



Historical Happenings

Newsletter of the Physician Assistant History Society

A Message from the President

Thomas E. Piemme, MD

It has been an extraordinary year for the Physician Assistant History Society. The highlight has been the publication of the book, *The Physician Assistant: An Illustrated History*. A discussion of the reception of the book at the AAPA Conference in Washington, DC in May can be found on page 2 in this Newsletter.

Through the efforts of Reg Carter, our Historian Emeritus, guided by our Archival Committee, and its Chair, Fred Sadler, the History Society Web site (www.pahx.org) has been substantially upgraded. New archival material has been added; the number of biographies has been doubled. Archival videos have been digitized, and are now being prioritized for placement on the Web site as streaming video. Dr. Carter is in the process of developing finding aids that will enable us to create a catalog for the archival collection.

The Publication Committee has designated topics that are in preparation for publication in *PA Professional* and the *Journal of Physician Assistant Education*.

As new students matriculate, and the academic year begins for most programs, a large part of the activity of the Trustees of the Society is fundraising. The educational fee paid by programs to become “Associates” of the History Society is the life-blood of our ability to gather and preserve the history of the profession. The benefits to programs are many:

- Ten complimentary copies of the new book.
- An opportunity to be featured on the Web site with a link to the program Web site.

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- Mentoring of students engaged in a research project or thesis.
- Prizes to students who produce publishable scholarly work.
- Assistance in research into the program’s own history.
- Open access to historical material in the archives – now enhanced with finding aids.
- Assistance in identifying speakers for program events.

We have been pleasantly rewarded by the number of programs that have begun to order the new book in bulk for distribution to school administrators, faculty, preceptors, and students. Books are given to students either at program orientation, or at “white coat ceremonies.” Many program directors have found the book to be a great resource when teaching

the history of the profession. One program has ordered more than 200 copies. The discounted price for bulk orders is only \$10.00 per copy. A worthwhile consideration!

We look forward to meeting and greeting program faculty and administrators at the meeting of the Physician Assistant Education Association in Memphis next month. See you there!

History Society Book Well Received at AAPA Conference

The new book, *The Physician Assistant: An Illustrated History*, has succeeded beyond the expectation of its authors, Tom Piemme, Fred Sadler, Reg Carter, and Ruth Ballweg. Aided by



Alfred M. Sadler, Jr., MD, Ruth Ballweg, MPA, PA-C, and Thomas E. Piemme, MD at the History Society booth at the AAPA conference in May 2013.

several bulk orders to PA programs, it became apparent within three days at the Conference in Washington in May that we had obligated the entire first printing. A second, larger, printing was ordered, has been received, and is being shipped, as orders are received.

Over the summer, announcements of the availability of the book were sent to all certified PAs, and to all

PA Program directors. While the list price is \$15.95, the book is available from the History Society at \$12.00 a copy (\$10.00 a copy for orders of 10 or more). It has been listed on Amazon and Barnes and Noble, and with all major book distributors.

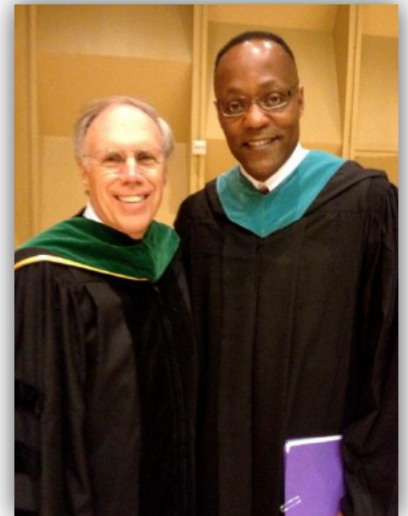
The book has recently been featured on the Web sites of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Macy Foundation, and the Hastings Center. Reviews are pending in several journals. All of the comments on the Amazon Web site have been exceedingly positive.

A flyer with information and an order form are attached to this issue of the newsletter. All of the book proceeds go directly to the History Society.

Commencement Delivered at Two MEDEX Northwest Programs

Alfred M. Sadler, Jr., MD

On August 22, 2013, Commencement Exercises were held for the 45th Seattle Class of the MEDEX PA Program at 9am - followed at 2pm by the Graduation Exercises of the 18th Yakima MEDEX PA Class. I was honored to be asked by Professor Ruth Ballweg, the long time leader of the Program, to serve as commencement Speaker for both events. The day before, she provided me with a tour of the beautiful UW campus. The weather was glorious and we could easily see majestic Mt. Ranier.



Alfred M. Sadler, Jr., MD, and Terry Scott, PA-C, MPA, after the morning ceremony in Seattle.

In my addresses, I emphasized three types of gifts that we who work in health care, are fortunate to give and to receive:
first - we have the privilege of giving to our patients;
second - we receive many gifts from them in return;
third - we have the opportunity to give, in myriads of ways, to the broader community of people who can benefit from our care.

