

# Historical Happenings

Newsletter of the Physician Assistant History Society

## Message from the President

Stephen D. Wilson, PA-C



It seems like it was just yesterday that I completed my last message to you and yet it has been several months. Time flies when you are having fun and being a part of this Society is fun and full of activity!

In my last message to you I acknowledged Reg Carter as he retires as Historian Emeritus at the end of the year. We celebrated Dr. Carter's outstanding service at our most recent Board meeting. Please see our appreciation article on page 5.

We also welcomed our new Historian, Tricia Marriott, MPAS, MJ, CHC, DFAAPA, PA-C. Ms. Marriott has over 32 years of PA experience and has served in many leadership roles in her PA career, including president of the Connecticut Academy and program director of the University of Saint Joseph.

At the end of this year, Past President Debi Gerbert, Secretary/Treasurer John Davis, Trustees Leslie Kole and Maha Lund, and Student Trustee Joshua Penninger are concluding their very productive terms on our Board. We wish them well and know they will keep in contact and continue to support the Society in its mission. Please see our appreciation feature on page 4.

To fill these vacancies the Nominating Committee had its work cut out for them, due to the tremendous number of applicants that were received. The NCCPA Board of Directors has approved Greg Thomas, MPH, PA-C Emeritus and Deb Munsell, DHSc, DFAAPA, PA-C, as the new Trustees. Mr. Thomas is a PA with more than 45 years of experience and has recently retired after serving employed positions for AAPA, PAEA, and NCCPA. He will bring a deep and varied historical perspective of serving the PA profession. Dr. Munsell is a PA of

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41 years and is currently an associate professor at the Mississippi State University PA Program. She noted in her application letter that: "Preserving the history of the profession for future clinicians and policy makers is essential to the progression and evolution of our profession."

*(President Message, continued page 4)*

## Remembering Pioneering PA and Founding Member of PAHx Ruth Ballweg, MPA, PA-C Emeritus



With great sadness the PA History Society says goodbye to one of its founding members and leaders, Ruth Ballweg, MPA, PA-C Emeritus. Ruth passed away early Sunday morning, November 20, 2022.

Ruth had been involved with the PAHx since its inception in 2002. She served as secretary, president and later historian.

Ruth was a MEDEX graduate (1977) and would return to the program as an educator (1981) and its program director (1985-2014). As program director, she was actively involved in healthcare issues in the states of Washington, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and Alaska.

She was a past president of the Association of Physician Assistant Programs (now PAEA) and the Washington Academy of Physician Assistants; and she was an Advisor to the Washington State Medical Quality Assurance Commission. From 2002-2008, she served as a PA director-at-large on the Board of Directors of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). Subsequently, she was an inaugural member of the Board of Directors of the NCCPA Foundation (2006-2011), which is now known as the nccPA Health Foundation.

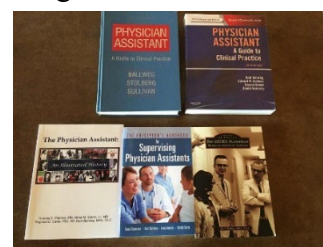
Ruth was recognized in 2012 by the American Academy of PAs and presented with the **Eugene A. Stead, Jr. Award of Achievement**. In November 2015, Ms. Ballweg received the first Lifetime Achievement Award from PAEA.



*Photo left:*  
Ruth with MEDEX founder, Dick Smith, 2004. Photo taken by Ken Harbert.

One of Ruth's passions was to see the spread and development of the PA concept internationally. To that end, she served as the Director of International Relations for the NCCPA. She facilitated international meetings focusing of certification and regulatory issues. In addition, she worked with governments and universities in Canada, the UK, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Ghana, Mozambique, Ireland, and China to promote the physician assistant concept.

Ruth was a prolific author and presenter. She was the editor and contributor to the first American textbook written on PA training, now in its seventh edition and named after her: *Ballweg's Physician Assistant: A Clinical Guide to Practice*. She also was a co-author for the Society's first publication: *Physician Assistants: An Illustrated History* and a chapter author for the second publication: *Physician Assistants as Social Innovators in Healthcare*.



For more on Ruth Ballweg's amazing contributions to the PA profession, please visit [her biography](#).

You may watch Ruth's oral histories by clicking on the links below:  
[Ruth Ballweg on the PA History Society](#)  
[Ruth Ballweg on the Development of the PA Profession in the Netherlands](#)

You may also listen to this audio only oral history by Ruth [by clicking here](#).

**Thank you, Ruth, for your tremendous contributions to the PA profession and the PA History Society – you will be missed!**



*Photo left:*  
Ruth accepting award with AAPA President Robert Wooten, 2012

*(Ruth Ballweg Remembered, continued on page 3)*



*(Ruth Ballweg Remembered, continued from page 2)*

The photographs are courtesy of the PA History Society, Ruth Ballweg Collection, and Gloria Stewart, EdD, PA.



Could it be? Our "Ruth" to be featured in upcoming "Gasoline Alley" comic strip...



