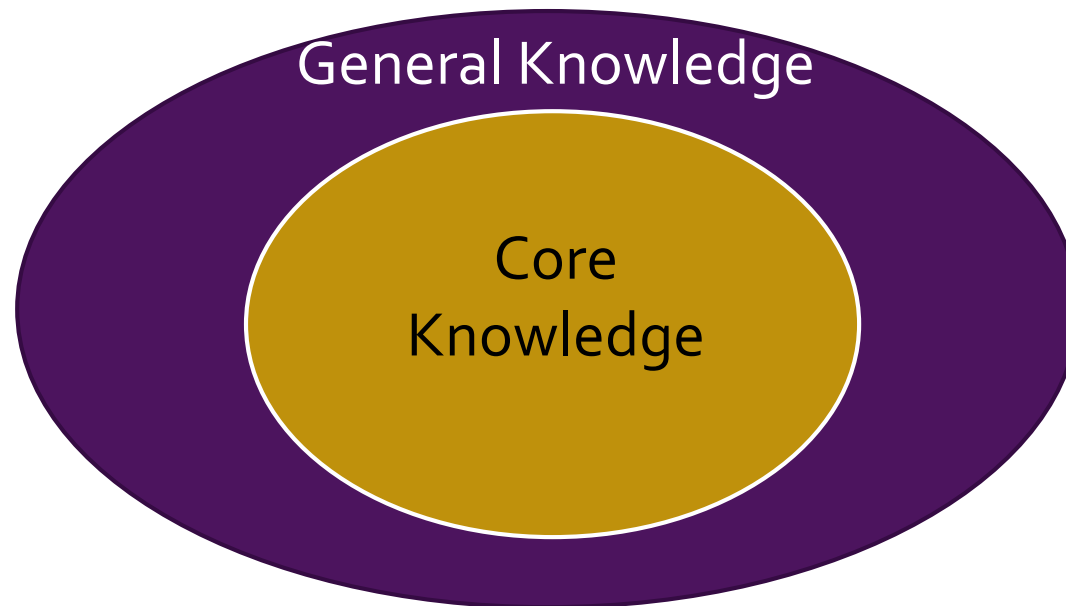
How should PAs maintain  
their certification?





## The Results of the PANRE Exploration

- **No further changes to PANRE and the recertification process**
- PANRE content will shift from “General Knowledge” to “Core Knowledge,” gradually but steadily over the next several years.



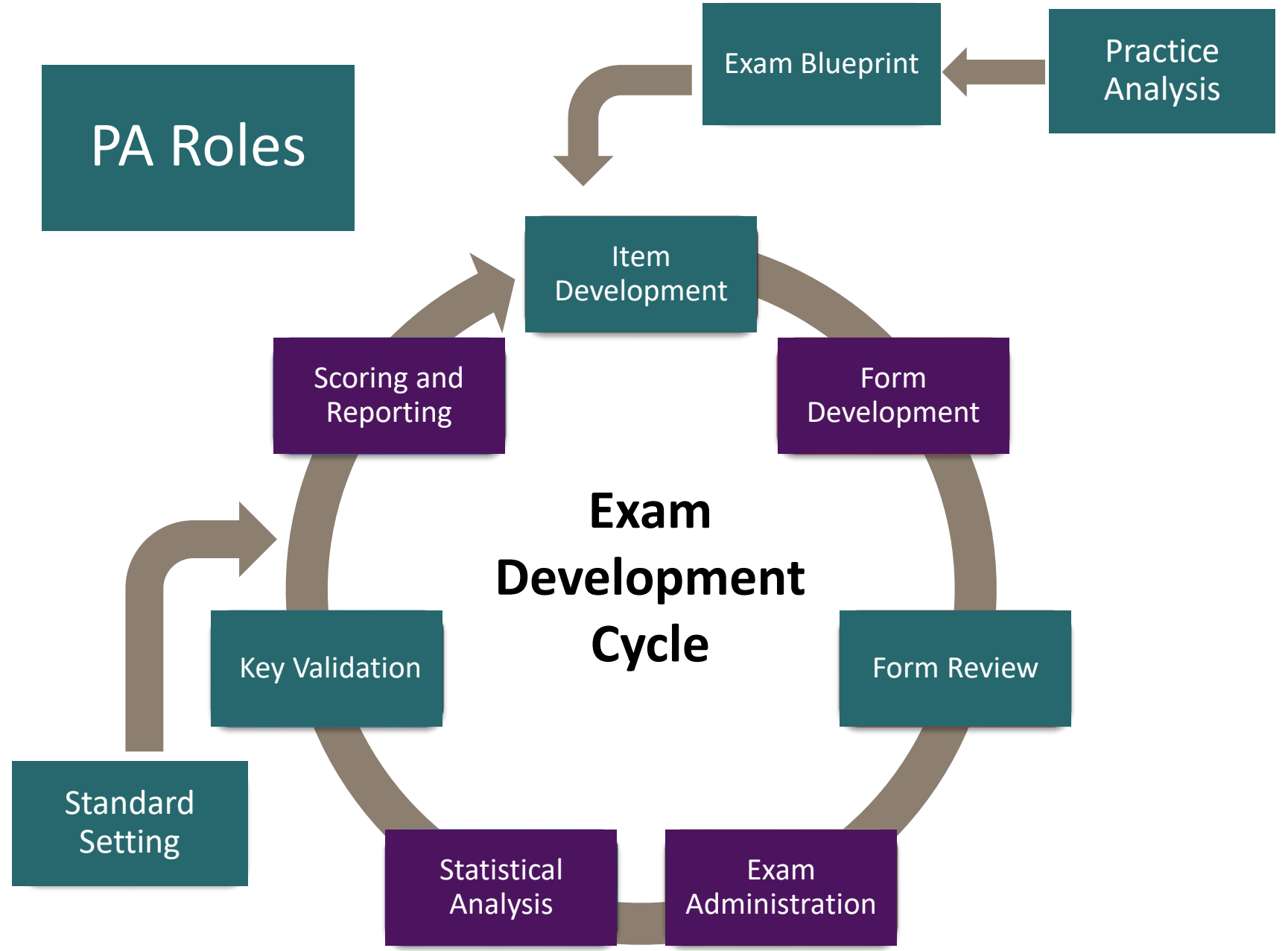
## Working Definition of Core Medical Knowledge

