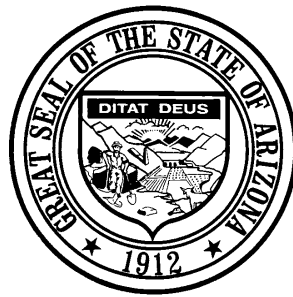


# ARIZONA REGULATORY BOARD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

FISCAL YEAR 2004-2005  
ANNUAL REPORT



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# LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR

## JANET NAPOLITANO

### Governor

Janet Napolitano

### Members of the Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants

**Albert Ray Tuttle, P.A.-C**  
Chair/Physician Assistant Member

**Joan Reynolds, P.A.-C**  
Vice Chair/Physician Assistant Member

**Randy D. Danielsen, Ph.D., P.A.-C**  
Physician Assistant Member

**Michael E. Goodwin, P.A.-C**  
Physician Assistant Member

**G. Bradley Klock, D.O.**  
Osteopathic Physician Member

**James Edward Meyer, M.D.**  
Allopathic Physician Member

**Sigmund Popko**  
Public Member

**Anna Marie Prassa**  
Public Member

**Peter C. Wagner, D.O.**  
Osteopathic Physician Member

**Barry D. Weiss, M.D.**  
Allopathic Physician Member

### Executive Staff

**Timothy C. Miller, J.D.**  
Executive Director

**Amanda J. Diehl, M.P.A., C.P.M.**  
Deputy Executive Director

**Bernadette E. Phelan, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Director

**Roger Downey**  
Public Information Officer

Dear Governor Napolitano:

**D**On behalf of the Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants, I submit to you the 2005 Annual Report. In December 2004, I became the Executive Director of an agency that has made tremendous strides in the past few years. I set a number of goals to build on those accomplishments: fair and impartial investigations while shortening the time to complete them; streamlining the licensing process; and keeping the lines of communication open with the citizens, licensees, and stakeholders.

The Agency guides its employees with a management philosophy that emphasizes and promotes ethics, honesty, credibility, accountability and compassion. The Agency has improved the physical environment to be more pleasant and productive.

The Agency is working to strengthen ties with the community, licensees, governmental entities and stakeholders. And to further enhance our rapport with licensees, we plan to replace our IT system. The Agency is currently reviewing potential database applications and working with ADOA to secure an updated application that will increase its transparency and availability to all who are interested.

Community services are also providing information and forms on the website on important issues such as advanced care directives. Stakeholders appreciate our efforts to attend their meetings and sit on committees where the Agency can lend its advice in resolving public health issues.

Communication channels with governmental entities work best when the Agency stays in routine contact, so I provide your office and the Legislature with regular updates on the Agency's progress.

The Board is dedicated to meeting its charge to protect the health and safety of Arizona citizens.

Sincerely,



Timothy C. Miller  
Executive Director

## ARIZONA REGULATORY BOARD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

**Albert Ray Tuttle, P.A.-C**, the Board's Chair, is employed by the Family Medical Center in Safford and part-time at the Emergency Room of the Mount Graham Regional Medical Center in Safford. He has been a P.A. in Arizona since 1981 and formerly was a medic in the U.S. Army. During the years that he has been in Arizona, he has worked exclusively in family practice in rural settings and in the ER. He currently serves on the City of Safford Planning and Zoning Commission and has served on the Special Olympics and other boards that provide services for the developmentally disabled and local mental health providers. He is actively involved as a Boy Scout Leader. P.A. Tuttle is a member of the American Association of Physician Assistants, the Arizona Medical Association, and the Arizona State Association of Physician Assistants. P.A. Tuttle has a special interest in the developmentally disabled and in 1998 became certified as a lifestyle counselor for weight control and stress management.



**Joan M. Reynolds, P.A.-C**, the Board's Vice-Chair, is a practicing physician assistant at Mayo Clinic Scottsdale. She has been employed as a physician assistant since 1986, serving in primary care settings. Ms. Reynolds earned her Physician Assistant degree at Hahnemann University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Ms. Reynolds is currently working on her master's degree through Nova Southeastern University. She is past-president of the Arizona State Association of Physician Assistants, has served as an elected delegate to the American Academy of Physician Assistants in the House of Delegates for the past 6 years. She has received the recognition of "Arizona PA of the Year in 2004," serves as a preceptor for PA students in Internal Medicine at Mayo Clinic Scottsdale, and



is an Adjunct Faculty member for Midwestern University in Glendale, Arizona and for Arizona School of Health Sciences in Mesa.

