

Historical Happenings

Newsletter of the Physician Assistant History Society

Message from the President



Maryann F. Ramos, MPH, PA-C Emeritus

The Trustees are looking forward to another exciting year fulfilling the Society's mission and vision to share the innovative ways PAs make a difference in our Society while bringing that history

to life for the next generation of PAs, patients and policy makers. I, for one, am positive about the work that the Society has developed over its 17 years of existence, and the profession's long-standing place in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' top ten professions.

We are very pleased to report that the Society has again received category 1 continuing medical education credit from AAPA for the upcoming PA Historian Boot Camp that will teach participants how to capture their own institution's history. Thanks to those who put forward the work for that effort! The Boot Camp will be offered in Denver this May just prior to the AAPA Conference. Please see page 2 of this newsletter for all the details!

We are also currently working on updating the Society's exclusive "Educational Toolkit" learning modules, which are used by our PAHx Associate programs to teach the history of the profession as required in ARC-PA Standards. The Society is busily working on a new book to keep the PA profession in focus. It is exciting and innovative and will prove to be either a "page-turner" or a "mouse mover." The Society's first history book published in 2013, "The Physician Assistant: An Illustrated History," has been converted into an eBook for Kindle and is available on Amazon.

On January 1, 2019 the PAHx Board of Trustees welcomed new members, Robert Smith, PA-C, MS, DHSc, DFAAPA, and student member, Sunayana "Sunny" Chopra Pydah, PA-S, MBA, MHA. We look

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forward to their contributions to the work of the Society. You can learn about Robert and Sunny on page 2 of this newsletter.

We hope our enthusiasm for ensuring PA history continues to be "infective" and invite PA supporters to participate with their biographies and oral histories as well as by becoming a "<u>Friend of the Society</u>"!

Stay in Touch with PAHx through Social Media!

Please be sure to "like" PA History Society on <u>Facebook</u> to receive updates and follow us on <u>Twitter</u>. Check out the Society's <u>Blog</u>.



New Trustees Begin Board Service in 2019

The Board of Directors of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants approved two new members of the PAHx Board of Trustees during their November 10, 2018 meeting. The new board members will fill two vacancies created by Immediate Past President Karen Mulitalo, MPAS, PA-C, and Student Trustee Courtney Amburgey Corboy, PA-C, whose terms of service concluded at the end of 2018. We thank Karen and Courtney for their years of service.



Robert Smith, PA-C, MS, DHSc, DFAAPA, has been a PA for 29 years. He graduated from the University of California, Davis PA program in 1990 and has worked clinically in a variety of family practice

positions. Dr. Smith also served in the US Coast Guard for over 10 years. He currently serves on the Physician Assistants for Latino Health Board of Directors. Dr. Smith will serve on the Society Board for a three-year term, with an optional second term. You can read more about Dr. Smith's career from his biography featured on the PAHx website.



Sunayana "Sunny" Chopra Pydah, PA-S, MBA, MHA, is currently a student at the University of Lynchburg. She is working toward her Master of Physician Assistant Medicine and her Doctorate in Health Sciences at Jefferson College of Health Sciences. Ms. Pydah ascribes

to being a life-long learner with two master's degrees, one in Business Administration and the other in Health Administration, both from Texas A&M University. She will serve as the Student Trustee on the PAHx Board for one-year (2019). You can read more about Ms. Pydah's career from her biography on the PAHx website.

Society Board elects President-Elect

In November, the Society Board elected Trustee

Deborah Atherton Gerbert, MS, PA-C, as President Elect. Trustee Gerbert joined the Board of Trustees in 2015 and she has also held the officer position of Secretary-Treasurer. You can read more about Ms. Gerbert from her biography featured on the <u>PAHx</u> website.



Become a PA Historian:

How to Save, Study and Share the Story of PAs, our History and Legacy

> 1-Day PA Historian Boot Camp Friday, May 17, 2019 Held prior to the AAPA Conference in Denver, Colorado



Comments from the September 2018 PA Historian Boot Camp participants:

"This is a great course/workshop."
"I would recommend this class to all colleagues interested in becoming a PA historian."

The PA Historian Boot Camp has been reviewed and is approved for 6 AAPA Category 1 CME

credits. If you have a passion for PA history, please plan to join us in Denver!

