To Don,

From your family, friends, and colleagues
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Lifetime Achievement Award, PAEA’s most prestigious award, honors an individual who has reached the pinnacle of their career in PA education. It recognizes a current or former program faculty or staff member who has made extraordinary contributions to Physician Assistant Education.

Nominees for this award must demonstrate outstanding contributions and a history of distinguished service that spans an entire career in all of the following areas:

Measurable impact of pioneering and innovative efforts across PA education

Evidence of service in leadership roles at state, national, and/or international levels

Regarded as an exceptional mentor and role model by professional colleagues

Consistent record of advocacy for the PA profession and dedication to furthering PA education
Donald M. Pedersen, PhD, PA-C  
Professor Emeritus, University of Utah School of Medicine

Dr. Donald M. Pedersen has been in Physician Assistant (PA) education for nearly 40 years as the PA Program Director and Division Chief at the University of Utah School of Medicine. He retired as an Emeritus Professor in 2011.

Dr. Pedersen has been involved with Utah Physician Assistant Program (UPAP) since 1979, initially serving as Academic Coordinator. He was the Program Director from 1989 to 2010 after attaining a faculty appointment in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine (DFPM) in the University of Utah School of Medicine. He served as the Chief of the Division of Physician Assistant Studies from which he retired in 2011. Currently serving as Professor Emeritus, he has authored over 70 articles and book chapters relating to clinical practice, physician assistant education, and the global workforce. Under Dr. Pedersen’s leadership UPAP became a graduate program in the School of Medicine offering the Masters of Physician Assistant Studies degree. Since then, UPAP has consistently ranked as one of the leading PA programs in the country by US News and World Report.

Nationally, he is a past President of the Association of Physician Assistant Programs (APAP, now the Physician Assistant Education Association, PAEA) with 4 years of service on the Board of Directors and in 1998 he founded Perspective on Physician Assistant Education (now the Journal of Physician Assistant Education), the association’s official journal. He served as the journal’s editor and publisher for the initial seven years. He also created the Association’s Research Institute, which provides small grants for educational research by PA program faculty on a national level. During his tenure with the Association he established a liaison position with the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine and served in this capacity for two years. He also represented the PAEA as the liaison to the Global Health Education Association.

Dr. Pedersen has served as the President of the Physician Assistant Foundation (PAF), the philanthropic arm of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA). He completed eight years of service on the PAF Board of Trustees and was awarded Emeritus Trustee status. Through
the PA Foundation, he and his wife, Mrs. Kathy Pedersen, established an endowed grant program to award international humanitarian outreach grants to PAs and PA students in honor of Dr. Pedersen’s father, Robert K. Pedersen. In 2003, he commissioned the Combat Medic statue, titled "Lifesavers Then-Caregivers Now," tracing the roots of the PA profession, which was unveiled at the University of Utah. He has completed ten years on the state of Utah Physician Assistant Licensing Board, serving two years as chair. He is currently serving on the Board of Directors of the NCCPA Health Foundation.

Dr. Pedersen helped pioneer UPAP’s international clinical activity in Papua New Guinea, Thailand, and Nepal, and served on the AAPA International Working Group. Following the devastating 2004 tsunami, he traveled to southern Thailand as a volunteer for three weeks identifying the deceased through DNA samples. He worked with the Thai military at Wat Yan Yao, a Buddhist temple where the makeshift morgue was established and processed approximately 4000 bodies.

In 1998 he was voted Outstanding PA Educator of the Year by the AAPA and received the President’s Award from the APAP. In 2007 he received the Distinguished Service Award from the Utah Medical Association. In 2009 he received the Research Achievement Award from the PAEA. In 2010 he received the Outstanding PA of the Year Award from the AAPA. In 2011 he received the Global Health Excellence and Leadership Award by the University of Utah. In 2016 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest honor given by the PAEA.

In April 2015, Dr. Pedersen and Mrs. Pedersen organized UPAP’s pilot Nepal international student elective and accompanied six PA students to Kathmandu and mountain villages in the Annapurna Sanctuary. On April 25, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake devastated the country killing nearly 9,000 people and injuring over 21,000. Two weeks after the earthquake, Dr. Pedersen returned to Kathmandu as a volunteer with Project Hope participating in disaster relief work.

The following year, Dr. Pedersen returned to Nepal with the UPAP elective. While students trained in Kathmandu, Dr. Pedersen embarked on a trek to Everest Base Camp to place a plaque in honor of Eve Girawong, a PA who was killed by an avalanche triggered by the 2015 earthquake while working as team doctor for Madison Mountaineering. With members of Ms.
Girawong’s guiding company, Dr. Pedersen placed a plaque on her existing monument in Thukla to honor her as a caring, compassionate, and competent caregiver on behalf of the PA profession.

Dr. Pedersen currently volunteers as a physician assistant at the Hope free clinic in Salt Lake City and also pursues international opportunities for PAs and PA students. He is senior advisor to the University of Utah Department of Preventive Medicine’s Global Partners that he initiated in 2011. Global Partners works with academic corporate partnerships, corporate social responsibility units, and humanitarian enterprises.

When Dr. Pedersen is not teaching at the University of Utah or volunteering at the Hope Free Clinic, he can be found tending to his garden and restoring a 1968 Chevrolet Camaro. He is also an accomplished painter and has exhibited at the University of Utah Medical Center and numerous medical conferences and symposiums. He is a devoted husband, brother, father, and grandfather and is much beloved by his family, friends, students and colleagues.
February 28, 2016

Physician Assistant Education Association
655 K Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Lifetime Achievement Award Nominations Committee:

I am pleased to express my support for Donald M. Pedersen, PhD, MS, PA-C to receive the Physician Assistant Education Association Lifetime Achievement Award. I am a Professor and Vice Chair of Family and Preventive Medicine at the University of Utah and have known Dr. Pedersen for more than 20 years. During this time, I have been able to directly witness the impact he has had on the Physician Assistant field and become familiar with his relevant accomplishments before that time.