TUES. DEC. 6, 2016



*(President Message, continued from page 1)*

Also joining us as the NCCPA appointed Trustee is Robin Hunter-Buskey, DHSc, MPAS, PA-C. She is a Captain in the US Public Health Service and is well known in the PA community for her hard work, leadership, and dedication. Our 2023 Student Trustee, Sophi Scarnewman, is studying at the Stanford University PA Program. In her letter of interest, she stated: "As a student trustee, I would be a point of connection between the past and the future of our field, taking the wisdom I gain from engaging with PA history and illuminating its relevance and importance to my PA student colleagues across the world."

The PAHx Board held its election of officers during our recent meeting. Trustee Robert Smith, MS DHSc, DFAAPA, PA-C, has been elected as President-Elect and Trustee Bill Kohlhepp, DHSc, PA-C, DFAAPA, was elected to the position of Secretary/Treasurer. Their terms begin in January 2023, and we look forward to their continued strong work.

Every day, we all make our own personal history. By the time you read this message, my personal history will include not getting up early in the morning and heading off to work. After 48+ years, my career in surgery has come to an end, as I officially retire. In this season of the year, we tend to reflect on what has come to pass, hug family and friends in thankful celebration, and count our many blessings. Now I sometimes get lost in contemplation of a time that has gone by so fast while anticipating a different yet rewarding future. I hope each of you take the time to consider your own history as this year comes to an end. I encourage you to also look to the future with enthusiasm and commitment. Keep your family and friends close. Reach out to your neighbors with a helpful hand. Use your talents to their full capacity. Enjoy life. Make history. Have a joyous holiday season!

*All things PA History can be found  
on our website at [www.pahx.org](http://www.pahx.org)!*

## ***Passages: Judith B. Willis, MA, PA, DFAAPA***

*Marilyn H. Fitzgerald, Honorary PA*

Judith Bonsib Willis passed away on October 12, 2022, at the age of 81, in Washington, DC. She is survived by her beloved children, Jennifer Willis-Rivera (Daniel), Gina Kiang (Tim), Mathew Willis, and Nathan Willis (Sue) and grandchildren, Zachary, Alex, Arcelia, Mica, Harrison, and Braden.



A member of the first graduating class of the Western Michigan University PA Program in 1976,



Judith Willis, St. Louis  
Conference, 1983

Judi began her PA leadership roles on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Academy of PAs (1978-82) followed by the American Academy of PAs Board of Directors (1980-1986). Judi was the first woman elected

to serve as President of AAPA in 1984-1985. An esteemed career followed, including local, state, and federal government service in health care and PA research. She also founded and owned a national healthcare provider credential verification service and a business development and strategic planning consultant firm. She was a university professor and prolific author of professional papers. Her achievements were recognized with awards and prestigious leadership appointments.

For details on her honorable life, please view her [PAHx biography](#), [PAHx oral history](#), and [Washington Post obituary](#).

*(Passages: Judith B. Willis, continued on page 9)*



## Thank You, Reg!

*PAHx Co-Founder & Historian Emeritus  
Retires December 2022*

*With our appreciation and gratitude, we thank you, Reg for being a shining light on "all things PA history"!*



If you're a fan of PA history, and we sure hope that you are, then we're sure you are a fan of Reginald D. Carter, PhD, PA! Reg, as his friends call him, and the late, J. Jeffrey Heinrich, Ed.D., PA-C, co-founded the PA History Society. Along with a dedicated group of PAs, their

dream of establishing a national organization charged with preserving and sharing the history of the PA profession was realized in 2002. Over the last 20 years of the PA History Society's existence, Reg has served as the organization's Co-Founder, Executive



Director, and Historian Emeritus. In addition, he has served in leadership roles on the boards of the AAPA, APAP (now known as PAEA), NCCPA and the PA Foundation. Historian Emeritus Carter is the recipient of several awards, including the 2019 PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award.

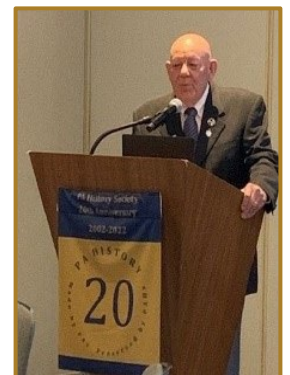
Reg has been instrumental in the success of numerous "big projects" of the Society over the past 20 years, including:

- ✓ Obtained the first grant to develop a digital library of important documents related to the establishment of the PA profession
- ✓ Developed the Society's first website
- ✓ Garnered a second grant to move the Society's office to the Eugene A. Stead, Jr. Center built and

owned by the North Carolina Academy of PAs in 2006

- ✓ Compiled the first PA profession timeline on the Society's website
- ✓ Together with the Society's first archivist, Mira Waller, created the Dr. Stead office museum and various exhibits housed at the Stead Center to showcase the history of the profession
- ✓ Establishment of the PA Veterans Garden at the Stead Center
- ✓ Created the Chipper Wallet, PA-C commemorative comic book
- ✓ Partnership with the National Library of Medicine PA profession traveling banner and online exhibition
- ✓ Developed with a group of PA educators the Educational Learning Modules
- ✓ Participated in the Society's PA Historian Boot Camps
- ✓ Composed of the PA History Society's 15th Anniversary Manuscript and updated it for the 20th Anniversary
- ✓ Contributing author to the Society's books: *The Physician Assistant: An Illustrated History* and *Physician Assistants as Social Innovators in Healthcare*

As the PA History Society concludes its 20th Anniversary in 2022 and the Trustees and staff are looking ahead to the next 20 years, we would like to take this moment to thank our dear friend, Reg, for his vision that created the PAHx, for his dedication to the PAHx and PA history, and for his years of support growing the Society's archives and collections.