<u>Date</u>: Friday, May 17 from 9am-

4pm

Registration Fee: \$150.00

Fee Includes: Historian Toolkit, Boot Camp

Handbook & Lunch

Registration: Visit our website or email us at contactus@pahx.org or call us 678-417-8682

Deadline to Register: Friday, April 19, 2019

(PA Historian Boot Camp, continued on page 3)



(PA Historian Boot Camp, continued from page 2)

Boot Camp Participants will learn how to:

- ✓ Organize and preserve historical documents
- ✓ Attain archival skills for research and study
- ✓ Become an advocate for PA history and the profession
- ✓ Develop creative techniques to write, speak and share the history of your institution and the PA profession



the <u>PAHx</u>
<u>website</u> or our
Social Media
for further
details!

The PA Historian Boot Camp activity has been reviewed by the AAPA Review Panel and is compliant with AAPA CME Criteria. This activity is designated for 6.00 AAPA Category 1 CME credits. PAs should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation. This activity was planned in accordance with AAPA CME Criteria for Live Programs and for Commercial Support of Live Programs.

The 1980 GMENAC Report and Its Effect on the PA Profession

Judith B. Willis, MA, PA, DFAAPA

Drop a pebble in a puddle and it splashes. Throw a boulder in a lake and the force creates waves that will eventually reach the shore.

The waves of the 1980 Graduate Medical Education Advisory Committee Report (GMENAC) hit the PA profession (as well as physicians and other medical professionals), creating a huge shift in the health care system and the way PAs were perceived and educated and how they practiced.

Charged by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, GMENAC reported on the supply and requirements of physicians (by specialty and geographic location) for the "current time" (1980) through 2000. The report gave 40 recommendations, many dramatically affecting physicians, medical schools, residency programs, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and other medical professionals. Specifically for PAs, the response by the American Academy of Pediatrics reflected the feelings of organized medicine: "An increase in non-physician health care providers aggravates the impending physician surplus and poses a public policy dilemma." ²

As you might imagine, it took time to understand and carry out the GMENAC recommendations. By 1983, medical schools had limited enrollment to 1980 levels (17% reduction), established no new medical schools and decreased the size of residency programs. These actions resulted in a 20% decrease in the number of US physician residents -- leading to an increase in the number of foreign medical graduates admitted to residency programs. Beginning in 1982, no new PA Programs were established. With a decrease in federal funding (that lasted through 1990), the number of PA students/graduates dropped. During this time period, reimbursement for PA patient services was recommended, with the caveat that the payment be made to the practice/hospital.

The results of these changes were felt by all medical professionals, including practicing PAs. In 1985-86, leaders of medicine and policy makers began to challenge the GMENAC Report research process, the statistical analysis and data sets and the resulting recommendations.³ While the prediction of a large increase in number of physicians was supported, the oversupply of physicians relative to the population need seemed to be a primary contributing factor to the questioning of other recommendations. "A lesson of GMENAC is that accurately predicting health workforce supply and demand is difficult." ⁴

And so, the waves keep lashing the shore... a Tsunami?

(GMENAC Report, continued on page 7)



Pop Quiz: Do you Know you PA history?

Test your knowledge of PA history by answering this question:

Which of the following best describes the PA educational model developed by Dr. Eugene A. Stead, Jr. at Duke University in 1965?

- 1. Former military corpsmen and medics were selected as the first students
- 2. A two-year academic based program
- 3. Although trained as generalists, students could choose clinical electives in medical and surgical specialties
- 4. Graduates were awarded Bachelor of Health Science degrees upon completion of training

A. 1, 2, and 3.

B. 1 and 3.

C. 2 and 4.

D. 4 only.

E. 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Note: This question is one from Module Three: We Did Not Do This by Ourselves. Goal 2. Learn how physicians, nurses, policy makers and politicians came to support and maximize the development, utilization and regulation of PAs across clinics, agencies, schools and hospitals.

It is one of many found in the **Educational Toolkit** modules that the PA History Society has produced to assist PA educational programs in fulfilling their obligation (as detailed in the ARC-PA Standards of Accreditation)"...to instruct their students in the PA profession, its historical development, and current trends..." The Toolkit is available to PAHx Associates. Learn more about the <u>PAHx Associate</u> benefits here.