**Randy Danielsen, Ph.D., P.A.-C**, is Professor and Dean of the Arizona School of Health Sciences (ASHS), a School of A.T. Still University. He is the former Chair in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies at ASHS. He is a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants. He is a Board member of the National Commission on the Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) and serves as the Chair of the Research & Test Development Committee. Dr. Danielsen serves on the Editorial Board of Clinician Reviews and on the Review Board of the Perspectives on Physician Assistant Education. He received a Doctorate in Education (PhD) from the Union Institute & University in 2003 with an emphasis on medical education.



## ARIZONA REGULATORY BOARD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

**Michael E. Goodwin, P.A.**, is the founder and owner of Occupational Assessments & Services, an occupational medicine provider in and out of the state of Arizona.

He is a licensed physician assistant, receiving his training at the United States Medical Center in Springfield, Missouri. He attended the University of Cincinnati residency in occupational medicine. Goodwin is currently a member of the Executive Board, Section on Medical Center Occupational Health for the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. He is also a member of the adjunct faculty, Arizona School of Health Sciences and is a member of the Advisory Board for the Arizona Valle del Sol Association of Occupational Health Services. Goodwin is a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants in Occupational and Environmental Medicine, is a founding member of the Arizona State Association of Physician Assistants, and belongs to the American Academy of Physician Assistants and to the Arizona Medical Association.



**G. Bradley Klock, D.O., F.A.A.O.**, is currently in private practice in Phoenix. He serves as Chairman of the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine at John C. Lincoln Hospital/Deer Valley, and was former Chief of Staff and Chairman of the Board of Phoenix General Hospital. Dr. Klock is a delegate for the Arizona Osteopathic House of Representatives, as well as an appointed Member of the Board of Governors, American Academy of Osteopathy (AAO) and the Bureau of Experts in Manipulative Medicine (AAO). He is a Board Member of the John C. Lincoln Hospital Foundation and Chairman of the Phoenix General Osteopathic Endowment



Fund. He has served the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association in many capacities since 1991, including President in 2000. Dr. Klock completed a pre-doctoral fellowship in Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine and received his Doctor of Osteopathy from the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery in Des Moines, Iowa. He is Board certified in Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine by the American Osteopathic Association. Dr. Klock completed a fellowship in Federal Healthcare Policy through Michigan State and Ohio State Universities (sponsored by the American Osteopathic Association) and earned Fellowship status in the American Academy of Osteopathy (AAO). He is Chairman of the AAO Investment Committee and is an appointed member of the AAO Fellowship Committee.

**James E. Meyer, M.D.**, is the Medical Director of the Physician Assistant Program and an Associate Professor for the College of Health Sciences at Midwestern University. He is also an Associate Medical Director of Hospice of Arizona. Dr. Meyer receives his medical education at the University of Michigan Medical School and completed a medicine internship at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center at Pennsylvania State University and an Internal Medicine Residency at the University of Colorado Medical Center. He also completed extensive postgraduate psychotherapy training. He is a Board certified Marriage and Family Therapist and is a Diplomate, American Board of Internal Medicine. He is a member of the American College of Physicians, the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis, and the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, and Who's Who in Medicine and Healthcare.



## ARIZONA REGULATORY BOARD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

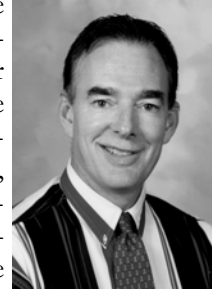
**Sigmund Popko** earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Arizona College of Law. Prior to assuming his current position, he served as a Visiting Attorney for the United States Sentencing Commission in Washington, D.C., and as an Assistant Federal Public Defender for the Federal Public Defender's Office, District of Arizona. Mr. Popko is a member of several professional and civic associations, including the Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice. He is the co-author of a treatise on the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, "Federal Sentencing Law and Practice," published by Thomson West.



**Anna Marie Prassa** founded Executive Stress Busters, Inc. and pioneered the 15-minute, in-office massage concept to combat computer and work related injuries. She also opened Natural Day Spa, which an environment that naturally activates our 5 senses. Anna Marie is a highly trained motivational speaker. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree, has completed workshops and medical programs at the Touch Research Institute at the University of Miami School of medicine and has attended an internship program at the University of Arizona. Ms. Prassa has conducted extensive research on Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, Headaches and Temporal Mandible Joint Disorder. She has 17,300 hours in training and over 15 years experience working with the muscular system. Ms. Prassa currently also serves on the Homeopathic Board and the Acupuncture Board. She was recently appointed to conduct a special study of the private investigator and security guard professions. In April 2001, Ms. Prassa sold her businesses for a less stressful life and will be pursuing her speaking career.



