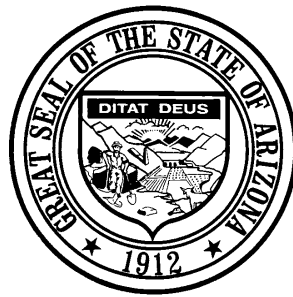


ARIZONA REGULATORY BOARD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008
ANNUAL REPORT



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LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR

JANET NAPOLITANO

Governor

Janet Napolitano

Members of the Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants

Joan M. Reynolds, M.M.S., P.A.-C
Chair/Physician Assistant Member

Peter C. Wagner, D.O.
Vice Chair/Physician Member

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

Michael E. Goodwin, P.A.
Physician Assistant Member

James E. Meyer, M.D., F.A.C.P.
Physician Member

Kristen Neal, P.A.-C, M.P.H.
Physician Assistant Member

Sigmund G. Popko, J.D.
Public Member

Anna Marie Prassa
Public Member

Kelli M. Ward, D.O., M.P.H., FACOPF
Physician Member

Executive Staff

Lisa S. Wynn, B.S.
Executive Director

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

Roger Downey
Media Relations Officer

Dear Governor Napolitano:

On behalf of the Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants, I submit to you our 2008 Annual Report.

The statutes enacted nearly 36 years ago in Arizona created the physician assistant profession. Initially, a PA worked alongside a single, supervising physician in a private office. The profession began to evolve, however, due to the pressures of delivering quality healthcare to a rapidly increasing population facing a growing shortage of physicians. Now, physician assistants may work geographically apart from their supervising physicians; they may work with multiple physicians in large group practices; or they may see patients in busy emergency departments—settings unforeseen when the Physician Assistant Practice Act was approved in 1973.

To resolve the ambiguity and confusion in the community about physician supervision of PAs, the Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants worked with the Arizona Medical Board and with stakeholders to develop together a new set of Guidelines for PA Supervision that were clear and understandable. They balance the need for the evolution of safe healthcare practices with the requirement to maintain proper oversight of the profession.

This fiscal year, the Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants will turn its attention to rewriting the physician assistant rules and drafting rules for PAs performing minor surgeries. The Board's goal, as always, is to enhance patient safety.

Sincerely,

Lisa S. Wynn
Executive Director

ARIZONA REGULATORY BOARD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS MEMBERSHIP

Joan M. Reynolds, M.M.S., P.A.-C, Board Chair, is a practicing physician assistant. She has worked at Mayo Clinic Scottsdale since 1993. She has been employed as a physician assistant since 1986, serving in primary care settings.

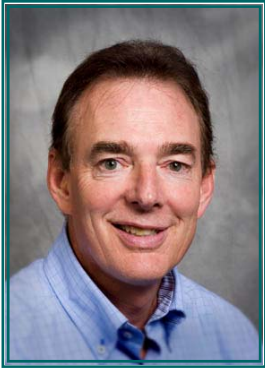


Ms. Reynolds earned her Physician Assistant degree at Hahnemann University in Philadelphia. She received her Masters Degree in Medical Science through Nova Southeastern University.

She is past-president of the Arizona State Association of Physician Assistants and has served as an elected delegate to the American Academy of Physician Assistants in the House of Delegates for the past 10 years.

She serves as a preceptor for PA students in Internal Medicine at Mayo Clinic Scottsdale, and is an Adjunct Faculty Member for both Midwestern University in Glendale and for Arizona School of Health Sciences, a school of A.T. Still University in Mesa.

Peter C. Wagner, D.O., Vice-Chair and a physician member, is Board-certified in Family Medicine and is the medical director of the Gila Crossing Clinic on the Pima Indian Reservation south of Phoenix.



Dr. Wagner is a member of the clinical faculty at the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine in Glendale, Arizona.

Dr. Wagner was the acting clinical director at Sells Indian Hospital, a clinical lecturer at the UofA Medical School, and the chairman of the Family Medical Department at Mesa General Hospital.

Dr. Wagner has served on the Arizona Osteopathic Association Committee on Comprehensive Planning and is a published author.

Dr. Wagner received his D.O. Degree from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, in Kirksville, Missouri. He is a member of the American Osteopathic Association and the American College of General Practice.

Randy Danielson, Ph.D., P.A.-C is Professor and Dean of the Arizona School of Health Sciences (ASHS), a School of A.T. Still University in Mesa. He is a former Chair in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies at ASHS. He is the Immediate Past Chair of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).

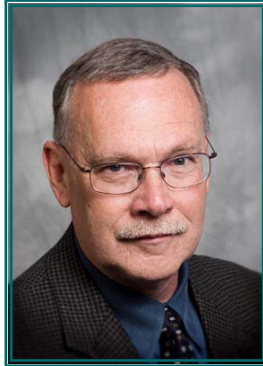


Dr. Danielsen has served on the NCCPA Board in variety of capacities since 1997. He is also a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants and the American Academy of Physician Assistants. He is the PA Editor-in-Chief and Chair of the Editorial Board of *Clinician Reviews* Journal.

Dr. Danielsen received his PA training at the University of Utah MEDEX program, his Masters in PA Studies from the University of Nebraska, and a Doctorate in Education from the Union Institute & University.

ARIZONA REGULATORY BOARD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS MEMBERSHIP

Michael E. Goodwin, P.A., is the founder and owner of Occupational Assessments & Services, an occupational medicine provider. He received his PA training at the U.S. Medical Center in Springfield, Missouri. He attended the University of Cincinnati residency in occupational medicine.



