



# Historical Happenings

Newsletter of the Physician Assistant History Society

## Message from the President

*Alfred M. Sadler, Jr., MD*

The Board of Trustees of the PA History Society held its annual fall meeting on November 9, 2014 in Atlanta, GA. Our morning workshop focused on producing a strategic plan for 2015-2017, which we accomplished with the aid of a SWOT analysis. During our afternoon meeting, we were pleased to welcome our new executive director, Dawn Morton-Rias, EdD, PA-C.

As we look ahead to next year, we will continue to expand the Society's collections and archives for the benefit of all PAs, other health professionals, and the public; and feature those collections on our illustrated website ([www.pahx.org](http://www.pahx.org)). Specific initiatives include the roll out of the Educational Toolkit for PAHx Associate Programs in January 2015; the production of an Historians Toolkit later in 2015 (to aid individual PA Programs and constituent organizations in developing their own histories), and collaborating with our sister organizations and Journals to produce articles and products leading up to a celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the profession in 2017.

We are in the final stages of completing an agreement with the National Library of Medicine to develop a traveling exhibit featuring the history of the PA profession, sponsored by a grant from the NCCPA. This will be ready for roll out in 2017, and continue for five years. The target audience will be libraries throughout the country, and special events that we determine to be of special relevance. I will elucidate the details in the next issue of *Historical Happenings* but it is not premature to state that we are thrilled that the NLM will help tell our story nationwide.

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*Bill Marquardt*



*Gretchen Paruch*

We thank Bill Marquardt, MA, PA, DFAAPA, and Gretchen Paruch, MHS, PA-C, who are completing their second three year terms on the Board. Bill led our Society as President for more than two years, during our recent transition to Atlanta.

We enthusiastically welcome four new Trustees; Marilyn Fitzgerald, Honorary PA, Deborah Gerbert, MS, PA-C, Maryann Ramos, PA, and Robert Wooten, PA, who will begin their three year terms on January 1, 2015.

The accompanying articles in this issue provide important details of recent happenings. I was deeply honored to receive PAEA's Distinguished Service Award in October. Forty two years since the founding of APAP (PAEA), and look how far we have come together! A big thank you is due to all who have contributed to our wonderful profession.

## Educational Toolkit Presented for Evaluation by Focus Group at PAEA

The Educational Toolkit, developed by the Physician Assistant History Society over the past year, is in the final stages of refinement for release in January, 2015. The purpose of the Toolkit is to assist faculty and students in teaching and learning the elements of the history of the profession.



Five “modules” have been developed. Text is enhanced by images from the PAHx archives. In an effort to field test the quality and “ease of use” of the modules, “Focus Group” of volunteer faculty were assembled at the recent PAEA Conference in Philadelphia.

At the invitation of the Society, 19 PA faculty members volunteered to evaluate the five learning modules, designed to help students understand and appreciate the development and legacy of their chosen profession. The evaluations were completed

online, and the results were compiled and presented to the evaluators during the Focus Group held on Wednesday, October 15th. The evaluators were divided into three groups, and asked for their ideas about what they liked, what could be improved, and what was left out of the learning modules. They were asked how they would use the modules in or outside the classroom, and how they would assess the student’s knowledge once they completed the modules.

Based on the feedback from the Focus Group, the learning modules have been revised to be used either for self-learning or classroom presentations. In addition, an *Instructor’s Manual* has been written, containing detailed learning objectives for each stated learning goal, suggested lesson plans for each module, and links to additional source materials. The five learning modules and *Instructor’s Manual* will be included in the Society’s Educational Toolkit that will be available online for Associate Members in January 2015. The PowerPoint™ slide sets used to create the learning modules contain graphic images from the Society’s archival digital image collection, the Duke University Medical Center Archive digital image collection, the public domain and other affiliated organizations. Photographs and videos highlight the physicians, nurses, lawyers, educators, researchers, physician assistants and others who, over time, have contributed to the growth and development of the PA profession.

Explicit information will be sent to History Society Associate Programs in January. In order to have access to the toolkit, PA programs must have paid their Educational Fee for the 2014-15 academic year. For further information contact Lori Konopka-Sauer ([LoriK@nccpa.net](mailto:LoriK@nccpa.net)) at the office in Atlanta.

## History Society Receives Original AAPA Gavel

Thanks to William (Bill) Stanhope, PA, the gavel used to open, guide and close the initial meetings of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) now resides within the Society's museum collection. Bill was the AAPA's first president.



*Reg Carter, Bill Stanhope & Fred Sadler*

The gavel, mounted on a wooden plaque, is dedicated to the memory and pioneering efforts of one of the first three physician assistant graduates, Richard (Dick) Scheele. Scheele promoted the idea of forming a professional organization for physician assistants, and served as "Temporary Chairman" during the organizing meetings, until officers could be elected in May of 1968. He died suddenly of a heart attack in 1970, at the age of 31.

The engraving on the gavel reads, "American Association of Physician Assistants - A Memorial to Richard J. Scheele who was the foremost pioneer of formally trained Physician Assistants and this Association."



The AAPA was formed in 1968 by graduates and students of the Duke University PA Program. Its original name was the American Association of Physician's Assistants. In addition to the gavel, the Society has a copy of Robert's Rules of Order used by the AAPA during their formative years. The book was donated to the Society by William Vogler, the AAPA's first vice president.