At the end of this year, Reg will be starting a new chapter as well. We wish Reg all the best as he begins his retirement. The PAHx is not saying "good-bye", but simply, "We'll see you soon, Dr. Carter."

If you would like to send a message to Reg, please email it to the Society at: [contactus@pahx.org](mailto:contactus@pahx.org) and those messages will be forwarded to him. You can also visit the Society's [Facebook](#) page to post a message.

## Thank You, Trustees for your Service on the PAHx Board

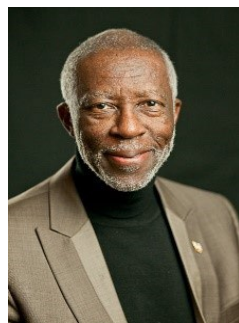
Our Board of Trustees is saying goodbye to five amazing individuals as they each complete their terms of service at the end of this year. They each have been strong supporters of the work and mission



of the Society during their tenures, and they will be missed. Immediate Past President [Debi Gerbert](#) served in the officer positions of Secretary/Treasurer and President, which includes the roles of President Elect and

Immediate Past President and Chair of the Nominating Committee. Ms. Gerbert's cheerful and positive personality was always a pleasure during the meetings of her tenure as President, which coincided with the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Secretary/Treasurer [John Davis](#) has been the consummate PA history cheerleader during his tenure, constantly promoting the projects of the Society to the PA community. Mr. Davis has never met a stranger. Whether



he was at a PA conference or traveling abroad, he proudly wore his PAHx lapel pin and was happy to tell you about the PA profession and the latest projects of the Society. In addition to Mr. Davis' officer role, he also contributed as a chapter author of the Society's new book and served on the PAHx Book Task Force. During her tenure, board member



[Maha Lund](#) provided thoughtful feedback and strategic planning for the organization's various projects. Dr. Lund was also a chapter author and member of Book Task Force for the Society's new book. She also served on the 20th Anniversary and Nominating Committees.

[Leslie Kole](#) has been one of the hardest working Trustees, spearheading the development of Society's recent book. When she wasn't working as a PA at a heart clinic, Ms. Kole was writing and editing the Society's 408-page publication, *Physician Assistants as Social Innovators in Healthcare*. The Society's 2022 Student Trustee, [Josh Penninger](#), has



demonstrated his passion for PA history and his writing talents during his one-year term, having written several newsletter articles and biographies. He also attended the NCCPA's recent RESPECT! Summit.

*Thank you, Trustees Gerbert, Davis, Lund, Kole, and Student Trustee Penninger for your dedication to preserving PA history and for serving on the PAHx Board!*

### ***In His Own Words: Richard Vause, Jr. DHSc, MPAS, PA-C, FCPP, DFAAPA, Captain USPHS (retired)***

*Bruna Varalli-Claypool, MHS, PA-C  
PAHx Trustee & Newsletter Editor*

***What did working for the Federal Bureau of Prisons teach you about yourself that you didn't know before?***

That I had a knack for management, administration, and public speaking. Working for Rear Admiral, USPHS [Ret] Kenneth Moritsugu, many times I had to prepare presentations for the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, members of Congress, and community organizations. I also did presentations to students around the country about the Commissioned Corps and the National Health Service Corps funding programs that were available to them.

*(In His Own Words: Rich Vause, continued on page 8)*



## Inaugural REPRESENT! Summit

*Joshua Penninger, MSM, PA-S2  
REPRESENT! Participant and  
2022 PAHx Student Trustee*

The inaugural REPRESENT! Summit, hosted by NCCPA, took place on September 8-9, 2022, at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta, GA. This summit focused on increasing racial diversity, equity, and inclusion in the PA profession through a series of workshops hosted by the renowned facilitator, [Theresa M. Robinson](#). Ms. Robinson is a catalyst for inclusion and anti-racism and is known for pushing groups to have those uncomfortable conversations necessary for self-growth. The summit hosted an incredible panel of PA leaders in the DEI space who shared their stories and wisdom with attendees. The keynote speaker was [Dr. Uché Blackstock](#), a New York City physician, who is a leader in both health equity and addressing racism in healthcare and currently serves as a medical contributor on MSNBC.

On September 9th, 2022, leaders from the four national PA organizations of NCCPA, AAPA, PAEA, and ARC-PA signed a pledge to diversify the profession by 30% by 2030. This historic moment signifies that the PA profession is long overdue for deconstructing systemic racism and breaking down barriers to access for historically excluded individuals. With over 50 years of minimal progress, it is time for members of our profession to unite and collectively dismantle the system that has created this inequity. This coming year will be crucial for both the four national organizations and members of the PA profession to develop a concrete plan to accomplish this goal; our profession will not see change if we continue to be indifferent.

I would like to thank Dr. Dawn Morton-Rias, EdD, PA-C, ICE-CCP, and the NCCPA for hosting this event and for their leadership and dedication to DEI.

