

10 Talking Points about the PA History Society

1. The Physician Assistant History (PAHx) Society was incorporated in North Carolina on Jan 17, 2002 as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) membership organization for educational, research and literary purposes; bylaws were adopted and co-founders Jeffrey Heinrich, EdD, PA-C was elected president and Reginald Carter, Ph.D., PA was appointed director on May 22, 2002.
2. The Society was formed to support the PAHx Center affiliated with the Duke University Medical Center (DUMC) Library and Archives.
3. The Society's mission is to preserve, study and share the history of the Physician Assistant profession and to illustrate how PAs continue to make a difference in our society. The Society strives to make PA history meaningful and inspiring to the next generation of PAs and the public.
4. In 2004, the Society became financially independent from Duke University and moved its offices to the Stead Center in 2006. In 2008, the Society became a supporting organization of the American Academy of Physician Assistants and later in 2011, a supporting organization of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. The Society's archival collection was transferred from Duke University Medical Center to the PAHx offices in Johns Creek, GA.
5. The Society's archives contain the largest collection of digital and physical historical materials pertaining to the PA profession. The archive collection contains organizational records, personal papers, photographs, videos, and oral histories.
6. The Society's Photo and Video Collection contains images created by the PAHx or donated to the Society by organizations, institutions and individuals. Selected items have been digitized and made available via the Society's website. The collection includes photographs, slides and videos created by the American Academy of Physician Assistants and the personal photographs of Dr. Eugene Stead donated by his family and friends, among many other donors.
7. The Society's Oral History Collection contains audiotapes, videos and DVDs with corresponding transcripts produced either by the Society or by others and then donated to the Society. Currently 191 of those items have been digitized.
8. The Society's Library Collection contains articles, books, manuscripts, dissertations and reports spanning over 50 years. The collection contains over 887 articles and 382 books. Some of the books are from Dr. Stead's personal library.
9. The Society's Museum Collection features artwork, artifacts and exhibitions that interpret the story of the physician assistant profession from its inception and development in the United States in the 20th Century to its expansion internationally in the 21st Century. The museum collections are displayed at two primary locations: (1) The Society's National Office located in Johns Creek, GA and (2) The Eugene A. Stead, Jr. Center for Physician Assistants, Durham NC.
10. The Society has produced an Educational Toolkit to help teach PA history to students, a Historian Toolkit to teach PA programs and organizations how to preserve their own institutional history, developed PA Historian Boot Camps, published an illustrated PA History book, and created an Celebration Toolkit that was used by PA programs to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the PA profession and can be used for other special celebrations. The Society worked with the National Library of Medicine to produce a 5-year traveling banner exhibit and worked with the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants to establish the Veterans Garden at the Stead Center to honor veteran and active duty PAs, especially the pioneering PAs who were former medics and corpsmen. In 2019, the PAHx produced a video tour of the Stead Center and the Society's holdings located at the Center. The video is featured on the PAHx website.