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The Association of Physician Assistants in Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology

Notice of Organization Name Change

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We at the Association of Physician Assistants in Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology would like to announce our name change to our members. Please make sure to note this name change and to update your CVs accordingly!



A Letter From Our President

Written by Susan Symington DFAAPA, MPAS, PA-C
APA-AAI Current President

Greetings to all our members and Happy 2018!

2018 promises to be a great year in allergy, asthma and immunology. There are so many new advances being made in our field of medicine. As many of you are aware, new biologics are the hot topic this year! There are four new biologics obtaining FDA approval in the past year or so, three of these are new for severe asthma and one is for atopic dermatitis. It is an exciting time in our specialty area of medicine. There are also new advances being made with regards to food allergy and the treatment and prevention of food allergies.

For those of you who already support us, I want to shout out to you and give you a "Huge, THANK YOU!" We could not continue without your support. For those members who are interested in leadership opportunities, I would encourage you to get involved as we are always looking for leaders.

Letter from President continued on the next page



A Letter From Our President Continued

Written by Susan Symington DFAAPA, MPAS, PA-C
APA-AAI Current President

Our new board of directors for 2017-2018 are the following:

- Amanda Hess, PA-C, President- Elect
- Nicole Soucy PA-C, Secretary
- Gabe Ortiz, PA-C, Treasurer
- Jennifer Watson, NP, Member at large
- David Mangold, PA-C, Member at large
- Amanda Hofmann, PA-C, Immediate Past-President
- Monique Ochoa, Executive Director

I want to personally thank each one of the board members for taking time to continue to serve and help advance knowledge in allergy, asthma and immunology to health care providers. Your input is invaluable and we could not do this without each one of you.

On behalf of our board of directors, I would also like to invite all of you to attend our annual CME meeting that will be back in San Antonio this year. We have an exciting line-up of providers who will provide quality updates and knowledge on topics that are important for clinical practice. We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio this year!

Until then, I wish each member, colleague, sponsor, and friend the best in all that you do. Have a great 2018.

Sincerely,

Susan Symington MPAS, PA-C, DFAAPA

President, APA-AAI



The APA–AAI: Past, Present, and Future

Written by Gabriel R. Ortiz, MPAS, DFAAPA, PA-C

Co-founder of the Association of Physician Assistants in Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology

PAST

The first meeting of what is now the Association of Physician Assistants in Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology started in 1998. At the time, there were only eight of us. Barb Heir accepted to be the first president and I accepted to be the first VP that would take over for Barb after her term. We asked the rest of the group to accept other officer positions as needed. The following year AAPA put our approval of specialty status on the consent agenda of the HOD. The APA-AAI was approved in 1999 and here we are now.

Our primary mission at the time was to have a forum to meet and discuss questions among ourselves and to gather a list of the PAs that were interested in allergy and Immunology. We thought this would be a good way to keep track of those PA's across the country. Through organizing providers with interest in Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology we were able to network with several pharmaceutical companies and were able to start a speaker's bureau list. From the beginning we wanted to organize a CME conference for our specialty. The first AAI/ENT CME conference was held in Chandler, Arizona in 2007 at the Wild horse pass resort. Back then, I requested all the funds for the conference via phone or letters of request. The first AAI/ENT CME was a great success with over 70 attendees and over 10 exhibitors and we were able to involve some of the most popular allergists at the time. Members from the APA-AAI have also served as the first and second PA's on the NIH/NAEPP-Coordinating Committee and have also served as PA liaisons to the AAAAI for several years.

PRESENT

What was a small group of eight has now grown to roughly 100 members and we will be meeting for our 10th annual CME conference in August of this year. The AAI/ENT CME conferences bring together some of the biggest names in allergy and immunology as speakers as well as a wonderful opportunity for mid-level providers to network with other Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology providers across the nation. We have greatly appreciated the work of our executive director, Monique Ochoa, who has greatly helped this organization since she was hired. She has managed several PA and NP groups in the past several years that allows us to share conference attendees and have reciprocal advertising agreements. We are recognized by the AAPA and have been consulted by them for questions and advice on many topics in the field.

FUTURE

We are proud to continue to provide an organization that brings together Physician Assistants practicing in Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology and look forward to continuing to grow for years to come. We are excited to also have providers from other specialties attend our conference to learn more about Allergy and Asthma as well! We plan to continue building relationships with some of the best allergists in the field and to provide high quality speakers for our yearly conference. We would like to thank all the members, officers and volunteers that have helped make the AAI the success it is today.



What's New in Allergy?

Nicole Soucy, MPAS, PA-C
APA-AAI Secretary



FDA Removes Black-Box Warning for inhaled ICS/LABA

The FDA has recently removed the black-box warnings regarding potentially increased risk of asthma related death on ICS/LABA medications. " A FDA review of four large clinical safety trials shows that treating asthma with long-acting beta agonists (LABAs) in combination with inhaled corticosteroids (ICS) does not result in significantly more serious asthma-related side effects than treatment with ICS alone."

Read more here:

<https://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm590001.htm>

Investigational Treatments for Peanut Allergy Underway

An oral immunotherapy agent for peanut sensitivity for children and young adults (AR101) is currently under phase 2 clinical investigation. Results from this trial have demonstrated that 79% of subjects participating in the study receiving AR101 demonstrated reduced sensitivity during double blind, placebo controlled food challenge while only 19% of patients receiving placebo demonstrated reduced symptom severity.

Read more here:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=29092786>

Practice Parameters for Egg-Allergic Patients receiving flu vaccine

The AAAI/ACAAI Joint Taskforce on Practice Parameters have recently updated their recommendations regarding administration of flu vaccines to egg-allergic patients. The recommendations are that:

- Patients with any degree of egg allergy should be vaccinated with the flu vaccine
- No special precautions beyond those for administration of any vaccine is recommended for patients with egg allergy
- Use of non-egg based influenza vaccine is medically acceptable, but not preferred
- Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccines are acceptable in egg-allergic patients

Read more here:

[http://www.annallergy.org/article/S1081-1206\(17\)31187-0/fulltext#s0045](http://www.annallergy.org/article/S1081-1206(17)31187-0/fulltext#s0045)

APA-AAI

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

<https://www.aapaaai.org/>

Mark Your Calendars!

Next year the APA-AAI conference will be held on **August 3-5, 2018 in San Antonio, TX at the Westin Riverwalk**. See you there!

For more information, please visit <https://aapaaai.mypanetwork.com>. We have provided a link for registration as well as a link for hotel reservations!



Mission Statement

The Association of Physician Assistants in Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology strive to:

- 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.

Do you have newsletter contributions or Suggestions?

Interesting article? General feedback? Suggestions on future pieces in the newsletter?

Please feel free to contact [Nicole Soucy MPAS PA-C](mailto:nsoucy24@gmail.com), our current chair of member outreach at nsoucy24@gmail.com. We are always excited to receive interesting information and suggestions on how we can better serve the members of this organization!