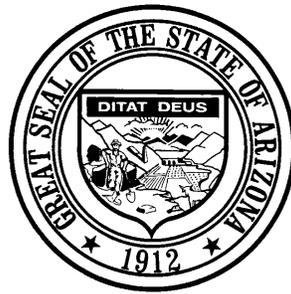


ARIZONA REGULATORY BOARD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT



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LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR

JAN BREWER

Governor

Jan Brewer

Members of the Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants

Joan M. Reynolds, M.M.S., P.A.-C
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Sigmund G. Popko, J.D.
Vice-Chair /Public Member

Jay Crutchfield, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Physician Member

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

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

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

Anna Marie Prassa
Public Member

Gary Smith, M.D., F.A.A.F.P.
Physician Member

Peter C. Wagner, D.O.
Physician Member

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

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Lisa S. Wynn, B.S.
Executive Director

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Deputy Executive Director

Roger Downey
Media Relations Officer

Dear Governor Brewer:

On behalf of the Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants, I submit to you our 2009 Annual Report.

The programs at Midwestern University in Glendale and at A.T. Still University in Mesa continue to turn out much-needed physician assistants, many of whom find immediate openings in medical practices in our state. Graduates of these two programs helped us grow our number of licensees to more than 1,800 during the fiscal year.

While the Board investigated complaints and adjudicated cases involving PAs in its normal course of business, there is little to report to you on changes that affect the physician assistant profession and licensure in our state. Plans to rewrite the physician assistant rules and to draft rules for PAs performing minor surgeries are on hold.

The PA Board Web site was an important conduit of information during the H1N1 threat. Our staff cooperated with the Arizona Department of Health Services and provided physician assistants with algorithms, data, and hyperlinks on the Swine Flu outbreak.

We look forward to another year, serving the citizens of Arizona and enhancing 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.

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,

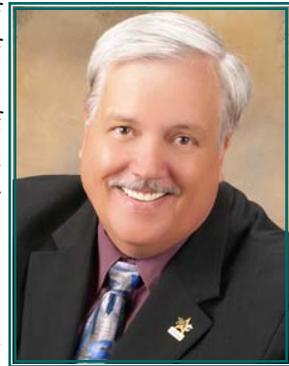


D.C., and as an Assistant Federal Public Defender for the Federal Public Defender's Office, District of Arizona.

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."

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.

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.

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.

ARIZONA REGULATORY BOARD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS MEMBERSHIP

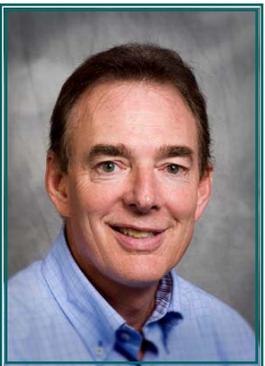
Gary Smith, M.D., F.A.A.F.P., is the owner of Family Doctors of Arizona, L.L.C., in Mesa which employs three physician assistants. He is the administrative medical director for the fire departments in Apache Junction, Gilbert, Mesa and Queen Creek and oversees their paramedic education.



Dr. Smith is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Arizona School of Health Sciences (ASHS), a School of A.T. Still University in Mesa. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Banner Physician Health Organization. He is a member of the Superstition District Committee of the Boy Scouts of America and is the recipient of the Silver Beaver Award.

Dr. Smith received his medical degree from Ross University School of Medicine in Roseau, Dominica. He completed a three-year residency in Family Practice at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, where he served as Chief Resident and was elected House Officer of the Year. Dr. Smith is Board-certified in Family Practice.

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.

Kelli M. Ward, D.O., M.P.H., F.A.C.O.F.P., 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 president-elect of the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association, and a member of the American Osteopathic Association.

ARIZONA REGULATORY BOARD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS MEMBERSHIP

James E. Meyer, M.D., completed his term on the Board in May, 2009. He 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.



LICENSING

The additional PAs licensed by the Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants in FY2009 represent a 6.5% increase in the total number of licensees.

Despite the increase in initial applications and the annual renewal process centered around June 1st every year, the Board trimmed the average time to process an application by 10%.

The pressures of a rapidly growing population, a shortage of physicians in underserved areas, and the aging of the physician workforce have placed greater emphasis on the role of physician assistants as primary care providers.

Physician assistants help enhance the quality of patient care in a variety of settings, es-

pecially in rural areas of the state where the shortage of 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 enabled the profession with the Physician Assistant Practice Act.

Licenses		
	FY 08	FY 09
Total Number of Physician Assistants	1,711	1,823
Licenses Issued	204	190
Temporary Licenses Issued	24	14
Supervision Notifications Processed	1,521	1,606
Average Number of Days to approve a PA licensing application <i>(Date of receipt of fully completed application to final issue)</i>	20	18

REGULATION

The regulatory duties for the Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician assistants usually begin when a complaint is received. Board Staff investigates when the allegation, if true, would be a statutory violation.

The PA Board finished FY 2009 with 33% fewer cases remaining open than the previous year.

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.

Fifteen physician assistants participated in the Monitored Aftercare Program during FY2009.

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."

The Board issued a total of 11 non-disciplinary Advisory Letters during the fiscal year. An Advisory Letter notifies a licensee that he/she has committed either a minor technical violation or that there is not enough evidence for a disciplinary action.

PA Regulation		
	FY 08	FY 09
Investigations Remaining Open at Fiscal Year's End	24	16
Number of PAs in Monitored Aftercare Program (MAP)	13	15
Number of PAs in Monitored for Health Problems (PHP)	3	7