### *Panel of DEI leaders (L to R):*

Host Shani Fleming, MSHS, MPH, PA-C, Temple Howell-Stampley, MD, MBA, FACP, Elias Villarreal, Jr., MPAS, DMSc, PA-C, Daytheon Sturges, PhD, MPAS, PA-C, CAHIMS, CHES, and Calbeth Chika Alaribe, MPH, MS, PA



## Welcome Tricia Marriott PAHx Historian



With Historian Emeritus Carter retiring at the end of 2022, the new year will bring a new historian to the PA History Society, Tricia Marriott, PA-C, MPAs, MJ, CHC, DFAAPA. Ms. Marriott has been a PA for 36 years, holding positions as a clinical PA and as a PA educator. Her experience includes numerous leadership roles throughout the PA profession, including various staff positions during her eight years at the AAPA. Ms. Marriott currently serves as the program director at the University of Saint Joseph's PA program and participates on the JAAPA Editorial Board. *"Tricia brings a wealth of research, writing, and presentation experience to the PAHx. We are looking forward to having her as part of the PAHx team starting in 2023 and tapping into Tricia's expertise as we develop future educational projects,"* said PAHx Managing Director Lori Konopka-Sauer.

*(In His Own Words: Rich Vause, cont. from page 6)*

***How would you describe a day in the life of a Federal Tort Claims Act Coordinator with the Department of Health and Human Services?***

My position as a regional Federal Tort Claims Act Coordinator was just one aspect of my day-to-day duties. This task required me to gather as much information as possible concerning a particular tort claim (an informal notice of a claim that might be settled without a formal lawsuit) and forward it to a third-party evaluator. After a brief period, the evaluator would contact me with their recommendations, which I would then forward to the appropriate offices for action. Most of these cases involved malpractice claims against one of the Federally Qualified Health Centers and/or a provider or providers within that center. Once this information was forwarded to the proper authorities, my involvement with the claim was terminated.



***What is your favorite way to listen to music?***

My favorite way to listen to music is generally in a room with excellent acoustics, high quality speakers, a good subwoofer and with minimal distractions. As my taste in music is very eclectic, I may do anything from singing along, conducting, or dancing to the music.

***Beach or Mountains?*** Both!!! MarLee [Vause's wife] and I built a log cabin in the mountains in Island Park, Idaho, overlooking Henry's Lake, which is just outside of Yellowstone National Park. I spend as much time as possible there because I love the peace and tranquility of being in the mountains and the view of the beautiful



high mountain lake. However, I also love the beach, and whenever possible we spend time at one of our time shares in Mexico, Hawaii, or the Caribbean.

***Where was your last vacation?***

Three days in Rome followed by an 11- day cruise through Italy, Greece, and Turkey. It is amazing how seeing things you have only read about in books or studied about in school can have such a profound influence on you. The Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica, the Coliseum, the Pantheon, and the Roman Forum were spectacular. In Athens, the Acropolis and the Parthenon were far more than I ever expected. Visiting Pompeii and seeing the mummified human remains and the exquisite mosaic work that has been excavated in many of the homes was remarkable to see. In Istanbul, the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia were spectacular.



***What did you enjoy most about your time stationed in Germany?***

Besides the opportunity to travel through Germany and France, I think I enjoyed the people more than anything. From the day I arrived until the day I came back to the States, I found the German people to be wonderful. I was stationed near the little mountain village of Hoenfels, and the people there went out of their way to be friendly and make you feel comfortable and at home.

***If you write a book, what would the title be?***

Strange that you should ask this question, as I'm currently in the process of assembling material to put into a book. The title would be, "You Can't Make This Stuff Up". It's about some of the weird, funny, and unfortunately tragic things that I've seen in my 45+ years as a PA.

*(In His Own Words: Rich Vause, continued on page 9)*



*(In His Own Words: Rich Vause, cont. from page 8)*

***What do you enjoy most about retirement?***

Everything!!! I now have the time to do all those things to which I said “maybe next year”. There is a freedom one gains knowing that you now set your own schedule. I can decide what to do when I wake up in the morning, and if that decision is to do absolutely nothing, then I do absolutely nothing. My wife and I can jump in the car and just drive to any of the national parks around Las Vegas, to the Grand Canyon, to California to take a three-day cruise or to visit Los Angeles and know that there is no particular schedule that we have to meet. My stress level has dropped to practically zero. I’ve developed several new hobbies that I simply love doing. Since retiring, I have returned to my love for woodworking. For the last year, I have been working with MarLee making charcuterie and cutting boards. I do the woodwork and she enhances them with resin. The best part of retirement is I have more time to spend with family and friends.

***What’s your favorite memory after many years of PA practice?***

There are far too many wonderful memories to pick just one. To name a few: flight training during the Army Flight Surgeon course, meeting Rear Admiral, USPHS [ret] Moritsugu and ultimately being assigned to work under his command, my father being able to place the rank of CAPT/06 on my shoulders with Lieutenant Colonel, USAF, David “Bubba” Gwinn presiding over the promotion ceremony, meeting MarLee in the AAPA House of Delegates, chairing the Federal Services PA Dining Out event, hooding my daughter, Rayna, when she graduated PA school in 2017. There is also the joy and thankfulness shown by my patients when I figured out a problem that had been bothering them for a considerable period and meeting my wonderful PA colleagues, most of whom are now dear friends. Just too many great memories to pick just one.