OUIZ ANSWER:

Please see page 8 of the newsletter.

Email Communications are Important Historical Documents:

Dr. Eugene Stead's Visit to the AAPA National Office

Marilyn H. Fitzgerald, Honorary PA

One of my New Year's resolutions is to declutter. That includes cleaning out my email account. In early January, I began the task. I decided to start with the oldest emails and work my way to the present day. The first one I found was a December 8, 2000, a jewel from my career days as staff at the American Academy of Physician Assistants. When I found it, I asked the PA History Society archivist, Michelle Schabowski whether PAHx would be interested in keeping this email in its archives. The answer was yes. Here is the email:

"From: Marilyn Fitzgerald

Sent: Friday, December 8, 2000 6:17 PM

To: Steve Crane

Cc: Nancy Hughes; Nicole Gara; Greg Thomas;

Kevin Marvelle; Cheryl Kasunich; Bob Johnston

Subject: Dr. Eugene Stead's Visit Today

This morning, from 9:30-11:30, Dr. Eugene Stead visited the Academy offices – a first for him. Bud Shelton and Jeff Heinrich accompanied him. Even though Dr. Stead is 92 years old, he was sharp, vital, humorous, full of ideas, and energetic (he walked down the stairs from the 3rd floor and stayed standing the whole time – even though we offered him a seat!).

Edd Farrell and I gave them a building tour. Our first stop was the lobby display case, which contains Dr. Stead's portrait. He beamed when he saw it. The building looked great. All staff were prepared and greeted them warmly.



(Email Communications, continued on page 5)



Honoring our History; Ensuring our Future

(Email Communications, continued from page 4)

In addition to seeing headquarters, the purpose of Dr. Stead's visit was to "sell" his idea of a shortened medical school track for PAs to become physicians. He is very concerned that if the profession doesn't address the issue of "glass ceiling" and "career path" for PAs who want to do more than their current roles, that those PAs will not be our allies. He is also concerned about the waste of time, resources, and money that the system dictates when someone who is already a health professional wants to go into another health profession – they have to start from ground zero. There is no lateral, horizontal movement into other professions.

Dr. Stead wants to meet with a group (4 people) of "visionaries" on AAPA's Board of Directors at the February planning meeting to explain his plans. He asked Bud to help him set up the plans for meeting with the group.

Dr. and Mrs. Stead have set aside \$800,000 toward this project. He thinks it will take \$2 million to get it off the ground. He is looking for a private medical school to "buy" his ideas (contribute large sums) so they will implement them to educate the first group. He mentioned East Carolina University and Mercer College (in Georgia). He wants the AAPA, PAF, and APAP to contribute to the effort. He spoke with Lynn O'Connell. He's interested in getting a list of PAs who have become MDs. He is very serious about making this plan happen.

Anyway, more to follow. A very "interesting" morning.

My email discovery caused another flashback from that morning. As we were touring the office, we stopped at a computer. Dr. Stead asked me, "Do you

know what the largest university in the United States is?" I was stumped. He answered, "The University of Phoenix -- because it is an online university." I was so impressed that this 92-year-old man was so "with it." Every time I see an ad for the University of



Phoenix in the media, I think of him on that December day.

Little did I know that he had been thinking about an online "shortened medical school track" for PAs and other health professionals to become physicians. Six months after his visit to the AAPA national office (getting little positive feedback from the PA profession's leaders), an article appeared on Dr. Stead's personal web page entitled, "The Medical School Monopoly: Which school will break ranks with the monopoly and allow an adequate flow of doctors to care for our people."

Here is a link to that June 24, 2001 article – http://easteadjr.org/monopoly.html

Sadly, nothing ever came of his visionary idea. But it does remind us how forward thinking our profession's founding father was.

In this digital age we need to realize that our emails and other born-digital materials can be considered "historic artifacts". The PA History Society has already established a collection and storage policy for these items to ensure that no aspect of PA history will be lost to time! Read the PA History Society's Collection Development Policy here: https://pahx.org/alm-collection-development-policy/.

In Her Own Words: Shelley Hicks, Director, Education, AAPA

Leslie A. Kole, PA-C

Shelley L. Hicks, Director of Education, is retiring on February 22, 2019 after a 40-year career at the

Academy American of Physician Assistants (AAPA). Starting at the AAPA national office in Crystal City, Virginia in 1978 as a temporary staff member (approving **CME** logging forms before computers word and processors), she was hired permanently in 1979 to work



with Jim Bartow, PA-C, the first AAPA Meetings Director, on AAPA's Annual Conference. And the rest is history.