It was a great pleasure to meet faculty, students and families of graduates. Terry Scott is doing a great job succeeding Ruth as the Program Director. The extensive supporting faculty are committed and excellent; and all live the MEDEX Mission that Richard Smith, MD (founder) espoused - to serve the underserved in whatever way possible. The PA Profession is thriving in the great Northwest.

A Visit with Lawrence “Mac” Detmer

Thomas E. Piemme, MD, and Alfred M. Sadler, Jr., MD

While visiting the American Medical Association in Chicago some months ago, Fred Sadler and Tom Piemme had the opportunity to spend time with Mac Detmer at his home on the Northwestern University campus in Evanston, Illinois.

Now well into retirement, Mac was the key figure in crafting the process of accreditation of PA programs, and provided leadership on behalf of the AMA for 20 years, until the responsibility was transferred to the AAPA in 1991. We always treasure opportunities to learn important details that don't appear in source documents. During a long and pleasant afternoon, a large part of the conversation between Mac and the authors was recorded, and a complete transcript will be available on the Society's Web site.

Following the extraordinary publicity that was received by the establishment of the PA program at Duke University in 1965, a host of “programs” of varying length, depth, and quality, arose around the

country, claiming to train assistants to physicians. In 1969, the Federal Bureau of Health Manpower identified more than 200 programs. In 1971, the National Academy of Sciences attempted to classify these programs by length and depth of training with controversial results. Doug Fenderson, Director of the Office of Special Programs at Health Manpower began looking for an agency that could establish criteria, and evaluate the quality of this broad array of training programs.

Meanwhile, having given its blessing to the concept, the AMA charged its Department of Medical Education, under the direction of C. H. William Ruhe, with the responsibility to develop “Essentials” for training qualified assistants (a practice long used by the AMA in developing standards for education in all of the allied health professions). The team within the Department that formed the Council on Allied Health Education and Accreditation (CAHEA), with participation by four medical specialty societies, spent more than a year crafting a document that was adopted by the House of Delegates in November of 1971: “Essentials for Educational Programs for the Assistant to the Primary Care Physician.”

Fenderson then approached Ruhe, offering a contract for the evaluation of 125 of the many programs that were petitioning for recognition. What was now needed was a program director to establish a process to carry out the contract.

Born and raised in Kansas, Mac Detmer received his degree in hospital administration from the



Lawrence “Mac” Detmer

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University of Minnesota, and his hospital administrative residency at Johns Hopkins, where he remained for several years. In 1971, he was engaged in health policy with the American Hospital Association, where a large part of his portfolio was allied health. He was contacted by Ralph Kuhli, Director of CAHEA, and accepted the challenge with enthusiasm.

The AMA and the primary care specialty societies under Mac's direction formed what became known as the Joint Review Committee (JRC-PA). The tasks were to develop criteria to measure training programs against the "Essentials," and to train evaluators to visit and assess performance at site visits. Chaired by Malcolm Peterson, Dean of the School of Allied Health professions at Johns Hopkins, and a colleague of Detmer at Hopkins, the process of accreditation formally began in mid-1972, and soon gained wide acceptance as the official accrediting body for physician assistant education, gaining recognition from the Office of Education of the Department of Health Education and Welfare in 1973.

Detmer was a superlative administrator. He was well respected and well-liked by all who worked with him. When the PA accreditation process was passed to management by the AAPA (ultimately becoming independent as ARC-PA), Mac inherited the leadership of CAHEA itself. When it, too, became independent in 1994, as the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, Mac left the AMA to become its Executive Director. He retired in 1998, but remains in contact with many old friends and colleagues.

Well done, Mac! You are a hero to the PA profession.

Interview with Edmund D. Pellegrino, MD

Alfred M. Sadler, Jr., and Gino Gianola, PA

As PA History Society Trustees, we were fortunate to interview Dr. Pellegrino on May 29, 2013, in his office at Georgetown, where he has served as Director of the Biomedical Institute for the past 21 years and has taught many students and fellows



Ed Pellegrino, MD, Alfred M. Sadler, Jr., MD, and Gino Gianola, PA

there. He has written about many important topics in ethics throughout his entire career, often while serving in major leadership posts in Academic Medicine. He served as Chair of the President's Council on Bioethics from 2005-2009. Fred Sadler and his brother, Blair, first met him in 1968 when they were working on Organ Transplantation at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and helping to found the Hastings Center on Bioethics in 1969. He served as a valuable inspiration and counselor during that period. Gino Gianola has long admired Dr. Pellegrino as a student of and advocate for medical ethics, in his own career.