*(Passages: Judith B. Willis, cont. from page 4)*

In her “free” time, Judi was an accomplished artist, enthusiastic gardener (calla lilies), masterful home designer and interior decorator, and generous hostess. She always remembered birthdays and sent handwritten thank you notes on fine stationery.

She was also a curious visionary -- always inventing something that would improve our daily lives. She would envision the concept, research it thoroughly, write a detailed description, develop a strategic plan, hire a patent and trademark attorney, and then call me from her car to explain and discuss it via speaker phone. The invention I remember most vividly is the “Tornado Tamer” in 2013. It proposed an architectural design solution to reduce the loss of life and risks of damage to large buildings (schools, hospitals, and malls) in Tornado Alley states.

She was proud of her PA roots and service and kept abreast of the latest AAPA policies and achievements. It was so “Judi” that she would pass away on October 12, 2022, the conclusion of PA Week.

My sister, Shelley, and I had been with Judi for a dinner on August 16 at a restaurant in her Washington, DC condominium, where she had recently moved



*L to R: Marilyn Fitzgerald, Judith Wills & Shelley Hicks*

from South Carolina to be closer to family. We loved that we could gather again, maskless, after a too-long pandemic. We chattered away about life, AAPA friends, politics, health, aging, and family. We promised to gather again very soon. I was shocked and saddened by the passing of a loyal, lovely, and loving friend of 44 years a short nine weeks later. I will sorely miss our texts, conversations, periodic ladies’ lunches and drives around DC, and our sisterhood.

Services honoring Judi will be held in Fort Wayne, Indiana in the spring of 2023. Donations in Judi’s name can be made to Random Acts ([www.randomacts.org](http://www.randomacts.org)).

## An Extraordinary Event in Puerto Rico

*Robert S. Smith, PA-C, MS, DHSc, DFAAPA  
Conference Participant and PAHx Trustee*

On August 19-21, 2022, Academia de Asociados Médicos de Puerto Rico (AAMPR) and PAs for Latino Health (PALH) co-sponsored AAMPR's inaugural health summit, Partners in Health Care for Puerto Rico, in San Juan, Puerto Rico at the Verdanza Hotel.

Partners in Health Care for Puerto Rico was organized by collaborative groups working in unison. These groups included: local physicians, medical schools including the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) and San Juan Bautista School of Medicine (SBJ), professional organizations, community organizations, and community workers Mabel Lassalle, CEO, (Connecting Paths PR, Inc.), Aideliz Hidalgo, CEO and director, (Passarella by Aideliz), and Cesar Rolon, co-founder, (Illinois Unidos). [For a complete list of participating organizations, please see the end of this article.]

The conference was designed to bring these groups together to address the health disparities of the island and create an opportunity to share and demonstrate what the PA profession (*asociados médicos* in Spanish) is and how PAs help provide quality care. During the conference, many issues were identified and a strategic plan was created to implement ways that each group could collectively address these issues, with quarterly and annual follow ups. Issues brought up included the mistrust of the

healthcare system in Puerto Rico and the need to provide access to care for primary, specialty and mental health care. With only 10,000 doctors in Puerto Rico, the need for



Leaders from AAPA, PAEA, NCCPA, ARC-PA, AAMPR, PALH

healthcare is vast. Other concerns were the ability to address catastrophic events like hurricanes, infrastructure issues, and creating teams comprising of both medical and community members to be part of a fast response group.

This conference also offered a chance to address some of the problems included in the language of Executive Order 71 (Ley 71), which was passed in 2017. This is the law that allows PAs to practice in Puerto Rico, but with a much more limited scope of practice than PAs in the United States.

The Partners in Health Care for Puerto Rico was a great success. The various groups that attended left voicing complete support at every level for *asociados médicos*, realizing that the goal was not to replace physicians, but to enhance healthcare as a team. Jose Acaron, Director of AARP Puerto Rico, was quoted on a Telemundo interview afterward as saying, *...that "Asociados médicos (Certified PAs) are no longer an option but rather a necessity!"*



Jose Acaron, AARP Director

The conference attendees are looking forward to continued discussions addressing the health disparities of the people of Puerto Rico and working collaboratively together on the various issues faced by *asociados médicos* on the island. They are looking forward to next year's health summit to celebrate accomplishments and further refine and define how to better serve health care needs in Puerto Rico.

Participating groups in the health summit were as follows: the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA), the American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA), the PA Education Association (PAEA), the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the PA (ARC-PA), the National Commission on Certification of PAs (NCCPA), the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the American Cancer Society, the American Lung Association, the American Diabetic Association, the Veterans Affairs Department of Puerto Rico, and the AstraZeneca company.