...the essential, foundational knowledge and cognitive skills required for PAs to provide safe and effective care for patients across the lifespan and across the spectrum of medicine, regardless of the specialty or area of practice.

# PA's Involved in Every Stage of the Process

- **Before the test is administered**
  - PA's participate in the practice analysis to help establish what goes on the exam (every 5-7 years)
  - PA's write the exam questions (items)
  - Once exam forms are constructed, PA's review them for fairness and quality
- **After the test is administered**
  - PA's participate in an activity called key validation
  - Questionable items are flagged using statistics and then reviewed for currency, appropriateness, & quality
  - PA's set the performance standard or the amount of knowledge one has to know to pass the exam (every 3-5 years)

# PA Involvement in Exam Development Process



Certification  
is a  
Community  
Process

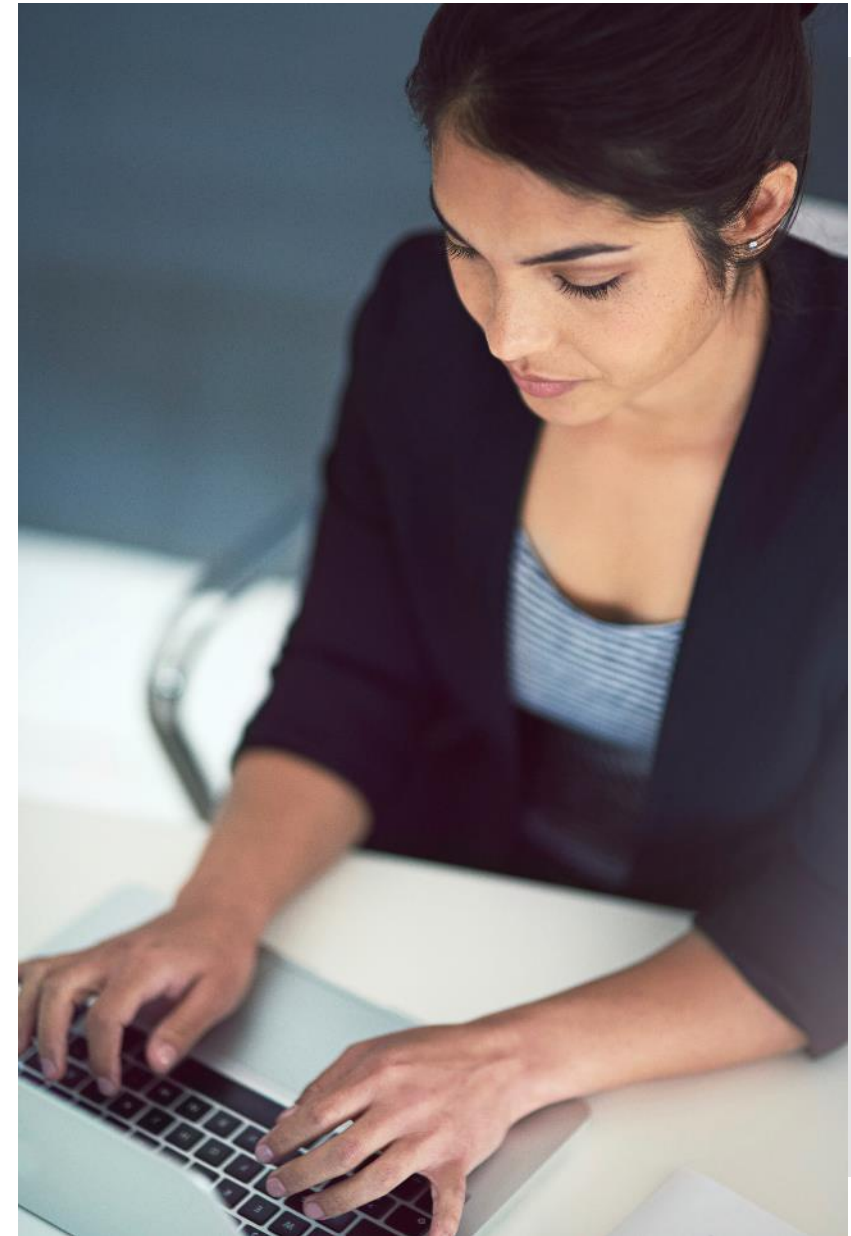
- Volunteering can be as short as an ad hoc meeting (2-3 days) to as often as an item writing committee (on-going, multiple meetings yearly)
