

Dear Colleagues,

I wanted to highlight a few of our faculty and staff members who recently won national awards from their perspective professional organizations. It is always an honor to be present at these award receptions to see how dedicated our department is in all of the missions we support – education, research, clinical, community engagement, and diversity and inclusion.

On October 27, I had the honor of attending the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) Education Forum to see **Doris Dalton, MPA**, and **Amanda Maloney-John, MPAS, PA-C** recognized for their extraordinary service to the Physician Assistant profession. 11 national awards were presented during the luncheon, and the University of Utah, Department of Family & Preventive Medicine received two.

Below are some highlights of what both Doris and Amanda do to make our department and PA program nationally ranked and sought after by prospective students and potential faculty members along with comments from their colleagues.

**Doris Dalton** received the 2017 Administrative Support Staff Award from PAEA. This award, one of PAEA's newest, recognizes a program administrative support staff member who has made extraordinary contributions to PA education through their respective PA program. Doris is an exemplary staff member who manages the ever increasing applicant pool to our nationally ranked Physician Assistant Studies program. Our program receives close to 2000 applicants each year for 60 spots (44 in Salt Lake City and 16 at the St. George campus). Doris is always available to answer questions from applicants as well as continually developing and implementing admission policies and processes to make the selection efficient for applicant and reviewers. Doris does not limit her service to just our program, additionally, she serves as a member of the Recruitment and Admissions Council of the Physician Assistant Education Association, and chairs the Enhancements Committee for the national Central Application Service for Physician Assistants, CASPA.

*"In many ways, she is the heart of the UPAP staff and faculty. She is what the values and practices of PA education are all about." – Jocelyn Romano*

*"She has made our admission process fair and holistic without losing the personal contact that our applicants and matriculated students appreciate. She spends many late nights and weekends making sure our admission process reflects the principles she advocates for on a national level." – Karen Mulitalo*

**Amanda Maloney-Johns** is the recipient of the 2017 PAEA Clinical Education Award. Amanda currently serves as Director of Clinical Education. In this role, she oversees all aspects of the clinical phase of the Physician Assistant Studies Program. She is passionate about inter-professional education (IPE), and has served on the IPE leadership team since 2012, and the IPE Advisory Committee since its inception. Additionally, she serves on several committees at the University level including the Advanced Practice Clinician Council and the School of Medicine Admissions

Committee. On a national level, Amanda served on the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) Committee for Clinical Education for 5 years. She also recently completed two terms on the Utah Academy of Physician Assistants (UAPA) Board of Directors. Amanda has practiced clinically in chronic pain management and also at the Solitude Ski Clinic. Currently, she is working clinically with the Utah Children's Project at the University of Utah. Amanda is dedicated to ensure our students have rewarding and relevant clinical experiences as part of their program experience.

*"Amanda has the humility, compassion, and empathy that makes her an excellent mentor for our students – who love and respect her" – Don Pedersen,*

*"Her innovations in clinical teaching and preceptor education have been extremely effective in helping new preceptors feel comfortable with the time commitment, giving feedback while maintaining a busy practice. She created a preceptor toolbox online for the preceptors to access, with helpful articles and teaching pearls for new and existing preceptors. " – Dan Crouse*

Not only do we have these two awards to be proud of, but I am also pleased to announce **Virginia Valentin, PhD, PA-C**, has received 1 of 3 AAPA-PAEA Fellowships. The AAPA-PAEA Research Fellowship is a collaborative PA education and workforce research capacity building program. The goals of the Fellowship are three-fold: develop a cadre of PAs skilled in PA education and workforce research, encourage utilization of PAEA and AAPA data to generate research of interest to the PA profession and community of PA scholars, and provide future research mentors for newer faculty to sustain the PA workforce and education research pipeline.

Each Fellow's institution will receive a grant of up to \$25,000 to permit a 20% release from teaching and other activities to allow them to focus on research of interest to the PA profession and PA education. This directly addresses one of the biggest barriers that PA faculty face in the production of research: lack of time. Each fellow will develop a research project under the guidance of both an institutional mentor at their program as well as an external mentor.

Virginia, on behalf of the department, we are very excited to support you in this incredible opportunity.

These are just a few of the recent accolades amongst our colleagues. This department continues to shine in so many areas. Thank you to everyone for all of your hard work in taking our department to new heights in fulfillment of our missions.

**Kola Okuyemi, MD, MPH**

Professor and Department Chair

The George D. Gross, M.D. & Esther M. Gross M.D. Presidential Endowed Chair in Family & Preventive Medicine