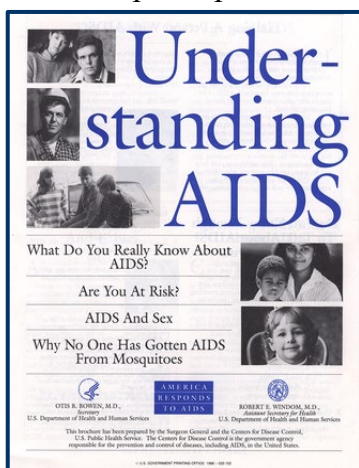


## New PA Historical Perspectives Addition: PAs Combat AIDS Epidemic, 1980s-1990s

*Reginald D. Carter, PhD, PA*

This newly published essay on the [Society's website](#) provides a brief overview of the social and political impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the USA during the 1980s and 1990s and the founding of the AAPA LGBT PA Caucus and its role in educating PAs to the needs of infected HIV patients. It also provides a historical perspective from several PAs who were involved in the battle against HIV/AIDS during the early years of the epidemic.

[Oral history interviews](#) were conducted with PAs who had first-hand experience either working directly with HIV infected patients and/or educating the public and their fellow healthcare workers about the risks of contracting HIV and how to test and treat HIV infected patients. Those who participated in the PA History Society's project include Eric Schuman, Karen Newell, Blaine Paxton Hall, Peter Bergé, Mark Behar and Kirsten Gipson. Schuman recounts the helplessness of watching a friend die of AIDS before there was any treatment available and the stigma his friend had to endure while succumbing to the disease. Newell recalls that the stigma attached to HIV/AIDS prohibited many patients from getting timely and appropriate healthcare. Hall remembers enduring the post-exposure prophylaxis treatment that followed when he was stuck by a needle while placing a catheter into an HIV positive patient. Bergé describes working with Dr. Donna Mildvan, an infectious-disease specialist and pioneer in HIV/AIDS research in New York, who was performing clinical trials on HIV infected patients. Behar recalls chairing the National Coalition of Gay STD Services and serving as the editor of the



coalition's newsletter that covered a variety of topics, such as risk factors, treatment modalities, funding, and political issues associate with HIV/AIDS. Gipson remembers being elated when President Bill Clinton mentioned the word "AIDS" in his 1993 inaugural address. Gibson noted, "Politicians never said the 'A' word, only the CDC or Public Health Service."

In addition to these vignettes extracted from their oral histories, the participants recall the importance of the AAPA LGBT Caucus as a social and professional haven and its impact on educating and sensitizing PAs about health issues pertinent to the LGBTQ+ community. Their initial collective feeling of helplessness, the frustration of using medications that did not work, the excitement of being able to test for HIV and finally the scientific breakthroughs with drugs that were effective are all embedded in their stories. If you are a PA and have first-hand experience working with HIV/AIDS patients, please [email](#) the PAHx office if you would like to share your personal story as well.

## Congratulations to the PAHx's PA Week Winners

During PA Week, the Society asked PA students to share how they were planning to make PA history after graduating from PA school! Entries were submitted via email and social media and a random drawing of three entries was selected. These PA students listed below were the lucky winners and received one of our fabulous PAHx gift packs each:

- ❖ Agnes Lovell (MEDEX Seattle)
- ❖ Megan Nosol (Quinnipiac University)
- ❖ Deepthi Krishna (Canisius College)

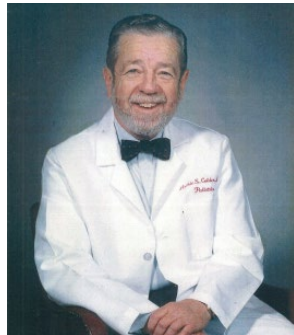
The PA History Society is sure we will be hearing more about these students and their impacts on healthcare in the future!



## Remembering Dr. Archie Golden, MD, MPH

*James F. Cawley, MPH, PA-C, DHL(h)*

Archie Golden, MD, MPH, a past President of the Association of Physician Assistant Programs (APAP, now known as PAEA) and a progressive medical education leader who had early interest in establishing programs for new health professionals at Johns Hopkins, passed in his sleep on August 16, 2022, at the age of 91. Golden was a pediatrician, PA education leader, and global community health activist.



Golden was the founding program director of the Johns Hopkins Health Associate Program based in the then-School of Health Services at The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutes from 1972 through 1979.

He was Associate Professor of Pediatrics at The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Associate Professor in the Department of International Health at The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at The Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. As stated in [his obituary](#), Golden “wrote and edited two books, *An Inventory for Primary Care Practice* and *The Art of Teaching Primary Care* and published over 100 articles and chapters in medical journals. Dr. Golden brought innovation to the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and Bayview Medical Center.”<sup>1</sup> He was active in APAP throughout the 1970s and served as the organization’s president in 1977.