Mr. Goodwin is currently a member of the Executive Board, Section on Medical Center Occupational Health for the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and an adjunct faculty member at the Arizona School of Health Sciences, a School of A.T. Still University in Mesa.

Mr. Goodwin is a founding member of the Arizona State Association of Physician Assistants and holds memberships in the American Academy of Physician Assistants in Occupational and Environmental Medicine, in the American Academy of Physician Assistants and in the Arizona Medical Association.

James E. Meyer, M.D., a physician member of the Board, is the Medical Director of the Physician Assistant Program and an Associate Professor for the College of Health Sciences at Midwestern University in Glendale. He is also a Medical Director with Hospice of the Valley.



Dr. Meyer received his medical education at the University of Michigan

Medical School and completed a medicine internship at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center at Penn State University, followed by an Internal Medicine residency at the University of Colorado Medical Center. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine and is Board-certified by the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

He is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, a Clinical Member of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, and a member of the American Medical Association, the Maricopa County Medical Society, and the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

Kristen Neal, P.A.-C, M.P.H., works as a Physician Assistant in a Scottsdale family medicine practice and has had an Arizona license since 1999. She received her Physician Assistant education at Midwestern University in Glendale and her Master of Public Health from the University of Utah.



Ms. Neal currently serves as an Adjunct Clinic Professor at Midwestern University. In her other professional activities, she has been the Clinical Editor for the Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants. And she has served as Chief Delegate for the Arizona Chapter of the Academy's House of Delegates and as Chair of the Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee for the Arizona State Association of Physician Assistants.

ARIZONA REGULATORY BOARD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS MEMBERSHIP

Sigmund G. Popko, J.D., is a public member of the Board. He is a Clinical Professor of Law at Arizona State University in Tempe. Mr. Popko received his law degree Summa Cum Laude from the University of Arizona College of Law in Tucson. Prior to assuming his teaching position at ASU, 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 Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice. He is the co-author of a treatise on the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, "Federal Sentencing Law and Practice."

Anna Marie Prassa, a public member of the Board, 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 and is a highly-trained motivational speaker.



Ms. Prassa has a Bachelor of Science Degree. She 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 in Tucson.

In the past, Ms. Prassa has served on the Arizona Homeopathic Board of Medical Examiners and on the Arizona Acupuncture Board of Examiners.

In April 2001, Ms. Prassa sold her businesses for a less stressful life and to pursue her speaking career.

Kelli M. Ward, D.O., M.P.H., FACOFP, a physician member of the Board, has had a medical practice in Lake Havasu City since 1999. She is Board-certified in Family Practice and has a Masters Degree in Public Health.



Dr. Ward received her medical degree from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine and continued her education with a family practice residency, a faculty development fellowship and clinician educator fellowship in Michigan. Additionally, she completed the Osteopathic Heritage Health Policy Fellowship in 2003.

Dr. Ward is the president of the Arizona Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, the secretary-treasurer of the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association, and a member of the American Osteopathic Association.

Dr Ward lectures nationally on subjects such as bioterrorism, water safety, electronic medical records, and obesity. She is active in her community, serving as a Chamber of Commerce ambassador, singing in the Praise Team at her church, and performing in community theater productions. She is married and has two children.

LICENSING

The Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants added nearly nine percent more licensees in FY2008 after a dip in applicants during the previous year and is on a pace to hit the 2,000 mark sometime in the next two years.

The dual pressures of a rapidly growing population and the increasing number of retiring physicians have placed greater emphasis on the role of physician assistants in Arizona.

Physician assistants help enhance the quality of patient care in a variety of settings, especially in rural areas of the state where the shortage of primary care physicians is most acute. They see patients who might have to travel several hours or wait days for appointments with their supervising physicians.

Hospitals have turned to physician assistants to help physicians cover busy emergency rooms and for other medical tasks.

The profession has evolved in the community beyond what the Legislature envisioned in 1973 when it created the Physician Assistant Practice Act. As a result, the Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants and the Arizona Medical Board worked with stakeholders during the fiscal year to develop new guidelines for supervision of PAs to reflect their work in today's world.

Licenses		
	FY 07	FY 08
Total Number of Physician Assistants	1,572	1,711
Licenses Issued	191	204
Temporary Licenses Issued	20	24
Supervision Notifications Processed	1,103	1,521
Average Number of Days to approve a PA licensing application <i>(Date of receipt of fully completed application to final issue)</i>	17	20

REGULATION

The regulatory duties for the Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician assistants usually begin when a complaint is received. Board Staff opens an investigation when it determines that an allegation, if true, would be a violation of the Physician Assistant Practice Act.

The Board monitors the compliance of those licensees who have received practice restrictions, limitations and probations. Board Compliance Officers conduct random chart reviews, review physician records and report any findings of non-compliance.

Thirteen physician assistants participated in the Monitored Aftercare Program during FY2008, while three PAs were monitored for health problems.

Board Staff ensure PAs comply with program requirements and are safe to practice medicine. Findings of non-compliance are brought to the Board's attention.

A Letter of Reprimand was the most common disciplinary order issued by the Board in FY2008. A disciplinary order represents the Board's official finding that a physician assistant has committed "unprofessional conduct."

PA Regulation		
	FY 07	FY 08
Investigations Remaining Open at Fiscal Year's End	15	24
Number of PAs Monitored for Compliance	5	5
Number of PAs in Monitored Aftercare Program (MAP)	14	13
Number of PAs in Monitored for Health Problems (PHP)	0	3