(In Her Own Words, continued on page 6)

Honoring our History; Ensuring our Future



(In Her Own Words, continued from page 5)

She has worked on 40 Annual Conferences – in 25 different cities in the US and Canada - planning the meeting logistics, obtaining pharmaceutical company funding, communicating with conference speakers and working with multiple committees commissions to line up hundreds of hours of CME for conference participants. She's also had some lighter duties, meeting a few celebrities along the way while arranging conference entertainment: Checker, The Lettermen, The Fifth Dimension, Vince Gill, and Dr. Ruth, among others. Grant writer, contract negotiator, on-site fixer and problem-solver, Shelley has done it all in the conference education business. As she heads for the wonderful state of retirement, please join us in thanking her for her selfless service to the PA profession and for the mark of excellence she has made in the field of PA Continuing Medical Education. Her full biography may be found here on the PAHx website.

How have PAs' CME needs changed in the 40 years since you have been working at the AAPA?

As CME funds from employers shrink, there is an increasing demand for free and on-demand education. However, I'm pleased that there continues to be demand for live conferences. There is an increasing demand for hands-on procedural workshops.

What was your biggest challenge as Director of Education?

It is challenging to offer CME that meets the needs of all PAs, from recent graduates to seasoned providers and generalists to specialists.

Which city was your favorite conference location and why?

I suppose it's a tie between New Orleans and San Francisco. Both cities offer exceptional opportunities for attendees to enjoy local culture within footsteps of the conference venues.

Have you ever received care from a PA? How was the experience?

When my internist FINALLY had a PA student on clinical rotation, I encouraged him to hire the PA -- he did. I received exceptional care from my PA during her time with the practice.

What are you most looking forward to in your retirement?

Caribbean cruise. Reading for pleasure. Lunch and museum visits.

You have some history with the Boston Fire Department. Tell us about it?

LOL! The 14th Annual AAPA Conference in 1986 was held at the Sheraton Boston Hotel. On the final night of the conference, we hosted a MASH costume party in the major ballroom, with props including a Jeep, a parachute ceiling, live entertainment, and a chow line. Back in those days, people still smoked. Unfortunately, the production company left too much fuel in the Jeep's tank and Boston's Fire Department (BFD) threatened to shut down the entire party fearing the Jeep might catch fire!! Fortunately, when BFD arrived in full gear (masks and axes) it was near closing time. So, we asked the costumed partygoers to depart explaining that the ballroom had to be re-set for the PANRE the next morning. [PANRE was still offered on the final day of the conference.]

What was the last book that you read?

Great Quotes from Great Leaders compiled by Peggy Anderson. A favorite: "It's what you learn after you know it all that counts." from John Wooden

What is your best childhood/teenage memory?

All of my favorite memories (childhood, teens, young adult years, middle age, and now) are of being surrounded by family. Christmas mornings with the smell of homemade drop donuts and stockings filled with walnuts, oranges and peppermint sticks©

You have known many PAs. What is one piece of advice you would impart to all PAs as you leave your great career at the AAPA?

Never stop learning!

An **eBook** version is now available of *The Physician Assistant: An Illustrated History*. You an order a Kindle version of the book through Amazon.com here.

Honoring our History; Ensuring our Future



(GMENAC Report, continued from page 3)

Between 1982 and 1990, the impact of GMENAC on the PA profession was dramatic:

- No new PA programs were established between 1982 and 1990. 5
- The number of applications, as well as the number of PA graduates, began to decrease in 1984, maintaining the mean number of graduates per program of 20-21. The numbers did not begin to increase until 1990-91 (mean number of 23).6
- Federal funding for PA programs decreased through 1991.⁷
- States raised issues regarding the licensing/registration of PAs, prescriptive privileges, physician supervisory requirements and employment opportunities.

In 1979/1980, through the persistence of Dr. Eugene Stead and the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), the profession gained support from the American Medical Association (AMA) and the American Academy of Family Practice (AAFP). However, in 1983 both the AMA and the AAFP became concerned about this support because of the GMENAC Report.

