

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022
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PROGRAM UPDATE

Greetings and Happy New Year from the UND PA Program!

It has been a while since our last newsletter. I sincerely hope you and your family are healthy as we continue to work through this pandemic. In addition, thank you for your faithful commitment as health care providers, putting the health of our families, friends, and community members first. Your dedicated care and compassion certainly contribute to a more enjoyable holiday season for many this year.

As a PA program, we continue to work in a hybrid structure with some days in the program office and others remotely at home. We still miss the day-to-day hallway conversations, but see each other at least weekly for departmental meetings, check-ins, and to simply touch-base on the greater things in life.

We have been able to host our on-campus educational sessions throughout the year, of course with respect to COVID guidelines and restrictions per UND and the School of Medicine & Health Sciences. Events such as the White Coat and Hooding Ceremonies have been modified due to the variability of vaccination status and for the safety of our students, patients, community members, faculty, and staff. Clinical experiences have continued as well, and we are forever grateful for our preceptors and clinical sites, who give of their knowledge, time, and expertise for the next generation of PAs. Thank you to all who teach students in the clinical setting. We are so grateful for you and would not be able to graduate students without your willing contributions. And, if you have not yet been able to precept a student but have an interest in doing so, please review the Preceptor Overview section of this newsletter and reach out to Mindy Staveteig, Director of Clinical Education at mindy.staveteig@UND.edu. We need more clinical teachers and would love to have you!

As you likely recall, we unexpectedly lost faculty member Daryl Sieg, PA-C, MSPAS, last May. Daryl thoroughly enjoyed teaching students, watching them achieve their goals, and grow in their professions as successful clinicians. Daryl is surely missed within the Department of Physician Assistant Studies. There is a memorial scholarship fund established through the NDAPA with additional information in this newsletter.

Congratulations to our 29 graduates of the Class of 2021! All graduates have passed their boards and, as of Fall 2021, 92% have

gained employment. Of those:

- 57% are working in primary care
- 48% are working in a rural or underserved area; and,
- 43% are working in rural or underserved primary care

The UND PA Program continues to meet their mission of providing PAs for primary care workforce needs.

Further, congratulations to those who have received research awards, induction into the Pi Alpha Honor Society, and student scholarships. Your academic achievement, moral character, and future goals to lead successful careers in rural primary care is commendable. Great work! The students in the Class of 2022 have completed a year of didactic and clinical primary care education. They have also completed work toward their scholarly project and have begun to prepare for the national board certification exam and future employment as a PA-C. This semester, they will begin their specialty clerkships and prepare for graduation in May 2023. We look forward to celebrating their accomplishments in coming months!

The admission process is complete for next fall and we have accepted 35 students to the Class of 2024. This was our first admission cycle where, due to newly implemented accreditation standards, we are no longer allowed to have prospective students apply as a team with their clinical preceptor. This, of course, affects preceptor availability and creates a greater need for preceptor recruitment. Again, please reach out if you have any interest or availability to accept a student within your clinic. I invite you to explore our website for more information to changes in the admission process.

As we close one year and prepare for another, take time to reflect on things most valued to you. We hope that you can joyfully celebrate this holiday season with your family and friends. From the DPAS faculty and staff, wishing you all that is merry and bright for the new year ahead!

Jeanie McHugo, Ph.D., PA-C
Chair, Department of Physician Assistant Studies
UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences



PRECEPTOR OVERVIEW



Would you like to share your clinical experience through preceptorship? The PA Program is competency-based, meaning that in order to graduate, each student must be able to demonstrate competencies in patient assessment and management. The PA student gains competencies through different teaching modalities on campus (such as classroom activities, case studies, simulations, and practice

labs) and through the one-to-one clinical teaching during clinical rotations. Preceptors play a primary role by providing the appropriate learning environment within the clinical setting.

The didactic instruction and clinical experiences are conducted on a rotating basis as described in the schematic below. Each didactic session is followed by a clinical phase to provide correlation of didactic instruction and clinical experience.