- **If you're interested in volunteering, please email [volunteer@nccpa.net](mailto:volunteer@nccpa.net)**

# Getting Ready to take PANRE?

Review the Exam Blueprint

Familiarize yourself with the types of questions you'll see on the exam with NCCPA **Practice Exams.**

- 120 questions taken from NCCPA test question banks
- Can pause and complete exam at later time
- \$50





# NCCPA Celebrates the PA Profession

# Telling the World about Certified PAs

# Certified #PAsDoThat!

- Ongoing effort to publish articles and garner positive media attention for Certified PAs
- Online hub: [www.PAsDoThat.net](http://www.PAsDoThat.net)

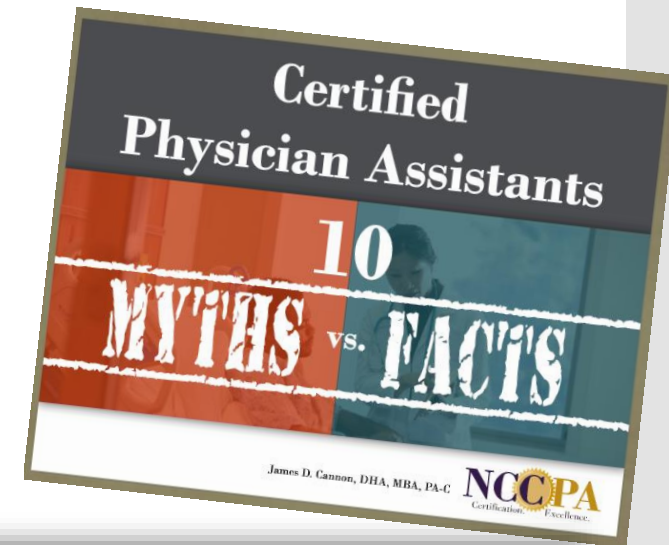
*Making a Difference...*

*Certified*  
**#PAsDoThat!**

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the PA profession this year, NCCPA and the nccPA Health Foundation are spotlighting 50 PAs who are making a difference today. These PAs exemplify the many ways the more than 115,500 Certified PAs demonstrate their passion for delivering high quality health care, promoting wellness, and saving and changing lives.



Click [here](#) to read about previously spotlighted PAs.



