

**Guide and Finding Aids for  
American Registry of Physicians' Associates  
Membership Records, 1971 to 1972**



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## **Abstract**

This collection contains individual membership files for physician assistants who applied and were accepted for registration by the American Registry of Physicians' Associates from 1971 to 1972. The folders contain biographical information, transcripts, photographs, copies of certificates and letters of recommendation. The American Registry of Physicians' Associates was incorporated in North Carolina on May 26, 1970. The purpose of the Registry was to encourage the training and to promote and regulate the activities of Physicians' Associate by determining their competence through examinations and investigative studies. The organization's mission diminished in 1973 with the development of a national certification process for physician assistants and the establishment of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) in 1974.

## **Descriptive Summary**

### Repository

National Commission on Certification for Physician Assistants

### Creators

American Registry of Physicians' Associates

### Title

American Registry of Physicians' Associates Membership Records, 1971-1972.

### Call Number

ARC00002

### Extent

1.5 linear feet

1 record storage box

73 individual certificate files

### Language

English

### Shelf Location

R1:S1

## **Administrative Information**

### Access Restrictions

This collection is restricted and can only be accessed by permission of the Society's management director.

### Copyright Notice

The Society for the Preservation of Physician Assistant History does not hold copyright on the materials in this collection. Administrative responsibility for the American Registry of Physician's Associates was assumed by the American Academy of Physician Assistants in November 1973. No photocopies can be made of materials contained in this collection; only aggregate data may be reported.

### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], American Registry of Physicians' Associates Membership Records, 1971-1972, Society for Preservation of Physician Assistant History, Johns Creek, GA, USA.

### Acquisitions Information

Files donated by J. Jeffry Heinrich to the Society for the Preservation of PA History on December 22, 2005. Transferred from the DUMC Archives to the National Commission on Physician Assistant Certification in August 2011.

### Processing Information

Processed by Reginald D. Carter, December 2011  
Cataloged and Updated by Cory Faulkner, July 2015

### Historical Note

The American Registry of Physician's Associates (ARPA) was incorporated in 1970 to encourage the training and to promote the activities of Physician's Associates by determining their competence through examinations and investigative studies. The articles of incorporation were signed by Robert Ewer, M.D, University of Texas, Galveston, TX; D. Robert Howard, MD, Duke University and Leland Powers, MD, Bowman Gray School of Medicine. The ARPA issued certificates to graduates of approved educational programs and to others who demonstrated by examination that they possessed the background and experience to perform satisfactorily as graduates of approved programs. Duke University and several other programs had changed their name from "assistant" to "associate" to distinguish their programs from less academically trained clinical personnel and the term associate became embedded into the newly incorporated organization's name.

Individuals registered by the ARPA were entitled to refer to themselves as an RPA (Registered Physicians' Associate) and were given a patch and lapel pin to wear on their clinical jackets. They received also a signed certificate to display on their office walls.

From May 1970 until April 1972, Robert Howard served as the Registry's first appointed and then elected president until this position was assumed by Dr. Alfred Sadler, Yale University. Powers served as secretary/treasurer until Ms. Susanne Greenberg, Northeastern University, assumed this role, keeping minutes and handling the organization's finances. In 1972, the educators of the ARPA member programs decided to form the Association of Physician Assistant Programs (APAP) to meet their broader academic needs and the ARPA was made a subsidiary organization of the APAP with the officers serving both organizations. For tax exempt purposes, the APAP asked the American Academy of Physician Assistants to take over the ARPA in 1973 so that professional PAs could register practicing PAs. William Stanhope was elected president, Steven Turnipseed - secretary, Jeffery Heinrich – treasurer, and Gail Spears – member-at-large of the ARPA. With the administration of a national certifying examination for physician assistants in 1973 and the development of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants, which became fully operational in 1975, the need for the Registry disappeared and the organization was liquidated by the Academy soon thereafter.