In fact, the 1984 AAPA House of Delegates discussed the idea that the AAPA did not need and would not accept the AMA and AAFP support. Although never formalized through official AAPA policy, AMA and AAFP were aware of the AAPA HOD discussions. In response, AMA and AAFP began the process of withdrawing support for PAs. Of course, this had huge ramifications for AAPA, including support for PAs at the state level.

In 1984-85 a concerted effort was made by the AAPA Board of Directors, AAPA staff, AAPA state chapters and individual PAs to regain the AMA and AAFP support and establish formal PA representation and recognition. The AAPA expanded its liaison efforts with other medical organizations to create PA representation. A key result was that PAs formally agreed with the stipulation of supervision by their employing physician or medical organizations.

In 1983-85 the AAPA Board recognized that many external factors - clearly a result of GMENAC - were also affecting the support for PAs: the federal government, health care insurers, malpractice insurers, and state licensing boards. To address these issues and entities, and to establish AAPA's participation foothold in external policy decisions affecting PA practice and employment, the AAPA Board agreed to be proactive and to hold a symposium on the future of health care and the place of PAs in the health care system. This was a bold step and ultimately became a pathway to positive change.

Watch for the Spring 2019 *Historical Happenings* article: "The AAPA Symposium - Challenges and Choices – the Future of Health Care."

¹ Peterson SE, Roden AE. GMENAC report on U.S. physician manpower policies: recommendations and reactions. Health Policy Edu Apr, 3(4): 337-49.

Bowman MA, Walsh, WB. Perspectives on the GMENAC Report, Health Affairs, 1982, Vol1, No 4.

- ² Committee on Pediatric Manpower. Critique of the final report of the Graduate Medical Education National Advisory Committee. Pediatrics, Vol 67, May 1981, Number 5, Page 590
- ³ Salsberg, E.S.; Forte, G. Trends in the Physician Workforce, 1990-2000. Health Affairs, Vol. 21, NO. 5 Health Workforce Policy Revisited, 2002.
- ⁴ Cawley, J.F. The GMENAC report and the PA profession. JAAPA, 2016 Oct 29 (10): 49-52.
- ⁵ Oliver, D.R. First Annual Report on Physician Assistant Educational Programs in the U.S., Association of Physician Assistant Programs. 1984-85.
- ⁶ Oliver, D.R. summary data of APAP Annual Reports 1984-1992.
- ⁷ Physician Assistants in the Health Workforce 1994; HRSA Division of Medicine; Final Report of the Advisory Group on PAs and the work force. Submitted to the Council on graduate Medical Education (COGME), 1994, p.27

All things PA History can be found on our website at www.pahx.org!



POP QUIZ: Answer

The Correct Answer is: A

Correct Answer: A

<u>Feedback</u>: Dr. Eugene Stead, Jr., founded a 2-year academic-based model to educate PAs at Duke University in 1965. The curriculum was divided into a didactic and clinical phase. His first students were all former military corpsmen or medics. Students were educated as generalists but could use clinical electives to get more experience in a specialty area of medicine or surgery. Although based in a university setting, the first students received only certificates upon completion of training.

From the Archives: PAHx Celebrates 17th Anniversary

Michelle Schabowski, MSIS

Last month the PA History Society celebrated its



17th birthday on January 17th! The PA History Society was created through the shared vison of Reginald D. Carter, PhD, PA, and J. Jeffrey Heinrich, EdD, PA-C, along with other leaders in the PA community who understood the importance of preserving the history of the profession.

In 2002, one of the first projects of the PA History Society was to make sure that the Duke Medical Archives' materials (over 875 items regarding the establishment of the PA profession) were digitized and preserved. These documents and photographs were of high value as Duke University is the birthplace of the PA profession, hence these materials tell the history of its creation. With the help of the

Duke University Medical Center and Archives, the Society petitioned successfully for grants from the Library Services and Technology Act and Exploring North Carolina's Cultural Heritage Online to fund this digitization project. The original efforts at digitization (and the additions through the years) can be found on our website (www.pahx.org) under the "History" tab of the main menu. You may also take a trip down memory lane and read the Society's first issue of Historical Happenings (the Society's newsletter).

The following year, the Society was awarded a grant from the Josiah C. Trent Fund to create a search engine for the (original) PAHx website. This made it



Original website design – timeline, 2001

possible for users to search efficiently through the Society's digital materials and to upgrade the Society website.