**PAs in hospital medicine impact lives, remain in high demand**



Powered by Health eCareers

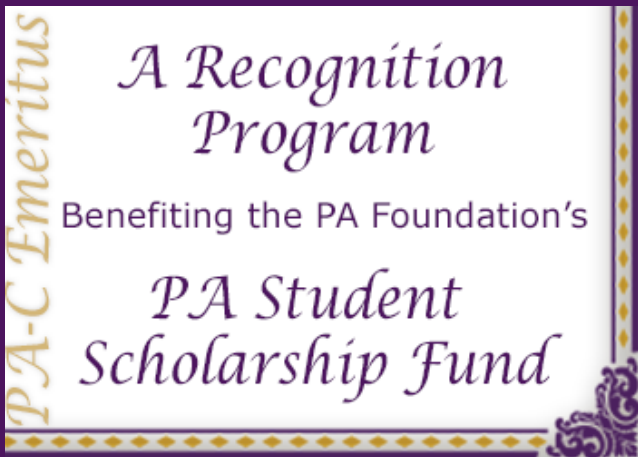
Connecting  
with  
Employers

- Search hundreds of jobs for Certified PAs
- Upload your résumé
- Set up alerts for new jobs

The screenshot shows a job search interface. At the top, there are search filters for 'JOB TITLE, SKILLS, KEYWORD, COMPANY' and 'LOCATION', with a 'FIND JOBS' button. Below the filters, the search results are displayed for '716 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT JOBS | NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CERTIFICATION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS'. The results are sorted by 'BEST MATCH'. A sidebar on the left allows for filtering by 'Job Category' (Physician Assistant (716)), 'Location', 'Date Posted', and 'Visa Waiver'. The main content area lists several job openings, each with a title, employer name, location, and date posted. The jobs listed are: 1. 'Physician Assistant' at Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center, Las Vegas, Nevada, Orthopaedic - PA, posted Today. 2. 'PA / Primary Care / Occupational Health' at Advanced Practice Solutions, LLC, Salinas, California, Occupational Medicine - PA, posted Today. 3. 'Physician Assistant - Internal Medicine' at Spectrum Healthcare Resources, Bremerton, Washington, Internal Medicine - PA, posted Today. 4. 'Physician Assistant - Family Medicine' at Spectrum Primary Care, Alamogordo, New Mexico, Family Medicine - PA, posted Today. 5. 'Family Practice Physician Assistant' at Spectrum Healthcare Resources, Alamogordo, New Mexico, Family Medicine - PA, posted Today.

Click "Career Center" Link at [www.nccpa.net](http://www.nccpa.net)

# PA-C Emeritus



- **New recognition for PAs retiring from clinical practice**
- Eligibility requirements:
  - At least 60 years old or unable to practice due to permanent disability
  - Retired from clinical practice
  - Have been NCCPA-certified at least 20 cumulative years during the PA career
  - No reportable actions in NCCPA disciplinary history
- Proceeds from the one-time \$50 application fee will benefit the PA Foundation to expand the NCCPA Endowed Scholarship awarded to PA students



- Mission: to advance the role of certified PAs in improving health.
- Launched initiatives in health equity, oral health and mental health, including videos and educational tools





- Grants are available for PAs making a difference in their community
- 22 grants issued last year
- For more information, visit [www.nccpa.net/foundationpage](http://www.nccpa.net/foundationpage)







# Bringing PA History to Life

The PA History Society shares the history of the development of the PA profession and illustrates how PAs continue to make a difference in our society.

The screenshot shows the website for the Physician Assistant History Society (PAHX). The header features the text "PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS" in a bold, sans-serif font, with the tagline "Collaboration and Care" in a cursive font below it. A Facebook icon and an "EXHIBITION PROGRAM" badge are also visible in the top right corner. The main content area is titled "Exhibition: Respond to Community Needs". Below this title is a navigation menu with links for "HOME", "EXHIBITION", "EDUCATION", and "CREDITS". A vertical sidebar on the left contains a list of exhibition topics: "Introduction", "Part of a Team", "Diversity Makes a Difference", "Collaboration with New Partners", "Respond to Community Needs" (which is highlighted in green), and "Care Around the World". The main content area features a large photograph of three people sitting on a set of stairs, engaged in conversation. To the right of the main image is a vertical stack of four smaller thumbnail images. At the bottom of the page, there is a search icon, navigation arrows for "PREVIOUS" and "NEXT", and a page indicator "4 of 7".

MENU



HOME

ABOUT

INFO

HISTORY

SUPPORT

CONTACT

ASSOCIATES

BECOME AN  
ASSOCIATE

DONATE

PA  
Hx

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT HISTORY SOCIETY

WE  
WELCOME  
YOU

TO SHARE THE  
HISTORY OF THE  
DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE PA  
PROFESSION  
& ILLUSTRATE HOW  
PAS CONTINUE TO  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
IN OUR SOCIETY.