Clinical Medicine - Primary Care Series. This series of three primary care experiences allows students to apply communication strategies for interviewing and gathering a medical history, techniques for performing a basic physical examination, and accurate documentation of patient data. Successively, students focus on analyzing symptoms of disease, formulating differential diagnoses and treatment plans for patients with acute and chronic complex medical diseases across the

life span. All body systems are included in the instruction with a family medicine/primary care approach. To meet the UND DPAS mission serving a primary care role in rural/underserved areas, the primary care series includes a clinical clerkship in a designated area. Should your site not meet these criteria, the student will be placed in an alternate site for up to four weeks of this primary care series.

Specialty Clerkships - Specialty clerkship settings in the emergency department and surgery are required and other specialties are determined by the evaluation of clinical experiences obtained within the primary care rotations. The responsibility of the primary care preceptor is to assist the student in connecting their learning needs to clinical resources within the primary preceptor's referral system. It is also recommended that the final clerkship consist of a return to the primary care clinical site to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the student and their readiness to enter their clinical practice prior to graduation.

All learning objectives, policies, and evaluation forms are provided by the program and liability insurance is provided by the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences. Preceptors are offered an appointment of Clinical Assistant Professor within the Department of Physician Assistant Studies through the School of Medicine & Health Sciences. We would be happy to discuss opportunities available in primary and specialty rotations. Please contact our Director of Clinical Education, Mindy Staveteig, MMS, PA-C at mindy.staveteig@UND.edu for more information on how you can help educate future providers in your area.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Mindy Staveteig, Director of Clinical Education, joined the Department of Physician Assistant Studies at the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences as a full-time faculty member in August of 2017. Before that, she spent 12 years as a Physician Assistant in family practice and internal medicine. She continues to see patients one day each week.

What's your role in the clinical process?

I wear many hats in this role. The job involves recruiting and retaining clinical preceptors and clinical sites, arranging clinical rotations and assisting in the onboarding process, and overseeing administrative duties associated with clinical education for the program.

What's the most rewarding part of your job?

The most rewarding part of my job is hearing from students about how much they enjoyed their rotation, preceptor, and the various patient care opportunities available to them.

What challenges do new preceptors face?

New preceptors are working hard to establish their practices and adjusting to their role as a provider. They are learning ways to be successful in their clinical setting, balancing the needs of their patients, and trying to stay up-to-date on how to deliver the best medical care.



What advice would you give a new preceptor?

Precepting is an invaluable tool that gives students a chance to learn things that simply can't be replicated in other ways, despite our best efforts. Sharing your expertise is a great way to grow our profession regardless of your clinical setting. We are very grateful for your gift of time, knowledge, and interest in teaching.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021

All the best to our graduates!
Congratulations on their
accomplishment as they begin their
future as health care providers.



Sierra Baxter
Rebecca Beyer
Ben DeVries
Cherie Dowell
Stephanie Frentzel
Julie Harmon
Quinn Jacobs
Shelby Knox
Savanna Kramer

Stephanie Krogen
Katelyn Krueger
Breanna Krueger
Alexander Lee
Traci Leitheiser
Drew Marx
Abigail Moeller
Steve Moore
Aunica Novacek
Christina Rasanen
Natasha Richesin
Brian Schiller
Heidi Schmaltz
Melissa Severson
Manpreet Sheabat
Samantha Simley
Toby Steen
Kelli Strege
Kayla Terrel
Jenna Zwiars

PI ALPHA HONOR SOCIETY

Pi Alpha is the national physician assistant honor society organized for the promotion and recognition of both PA students and graduates. Membership signifies the inductees' significant academic achievement and honors them for their leadership, research, community/professional service, and other related activities. The society also encourages a high standard of character and conduct among students and graduates. With this in mind, we are pleased to announce that the following SMHS Physician Assistant Studies students and two faculty were inducted into the Pi Alpha Honor Society this year. Congratulations!

- Shelby Knox – Ray, N.D.
- Heidi Schmaltz – West Fargo, N.D.
- Melissa Severson – Preston, Minn.
- Kelli Strege – Fargo, N.D.
- Russ Kauffman – MPAS, PA-C, Assistant Professor
- Daryl Sieg – MPASed, PA-C, Assistant Professor

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Where are you practicing now? Any big accomplishments to announce? Great memories from PA school to share? We'd love to print your news and photos in a future newsletter. Contact us at und.med.paprogram@UND.edu



RESEARCH AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences Department of Physician Assistant Studies announces research awards and scholarships

Research Awards were presented to the following graduates of the Class of 2021 on May 13 during a recognition of the graduating class.