The Society conducted its first oral history interview in 2003. PAHx co-founders Drs. Carter and Heinrich interviewed Thomas Piemme, MD (first president of the NCCPA, second president of PAEA and ninth president of PAHx), Suzanne Greenberg, MS (the first secretary/treasurer of PAEA), and Don Fisher, PhD (the first executive director of the AAPA

and PAEA).
The Society
then recorded
a panel
discussion on
the history of
the profession
with panelists
Piemme,



Greenberg, Fisher, Carter, and Heinrich. You may view portions of that panel discussion on our website.

After these early years, the Society was set on its course to be the go-to place for all things PA History. To see a timeline of the PA History Society's wonderful projects, from its inception to the current day, please visit our Projects page.



PAssages: Prentiss L. Harrison

Prentiss L. Harrison, the first African American PA graduate of the class of 1968 Duke University Physician Assistant Program and a true pioneer of the



profession, passed away December 11, 2018 at age 75. He was a driving force in expanding the diversity of the profession in its early years. Harrison worked with Joyce Nichols, Earl Echard, John Davis, and Steven Turnipseed to establish the AAPA Minority Affairs Committee. His lifelong PA service

focused on providing health care to medically underserved patients.

A Celebration of Life was held December 15, 2018 in Apex, NC. Friends and colleagues interested in honoring Harrison may donate to the White Oak Foundation, Inc. http://whiteoakfoundationnc.org/

To learn more about Mr. Harrison, please view his Biography on our website: https://pahx.org/assistants/harrison-prentiss-l/

You may also view the Duke University obituary here: https://cfm.duke.edu/duke-physician-assistant-program/news-and-events/duke-pa-program-alumnus-prentiss-harrison-nations

Photo Credits:

(Above) Prentiss Harrison examines patient, circa 1970. Courtesy of the Duke University Archives.

(Right) Prentiss Harrison with PAHx Historian Emeritus and Co-Founder, Reginald Carter, 2006. From PAHx Photo Collections.



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Support PA History by Becoming a PAHx Associate

When planning your 2019 Budget, please remember to include PAHx!

With your paid annual PAHx Educational Research Fee, Associates have access to these exclusive benefits:

- online Educational Toolkit with learning modules and test questions
- online Historian Toolkit
- online Exhibit Toolkit
- opportunity for recognition in a monthly feature on the PAHx website home page
- Associate Certificate
- PAHx Speakers Bureau
- PAHx digital images free-of-charge
- recognition on the PAHx website *Associates* page
- featured photograph of your first graduating class

Associates also receive a digital seal to proudly display your support of the PA History Society on your program or organization's website. The PAHx Associate benefits are effective from July 1 – June 30 each year.

This April, PA Program Directors will receive their invoices for 2019-2020 year to help with budgeting for the annual PAHx Education Fee for Associates.







For more information on becoming a PAHx Associate, please visit the Society's website at https://pahx.org/howto-support-us/ or email us at contactus@pahx.org.

Individuals may support the PAHx by becoming a "Friend" of the Society with a \$100 or more annual donation. All "Friends" of the Society are also listed on the PAHx website.

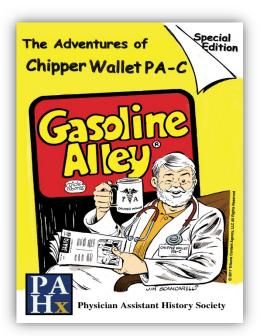






The Adventures of Chipper Wallet, PA-C

Chipper Wallet is a character from the nationally syndicated comic strip, Gasoline Alley. In 1968, Chipper Wallet joined the Navy, became a hospital corpsman, and was sent to Vietnam. When he came home in the early 1970s, he joined one of the early Physician Assistant programs on the advice of the town doctor. Chipper Wallet is credited for being one of the major influences in pop culture that brought the PA profession to the attention of the public. Chipper Wallet has a fond place in the hearts of many pioneering PAs as his journey to become a PA mirrors their own.



Comic Books are \$10 each, plus shipping

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Credit Card Payments can be made via PayPal on the PAHx website at: http://www.pahx.org/pa-history-book

To submit your order, or for additional questions, please contact us at:

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