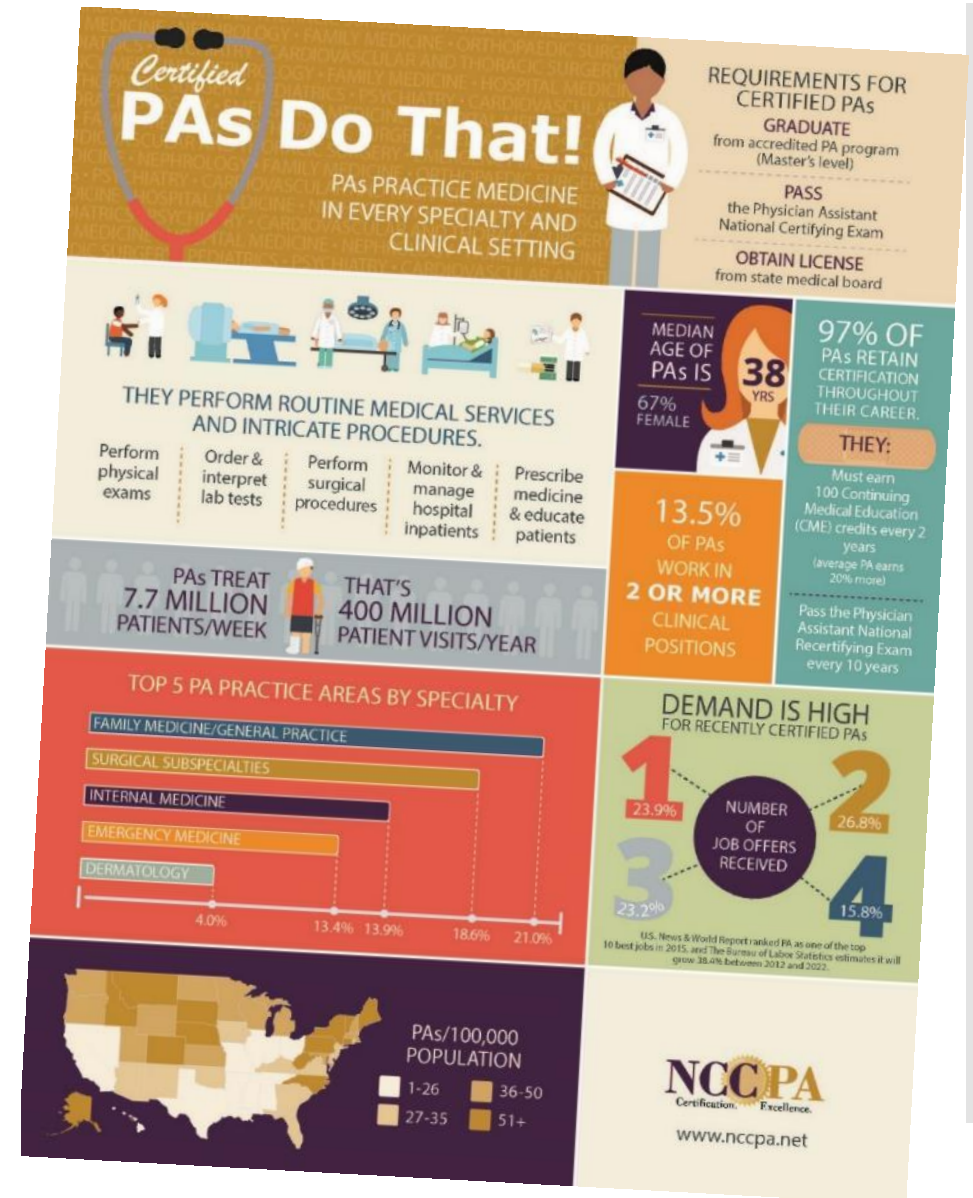
SEARCH





# Help Spread the Word!

- Share articles on social media with **#PAsDoThat**
- Share and retweet ours and others' posts with **#PAsDoThat**
- Use tools available in the **Resources** section of the NCCPA website
  - Presentations
  - Press releases
  - Fliers
  - Videos
  - Articles



For More  
Information  
from NCCPA

- Read *NCCPA News*, our monthly e-newsletter
- Visit [www.nccpa.net](http://www.nccpa.net)
- Follow us on **social media**





Thank you!