**Peter C. Wagner, D.O.**, is the medical director of the Gila Crossing Clinic on the Pima Indian Reservation south of Phoenix. Prior to this position, he was in private practice for 15 years in Chandler. Dr. Wagner is a member of the clinical faculty at the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine in Glendale, Arizona. He is also a Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve, and was called to active duty in 2003 under Operation Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom. He was assigned to Camp Pendleton Marine Corp Base for his tour of duty. Formerly, Dr. Wagner was the acting clinical director at Sells Indian Hospital in Sells, Arizona, a clinical lecturer at the University of Arizona Medical School, and the vice-chairman and chairman of the Family Medical Department at Mesa General Hospital. Dr. Wagner has served on the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Board and on the Arizona Osteopathic Association Committee on Comprehensive Planning.



He is a published author in *Osteopathic Annals* and is the recipient of numerous awards from the Mesa Association for Retarded Citizens and the Tempe Center for Rehabilitation. Dr. Wagner received his D.O. degree from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Missouri and completed his residency in family practice at Richmond Heights General Hospital in Ohio. He is a member of the American

Osteopathic Association and the American College of General Practice, and is Board Certified in Family Medicine.

# ARIZONA REGULATORY BOARD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

**Barry D. Weiss, M.D., FAAFP**, is a Professor of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Arizona's College of Medicine. He is the editor of "Family Medicine," the Journal of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, and associate editor of the American Academy of Family Physicians' Home Study Monograph Program. Dr. Weiss received his M.D. degree from the State University of New York at the Buffalo School of Medicine. Dr. Weiss is Board certified in family medicine and geriatric medicine by the American Board of Family Medicine.



## BOARD REORGANIZATION

The Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants hired a new Executive Director in December 2004.

Since January, 2005 the Executive Team has focused on improving the investigative process by improving the quality of investigations and reducing the backlog of cases. The Board currently has eleven full-time investigators – the largest number of professional investigators in recent history of the Board. Formal weekly training is conducted for all investigators. The focus remains on conducting investigations that are fair, accurate, and thorough.

A new Chief Medical Consultant joined the staff in April. A second full-time consultant and a new part-time consultant will begin work in September, joining two other part-time consultants. The new Chief Medical Consultant contributed to process improvements and has focused on improving the process for case review by medical consultants.

The increasing investigative caseload is overloading a complicated, aging and diffi-

cult to use database system. Document management and the need to implement on-line licensing requires a comprehensive and expandable software system that is user-friendly easily maintained. The Board is currently working with the Enterprise Procurement Services (EPS) and the Government Information Technology Agency (GITA) in its effort to replace its existing IT system.

The Board took steps to improve its community outreach efforts in March. It hired a Public Information Officer to help maintain a positive relationship with the media, to produce a newsletter for licensees, and to make public speaking appearances.

The Board has contracted with the Department of Administration for business operations and human resources functions. By doing so the Board was able to reduce the number of employees in these areas from five to two.

## LICENSING

The number of active Physician Assistants in Arizona climbed above 1,300 for the first time during the 2004-2005 FY.

Physician Assistants continue to play an important role in healthcare and provide physicians with the opportunity to better serve their patients. They serve Arizonans in numerous environments.

The concept of physician assistants is relatively new. During the 1960's, when the need for health care personnel developed in underserved and rural communities, former military corpsmen with medical training were returning to civilian life. At the time, they wanted to put their training to use, but lacked the opportunity to enter the physician-dominated health care system.

That changed with the acceptance of physician assistants as part of the healthcare team.

The Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants began licensing applicants and regulating the profession in the 1970's. According to a February 1975 Arizona Medical Board newsletter, the first group of licensed physician assistants numbered 15 and came from an initial applicant group of 33. Eleven of the 15 were engaged in patient care services.

At the end of June 2005, there were 1,311 active licensed Physician Assistants in Arizona, an 11% increase from the previous year.