“Golden earned his MD degree from the University of Vermont, served his residency in pediatrics at Bellevue Hospital in New York, and earned his MPH from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health where he then went on to become a faculty member. While part of the faculty, he gained experience in designing educational programs to train a variety of community health workers in South America working for Project Hope. Golden was Project HOPE’s first medical director in Peru from 1962 to 1965.”<sup>2</sup> Golden joined Project

Hope and held appointments as a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Trujillo in Peru and at Cartagena University Hospital in Colombia. “In both Peru and Colombia, he trained a variety of community health workers and treated patients. In 2010, the President of Peru presented Dr. Golden a special award for Distinguished Service to the People of Peru. In 1969-70, he was director of the health programs at Ganado on the Navajo Indian Reservation.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Passage from Dr. Golden’s [Obituary](#)

<sup>2</sup> Passage from Dr. Golden’s [Biography on PAHx website](#)

## Federal Funding Shapes the PA Profession’s Future Demographics, 1972

*Reginald Carter, Historian Emeritus*

*“One of the most promising ways to expand the supply of medical care and to reduce its cost is through a greater use of... physician’s and dentist’s assistants. Such persons are trained to perform tasks which must otherwise be performed by doctors... themselves.” – President Richard M. Nixon, Health Message, February 18, 1971*

President Richard Nixon set the tone for passage of the Comprehensive Health Manpower Training Act of 1971, that in retrospect, shaped the future demographics of the PA profession. To receive federal funding, PA programs had to train PAs for primary care practice, recruit individuals from underrepresented groups (i.e., women, people of color, and economically-disadvantaged) and place graduates into underserved medical communities. Later known as Title VII funding administered by the Bureau of Health Professions of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), these funds have underwritten much of the cost of educating PAs for the past fifty years. Hence, it seems fitting to revisit this pivotal time in our professional history.

*(Federal Funding, continued on page 13)*

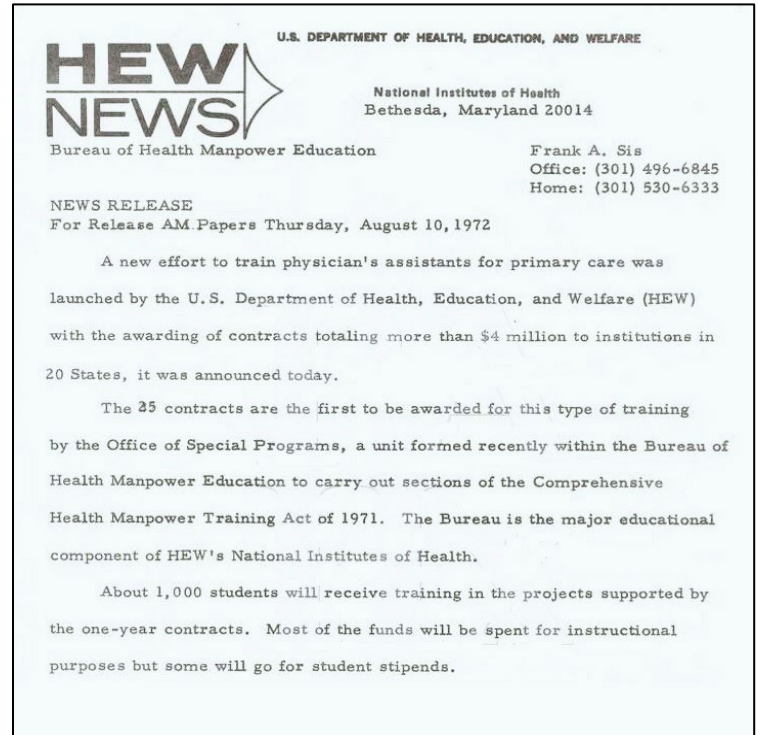


*(Federal Funding, continued from page 12)*

This news release from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare dated August 10, 1972 *[image right]*, announces awarding \$4 million in contracts in Fiscal 1972 to 25 institutions training PAs for primary care.<sup>1</sup> This represents the first time that PA programs received funds from the Office of Special Programs under sections of the Comprehensive Health Manpower Training Act of 1971. The news release lists the amounts awarded to each institution, ranging from \$15,560 (Northeastern University, Boston) to \$276,636 (Harlem Hospital, administered by Antioch College, Washington, DC). To be eligible for funding, all the programs had to meet the “Essentials” issued by the American Medical Association’s Council on Medical Education in December 1971. A variety of programs were funded, ranging in length from one to five years, some ending with the award of a degree or certificate. According to the news release, the type of program completed by graduates determined the title they would use such as physician’s assistant, physician’s associate, MEDEX or something else. It was estimated at the time of funding that the number of PA graduates in the US ranged from 200 to 400. According to the news release, “Twenty-three states have explicitly authorized the activities of physician’s assistants.”

To receive funds, institutions with PA programs had to recruit students either with previous medical experience, who were members of a minority group (women were included in this group at the time), or who were residents of medically underserved areas. In addition, institutions were required to assist the placement of graduates with emphasis on employment in primary care practices located in medically underserved areas. The news release notes that “Although the programs are similar, each is adapted to the local setting. North Dakota and Oklahoma, for example, are engaged in training assistants primarily for practice in rural areas, the Los Angeles and New York City programs prepare graduates to work in inner-city areas.”

The news release contains a section titled “Physician’s Assistants in Perspective” that describes the goals of the Comprehensive Health Care Act of 1971 and its intent to improve the distribution of



health care services to underserved areas. The contracts were awarded for periods of three to five years, with annual review and negotiation. Funds were primarily to be used to cover start-up costs for new programs, instructional and program evaluation costs, limited student support in some instances, and follow up on graduates’ performance.