Dr. Pellegrino played a monumental role in PA History because he was chosen by Dr. John Hubbard, President of the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) to Chair the National Advisory Committee which oversaw the

development of the first National Examination for the Assistant to the Primary Care Physician, administered in December 1973. He added substance and credibility to the enterprise and presented plans for the NBME exam at the First National Conference on New Health Practitioners in April 1973, in Wichita Falls, Texas. His presentation was followed by a standing ovation by the 230 attendees, who were assured that national certification, so vital to the PA Profession, was only months away.

Dr. Pellegrino was recovering from a long illness when we visited with him, but he generously spent an hour with us. A videotape of the interview is being edited. Most unfortunately, he died suddenly and unexpectedly on June 13, 2013, at age 92. There is a warm remembrance by Daniel Callahan on the Hastings Center Web site.

PAHx Hires Part-time Archivist

Recent University of South Carolina (USC) graduate, Jeff Martineck, joins the PA History Society as Archivist. Martineck is a 2013 USC graduate with a Bachelors of Science degree in Information Science & Media Arts. He recently completed a three month summer internship with the Society, and was hired permanently in September to work in the PAHx office two days a week.



Martineck will oversee the Society's Archival, Library and Museum (ALM) Collection and provide general archivist and office support. He joins the

other part-time PAHx staff: Managing Director, Lori Konopka-Sauer; Web site & PR Assistant, Keri Caudill; and Administrative Assistant, Linda King under the direction of PAHx Executive Director and Acting CEO, Pam Dean.

First Student Medical Challenge Bowl

Reginald Carter, PhD, PA

In 1990, several leaders of the APAP (now PAEA) met to discuss how the Association might entice more students to attend the AAPA's annual conference. They came up with the idea to hold a Jeopardy-style, friendly competition that would match PA Program teams of three students, testing them on their medical knowledge. The objective was to provide students an organized event that would be both educational and fun. We are fortunate that Cynthia Lord, PA-C, took and kept photographs of the first Student Medical Challenge Bowl and donated these images to the Society. The Society also has the original buzzer system used by students during the competition.



Moderator Walter A. Stein asking question

You can view these photographs on the Society's Web site (www.pahx.org) in a newly created exhibit describing how the "Challenge Bowl" came about, the people involved and its progression over the years. The first event was held during the 19th Annual Conference in San Francisco in 1991.



Visit our Web site to see what's "new" in PA History!

www.pahx.org

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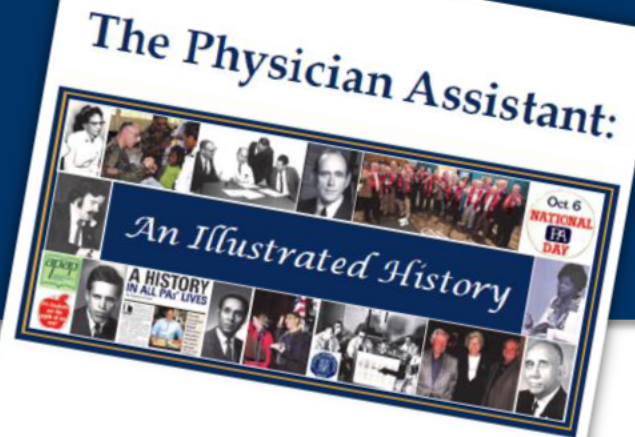
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Thomas E. Piemme, MD; Alfred M. Sadler, Jr., MD;
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The pages of
this new book
tell the story
of the half
century of
growth and
development of the physician

assistant profession. Conceived at Duke University in 1965, in response to a shortage of generalist physicians, the concept of the assistant to the physician was endorsed by the medical profession and embraced by the public. Growth was stimulated by the Federal government, leading to a rapid proliferation of training across the Nation. With the formation of a system of accreditation of training programs by the American Medical Association, and the development of a certification examination of graduates by the National Board of Medical Examiners, the concept was rapidly adopted by state legislatures until it became universal.

This book is a *rich resource* for educators to use when teaching the *history of the PA profession*.

It has ultimately taken a place as an integral part of American medical practice. The physician assistant has filled a void in access to care in underserved communities, and will play a vital role as 30

million newly insured patients enter the health care system under the Affordable Care Act.

3 ways to order:

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What early pioneers are saying about

The Physician Assistant: *An Illustrated History*



The remarkable and worldwide **recognition of the PA profession** as a major source of medical care in all settings makes this book a very **important source of information**. It provides a documented timeline of the birth and development of the profession, and of the physicians, nurses, educators and pioneer physician assistants who believed in the profession, and by their diligence and foresight, made all of this possible.”

*E. Harvey Estes, Jr., MD
Former Chair and Professor Emeritus
Community and Family Medicine
Duke University Medical Center*

“This remarkable book **brings the Physician Assistant and MEDEX alive** through a detailed history and recognition of the leaders who made this new profession possible and so successful.”

*Richard Smith, MD, MPH
Founder of the MEDEX Program*



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