Licenses		
	FY 04	FY 05
Licenses Issued	199	146
Temporary Licenses Issued	54	48
Supervision Notifications Processed	528	609
Average Number of Days to Process an Initial Application <i>(Date of receipt of fully completed application to final issue)</i>	2	2

## REGULATION

A new investigative process has been implemented, allowing investigators to conduct thorough case examination while resolving cases in a more timely manner.

The adjudication of each case is determined on its own merits, and Board members are cognizant of the roles they play to protect the public.

The average number of days to complete investigation of PA cases during FY 2005 was 195 days.

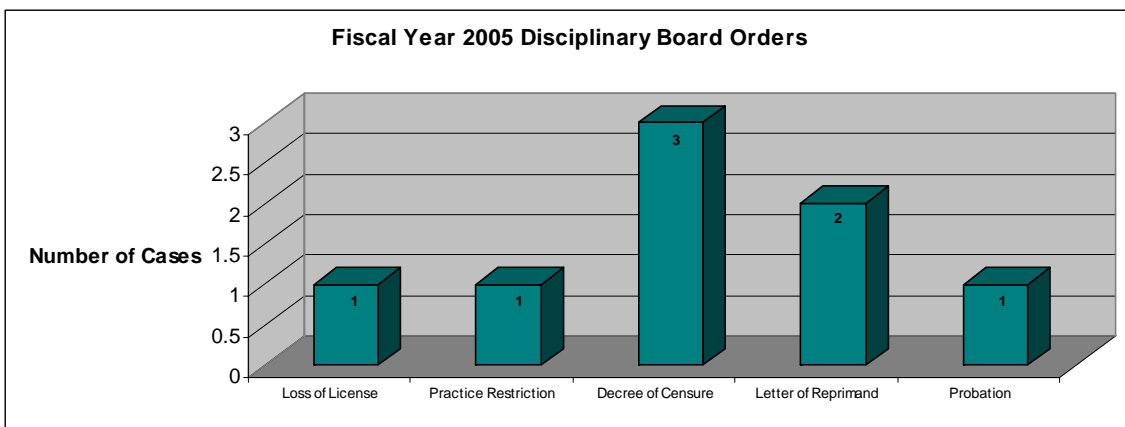
Compliance Monitoring is the Board's way of knowing that its orders involving practice restrictions, limitations and probation are being followed. The figure represents the number of physician's assistants being monitored for these rea-

sons. Compliance officers conduct random practice audits, review physician records and report to the Board any findings of non-compliance. Failure to obey a Board order can lead to more disciplinary action.

An additional statistic under Compliance Monitoring is the number of physician assistants who are in the Monitored Aftercare Program, or MAP, for substance abuse rehabilitation. Findings of non-compliance are immediately brought to the Board's attention.

PA Regulation		
	FY 04	FY 05
Average Number of Days to Complete an Investigation	169	195*
Investigations Remaining Open at Fiscal Year's End	39	41
Number of PA's Monitored for Compliance	NA	2
Number of PA's in Monitored Aftercare Program (MAP)	NA	9

\*The average number of days to complete an investigation for cases opened during FY 05 is only 108 days.



## BUDGET

The joint budget for the Arizona Medical Board and the Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants rose to nearly five million dollars in FY 2005.

The two boards are 90/10 state agencies, a designation that developed as a result of how they fund their activities. Ninety percent of all revenue generated through licensing fees and ancillary billing are retained by the agencies and the remaining ten percent is returned to the State and added into the total State budget.

Nearly half of the 2005 fiscal year budget allocation was for the salaries of Board staff, including outside medical consultants for complaint investigations who assess procedures and treatment and determine whether

or not physician's assistants have deviated from the standard of care.

The number of fulltime employee positions rose to 60.

Money for travel, both in-state and out-of-state was decreased, but funding for Other Operating Expenditures and Equipment was increased.

The overall increase in the FY 2005 Budget Appropriation for the Board represented a two and a half percent rise over FY 2004.

Budget Appropriations		
	FY 04	FY 05
<i>Full-time employee positions</i>	58.5	60
Personnel services	2,474,100	2,371,889
Employee related expenditures	632,700	585,690
Professional and outside services	1,026,700	1,084,800
Travel in-state	65,900	32,483
Travel out-of-state	20,800	5,937
Other operating expenditures	495,000	578,794
Equipment	37,000	246,607
Indirect Cost	58,800	27,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>*4,811,000</b>	<b>*4,933,600</b>
<b>*FY 04-05 JLBC Appropriations</b>		