## Sadler Honored at PAEA Awards Luncheon

PA History Society Board President, Alfred M. Sadler, Jr., MD, was recognized at the annual PAEA Awards Luncheon on October 17, 2014, in Philadelphia as the recipient of **PAEA's Distinguished Service Award**, for his outstanding contributions to the PA profession over the past 45 years.



Dr. Sadler first became acquainted with the PA concept in 1968 while at the National Institutes of Health, where he was engaged in a nationwide study on licensing alternatives for PAs and NPs in collaboration with his twin brother Blair, a lawyer. In 1970, he co-founded the PA Program at Yale University, and in 1972, co-authored the first book on PAs, *The Physician's Assistant: Today and Tomorrow* with Blair and Yale colleague, Ann Bliss, a nurse and psychiatric social worker. That same year, Dr. Sadler served as the first president of the Association of Physician Assistant Programs, now PAEA.

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In 1973, Dr. Sadler was instrumental in the establishment of the first PA certifying examination by the NBME; the accreditation of PA Programs by the AMA; the first National Conference on New Health Practitioners (with Dr. Thomas Piemme); a national joint office for AAPA and APAP in Washington, D.C. (also with Dr. Piemme) and later served as chairman of three committees of the newly formed NCCPA. Subsequently, as a senior officer of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, he was a champion of PAs, team care and primary care.

Dr. Sadler joined the PA History Society as a Trustee in 2009, and became President this year. In 2013, he co-authored *[The Physician Assistant: An Illustrated History](#)* with Thomas Piemme, Reginald Carter and Ruth Ballweg.

Dr. Sadler has been a general internist in primary care since 1981, and has worked along-side PAs and precepted PA and NP students. He resides in Carmel, CA, with his wife Edi, a nurse practitioner, who specializes in diabetes care. To learn more about Dr. Sadler, please see his biography on the PAHx website at: <http://pahx.org/sadler-alfred-m>.

## Dr. Frank Riddick, Jr., a Founder of the NCCPA, Dies at the Age of 85

Dr. Frank Riddick, Jr. a leading medical administrator, and prominent endocrinologist, passed away on October 28, 2014, at Ochsner Hospital in New Orleans. Riddick was a member of the Council on Health Manpower of the American Medical Association in 1974, when he was named by the AMA to be its first representative to the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. He served as Vice President and Chair of the Recertification Committee. He was slated to become the second President, but declined, when he was appointed to a major administrative post at the Ochsner Health System, where he served all of his professional life.



Riddick received both his undergraduate and medical degrees at Vanderbilt University. He was then trained in internal medicine and endocrinology at the Barnes Hospital of

Washington University in St. Louis. He later attended the health systems management program at the Harvard University School of Business Administration.

Riddick joined the Ochsner Clinic in New Orleans in 1961, where he became head of the section on endocrinology and metabolic diseases. He was named the Ochsner Clinic Medical Director and chief executive officer in 1975. In 1990, he became the chief executive officer of the entire Alton Ochsner Medical Foundation, which grew to include community hospitals, primary care community health facilities, graduate medical education and research, and a health maintenance organization.

Dr. Riddick became one of the major figures in health care administration in the nation over the years. He served as President of the American Group Practice Association, and of the American College of Physician Executives. He received numerous honors over the course of his career. Most notably, he was a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

Following his retirement as CEO of Ochsner in 2001, Riddick continued to serve as a consultant at Ochsner, and was active in the philanthropy department until shortly before his death. The Riddick Diabetes Institute was established at Ochsner in his honor. He will be missed.

The *Physician Assistant History Society* is a charitable organization that exists for educational purposes, and is exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It has no “membership;” its Trustees are volunteers. Accordingly, the Society is dependent upon charitable contributions from its constituency, the professional and educational communities of the PA profession. Donations may be made by visiting the PAHx Web site at [www.pahx.org](http://www.pahx.org). Contributions can be received by credit card via PayPal, or by check.



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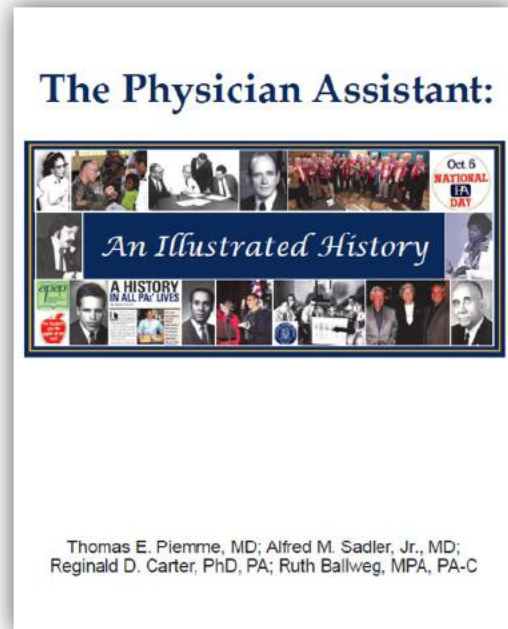
# The Physician Assistant: *An Illustrated History*

A concise history of the people, places, and events that have propelled the concept of the PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT from its inception at Duke University in 1965 to its position as a major force in American medicine today.

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