Reference:

1. HEW News [Release]. (August 1972) United States. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Duke Medical Center Archives. Accessed at [Document | HEW News \[Release\] August 1972 | ID: wm117p03j | MEDSpace \(duke.edu\)](#)

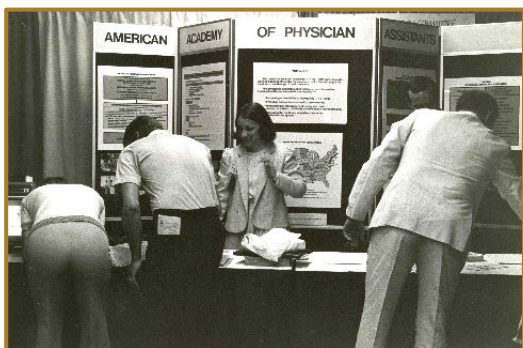
**Stay in Touch with PAHx  
thru Social Media!**

Please be sure to “like” the PA History Society on [Facebook](#) to receive updates and follow us on [Twitter and Instagram](#).

## From the Archives: Organization Records

In the archives, the PA History Society has early records from numerous PA organizations. Below, please find a small fraction of what the Society has!

- ❖ [J. Jeffery Heinrich](#), first president of the Student Academy of the AAPA (SAAAPA) and co-founder of the PA History Society, donated the first decade of materials of the SAAAPA. Materials include meeting minutes, correspondence, bylaw revisions, and handbooks.
- ❖ The [American Academy of PAs Records](#) has documents from 1972 to 2001. This collection has census information, chapter bulletins, correspondence, and documentation on commissioning of PAs in the military, among other topics.
- ❖ The [Marilyn Fitzgerald AAPA Collection](#)



shares the history of the organization from 1968 to 2018 in digital format. The collection has meeting minutes (1968-2012), lists of board of directors members, correspondence, House of Delegates books (1977-2018), International Affairs Committee documents, issues the AAPA focused on, and much more.

- ❖ The [Robert Swanson Public Health Service Academy of PAs Collection](#) documents the organization from 1977 to 2010 and contains correspondence, newsletter publications, meeting minutes and the development of their coin and logo.
- ❖ The [Physician Assistants for Latino Health Collection](#) houses the group's newsletters

(1994-2009), incorporation documents, and other organization records.

- ❖ The [Clara Vanderbilt Papers](#) have the early meeting minutes of the New York State Society of PAs and the National Commission on Certification of PAs.

We also have the records of the [PA History Society](#) itself, from our formation to today! To look at our full listing of finding aids (a list of what each collection has), [please click here](#). If you can't find what you are looking for or if you want to see something in our collection for your research, please contact us at [contactus@pahx.org](mailto:contactus@pahx.org)



## Have You Read the Latest PA Book?

### *Physician Assistants as Social Innovators in Healthcare*

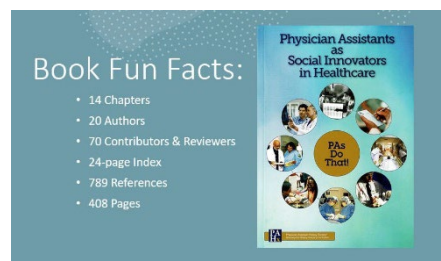
The PA History Society's latest book, *Physician Assistants as Social Innovators in Healthcare*, is the perfect educational resource for PA faculty, students, researchers, and legislators! This book describes the evolution of the PA profession and its role throughout the healthcare system. This dynamic publication defines the development of the PA profession in meeting healthcare needs yesterday, today, and for tomorrow. **[Pick up your copy today:](#)**

\$35.00 + shipping via PAHx website:

<https://pahx.org/pa-history-book/>

\$39.95 + shipping via Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/Physician-Assistants-Social-Innovators-Healthcare/dp/0578341646/ref>





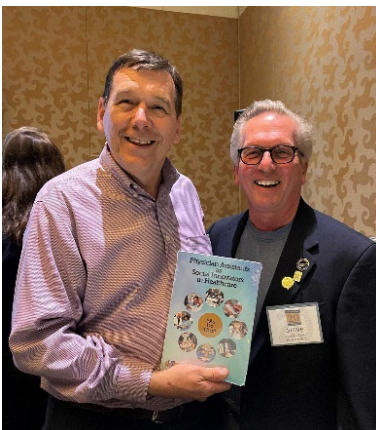
## Thanks for the Memories!

### *Celebrating 20 Years of the PA History Society*

The PAHx Trustees and staff would like to thank everyone who attended our 20th Anniversary reception during the **PAEA Forum** last month. It was wonderful to visit with colleagues and friends of the Society at our conference receptions this year. Enjoy some of the photos from the Society's 20th Anniversary reception in San Diego.









## 20 YEARS PRESERVING PA HISTORY

2

1,040 PRODUCTIVE WEEKS

50 BOARD MEETINGS

56 JOURNAL SERIES

257 BIOGRAPHIES

50 NEWSLETTERS

2,500 IMAGES

410 BOOKS

59 SERIALS

200 VIDEOS

274 REPORTS

920 ARTICLES

230 INTERVIEWS

37 MANUSCRIPTS

35 DISSERTATIONS

56 JOURNAL SERIES

690 MUSEUM ITEMS

55 PERSONAL COLLECTIONS

5 ORGANIZATION RECORDS COLLECTIONS

0

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