- Outstanding Scholarly Project, Faculty Choice: Quinn Jacobs of Glenwood, Minn., for her projected titled “A Comparison of Cardiomechs and Traditional Medical Management in Reducing Readmission in Heart Failure.”
- Outstanding Scholarly Project, Student Choice: Traci Leitheiser of Moorhead, Minn., for her projected titled “The Impact of Hormone Therapy on Cardiovascular and Bone Health in Women with Premature or Early Menopause.”

Class of 2022 Kathy Ohly Memorial Scholarship through the North Dakota Academy of Physician Assistants:

- Kylie Pastian of Hillsboro, N.D.
- Krista Thielges of Enderlin, N.D.

The Kathy Ohly Memorial Scholarship was established in 1994 in loving memory of Kathy Ohly, a very active member of NDAPA. She graduated from the University of North Dakota Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant Program in 1976. Ohly was the president of the NDAPA from 1982-1984 and chaired its Public Education Committee from 1987 to 1991, and served on the Bylaws Committee. She served on the Continuing Medical Education Committee from 1985 to 1987. Ohly served as one of the North Dakota representatives to the American Association of Physician Assistants House of Delegates during many national conventions. She organized

and traveled with an orthopedic surgical team to Brazil to provide care for Brazilian children suffering from various orthopedic conditions. Her work in Brazil earned her the AAPA Humanitarian Award in 1987. She passed away on August 15, 1993, after a long and courageous battle with breast cancer.

Class of 2022 Mickey Knutson Scholarship

- Angie Emerson of North Pole, Alaska

The Knutson endowment provides scholarships to UND students, allowing them the opportunity to complete their studies and pursue careers in the health field. The Knutson endowment is awarded to a graduate who will be working in primary care in a rural or underserved area.

Class of 2022 Katherine Maryann Rasmussen Scholarship

- Heather Bates of Elbow Lake, Minn.
- Lizzie Perkins of Fargo, N.D.

The Rasmussen endowment provides scholarships to one or more high-achieving and qualified students enrolled within the Physician Assistant Program at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Recipients shall be of high moral character and demonstrate the potential to lead successful lives and careers.

Class of 2022 JLG Architects Scholarship – Health Sciences

- Miranda Nygaard, Watertown, S.D.

Class of 2022 West River Health Services Foundation

- Jessie Johnson, Spearfish, S.D.

CLASS OF 2022

The following students progressed to the clinical phase of their PA education on February 5, 2021:

Dee Acharya
Jenae Arnold
Heather Bates
Anthony Beaty
Rachel Bruening
Hugh Cline
Travis Cook
Sean Core

Angie Emerson
Kylie Engebretson
Jessica Gifford
Paul Gillispie
Ben Graf
Brandon Harthan
Jessie Johnson
McKenzie Kemmet

Karen Kenny
Kelsey Krueger
Stephen Leard
Bennett Leitch
Rachel Levy
David Majewski
Katie Matzke
Miranda Nygaard

Kylie Pastian
Lizzie Perkins
Shacara Pratt
John Seifert
Kelsie Silvernagel
Rachel Sperl
Krista Thielges
Danielle Tretbar

PA CLASS OF 2022 WORK TOGETHER DURING THEIR TIME ON-CAMPUS



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IN MEMORY



Daryl Sieg, assistant professor in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies, passed away suddenly on May 5, 2021. He joined the department in 2016 where he enjoyed teaching and sharing his knowledge with students. In March 2019, Daryl received his Masters of Science in Physician Assistant Studies from A.T. Still University of Health Studies with a concentration in Education and Leadership. Daryl will be remembered for his many contributions to the Department, School, and University. The Daryl Sieg Scholarship Fund has been established through NDAPA. The first recipient will be awarded in May 2022. Memorials and contributions to this fund may be send to:



Daryl Sieg Scholarship Fund
c/o Terri Lang - NDAPA
1412 Cottonwood Avenue
Minot, ND 58701