### Overview

This collection contains individual membership files for physician assistants who applied and were accepted for registration by the American Registry of Physicians' Associates from 1971-

1972. The folders contain biographical information, transcripts, photographs, copies of certificates and letters of recommendation. The collection provides data about early graduates of two-year, academic-based PA programs in the USA.

### **Collection Arrangement**

This collection consists of 76 folders arranged in alphabetical order by last name or by subject. The collection is a subseries of the Society's Archival Collection series, Organization and Institution Records, 1972-2001.

### **Container List**

Box 1

Aschenbrener, Thomas

Bartow, James M.

Berger, Benjamin

Bibby, Alfred T.

Braun, John A.

Broach, James E.

Brown, Michael

Cassidy, Barry

Cederquist, Clarence Hugh

Colley, Harvey G.

Condit, Douglas D. Jr.

Eason, Ernest B.

Fasser, C. Emil

Freeman, Robert E.

Germino, Victor Jr.

Godkins, Thomas E.

Hooker, James B.

Joyner, Stephen

Konopa, James

Lamb, A. Roger

Laughlin, Sally

Lawrence, Russell Franklin

Lowe, David E.

MacLaren, Mary Margaret (Flagler)

Marvin, Alfred D.

McNabb, Patricia Elaine

Meredith, Harry

Metcalf, Van Martin

Moson, Paul F.

Nelmes, Gilbert

Nolty, Edward R.

Peterson, Ronald L.

Petterson, Corbin Joel

Phelps, Gary

Poppen, Carroll Frederick

Pulliam, Steven Michael

Quijano, Luis

Quirk, Michael George

Rexroat, Gary Edward

Rhodeman, Russell L.  
Rock, Robert  
Rogers, Woodrow Wilson  
Rowand, Glen  
Ruiz, Francisco J.  
Sams, Alan B.  
Satkunam, Kandiah  
Schalamon, Bruce A.  
Schumacher, John Paul  
Sedlacek, Emanuel Joseph  
Seifert, Suellen Jane  
Signorini, William  
Sipots, Carl A.  
Smith, Arthur Leonard  
Smith, Jerry W.  
Smith, Robert G.  
Souers, James Claude  
Stanhope, William Dana  
Szewezynski, Henryk J.  
Tobin, Clifford  
Toth, Paul S.  
Valgora, Valgene Joseph  
Van Benthuisen, Richard  
Vanderbilt, Clara Evans  
Vanous, Kenneth Lee  
Vaserberg, Ralph  
Vogler, William J.  
Walters, Merkel Lovelle  
Wells, James L.  
Whittaker, Roger G.  
Winfree, Flora Nowell  
Wise, Jarrett M.  
Wright, Andrew R.  
Initial Application Fees 1971-1972  
Membership List October 10 1972  
Members Pending Approval by Their Program

## **Subject Terms**

### Topics:

Physician Assistants  
Physician Assistants--certification  
Physician Assistants--history

### Corporate Names:

American Academy of Physician Assistants  
American Registry of Physicians' Associates  
Association of Physician Assistant Programs  
National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants

Geographic Names:  
Durham, NC

Personal Names:  
Ewer, Robert Ewer  
Greenberg, Susanne  
Heinrich, J. Jeffery  
Howard, D, Robert  
Powers, Leland  
Sadler, Alfred  
Spears, Gail  
Stanhope, William D.  
Turnipseed, Steven

## **Forms**

Records

## **Bibliography**

Carter RD. American Registry of Physicians' Associates. Accessed on January 2, 2012 at: <http://pahx.org/pdf/American%20Registry%20Exhibit.pdf>

## **Related Collections**

Additional material related to the subjects addressed in this collection can be found in the collections listed below.

National Library of Medicine Archives. Accession #: 1997-013, American Academy of Physician Assistants. Records, 1973. One box containing documents on the founding of the American Academy of Physician Assistants in 1970 and organizational records which includes applications, articles of Incorporation, logo, board of directors, dues, Registry- treasurer's report, etc. 1972-1973.

Duke University Medical Center Archives. Community Health Sciences Collection, American Registry of Physician Associates, Folders RG05050320 and RG05050321.