Many of Dr. Pedersen’s substantial accomplishments are well documented. He has had a profound impact on the emergence the discipline of Physician Assistant Studies, which has led to more effective delivery of health care and the opportunity for thousands of talented individuals to become advanced practice clinicians. He has modeled professionalism and respect for everyone. He has made personal sacrifices to care for others and to find the better way. He is both an example and an inspiration to practicing physician assistant professionals, academicians in the field and students who aspire to make a difference. I am fortunate, and largely undeserving, to be considered by him to be a colleague and a peer.

I believe the impact Dr. Pedersen has had on the Physician Assistant field, and especially his impact on Physician Assistant Education, merits received of this Lifetime Achievement Award. He has contributed to this field in so many ways and through his work at the University of Utah, throughout the United States and across the world. He has served as a trusted clinician, a professor, a leader, a colleague and a confidante. He has been and continues to be an innovator. He inspires all who know him. Recognizing him in this way will also communicates the values and standards that are at the foundation of the Physician Assistant Education Association.
I am pleased to express my support for Dr. Pedersen to receive the Physician Assistant Education Association Lifetime Achievement Award. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any more information regarding Dr. Pedersen’s qualification for this award.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Stephen C. Alder, PhD
Professor and Vice Chair
Chief, Division of Public Health
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Re: Donald M. Pedersen, PhD, MS, PA
Lifetime Achievement Award

Dear Nomination Committee,

Please allow me to highly recommend Don Pedersen for the PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award for his lifelong contribution to diversification and global enhancement of the Physician Assistant profession. I've known Don the entirety of his PA career and have grown personally because of our association. There is no one in the PA profession who exhibits more gentlemanly grace under pressure, or has Don's unfailing ability to overcome obstacles and accomplish great things, always for the benefit of PAs.

In New York City in 1996 I was presented with the AAPA Paragon International Humanitarian of the Year Award. It was then I started my global health collaboration. Because my life's work since 1980 was in remote and impoverished areas, I was unable to mobilize the support or resources to give back to PA students the Global Health experiences which were only touched upon during PA training. In New York, and without being asked, Don volunteered his time and energy to make Global Health an important part of PA training. Since that time, because of Don's support, Global Health has been continually taught as a one-month credited elective in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Since Don Pedersen embarked on Global Health endeavors, I've been able to participate and observe his success. Don has shared the American PA model with many national programs worldwide. He has directly enhanced PA analogue training in several foreign countries. He developed curriculum and training methodology for starting PA programs in two or three more. Don has written grants to fund international exchange programs (one of his exchange programs won an international award for "Innovation in Education"). University of Utah PA students have been introduced to and studied
FLUOR

alongside a variety of PA analogue practitioners from overseas such as Registered Clinic Officers, Fieldshers, Medical Officers, Health Extension Officers, as well as foreign doctors and nurses. Into these programs Don introduced the newest U.S. concepts in PA training, that included competency-based education (a concise knowledge base and basic skills list combined with patient simulation), patient management problems, and preceptorship by physicians - all new concepts in PA analogue training internationally.

Exchanges of international students continue to take place because of Don’s legacy as Division Chief and Director of the University of Utah PA program (UPAP). With Don’s support UPAP has hosted students or graduates from countries as diverse as Ghana, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania, and Thailand to name a few. All the while, Don ensured the success of international partnerships and exchanges by donning khaki shorts, straw hat, stethoscope and leading the training. Many international exchange PA students have memories of Don soaked to the bone or covered with mud up to his eyebrows.

Don has gained proficiency in Tropical Medicine, acting as a resource for others in the PA profession. That has led him to do volunteer work in some of the most difficult situations such as responding to complex international emergencies. Throughout his career Don has demonstrated to foreign clinicians the quality of character, competency and relevance of American PAs to world health programs, while helping our numbers increase in those PA analogue training programs.

We have in Don a teacher, clinician, and humanitarian with an international reputation who has always put service to the PA profession first. His contributions and perspective on international medical education truly is comprehensive. This is his personal achievement and it should provide him with a sense of pride that will be long lasting.

Please feel free to contact me should further information be necessary.

Yours Faithfully,

Douglas Barker

Douglas Barker | Medical Director | SASOL MEGA PROJECT Fluor Technip Integrated | Mobile: 1.337.842.8728
25 February, 2016

Physician Assistant Education Association
655 K Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Donald Pedersen, PhD, MS, PA-C
Lifetime Achievement Award

Dear Nominating Committee,

It is an honor to recommend Dr. Donald M. Pedersen for the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Physician Assistant Education Association. It is challenging to summarize the contributions Dr. Pedersen has made during his more than 35 years as a practicing PA, PA educator, and state, national, and international influence for health education and promotion. This man’s career reflects prolific creativity as a researcher, leader, innovator and dedicated health care provider. As far as I am aware, his contributions to the profession may exceed any other single PA since the creation of the profession. In support of that far-reaching statement, consider what he has done in the arenas of PA program development and leadership, scholarly research and writing, state law development, consensus building, national recognition and service, fiduciary support to the profession, service to the underserved and international collaboration to increase awareness of the profession and strengthen educational cooperation.

History of distinguished service

PA education has been his primary focus for the past 35 years. He served as Training Coordinator for the Utah Physician Assistant Program (UPAP) for ten years, then assumed the role of Program Director in 1989 - a position he held for over 20 years. He battled the Utah State Board of Higher Education and the Utah State Legislature to save the program from financial demise and then over the years, admirably advanced the program from a certificate level program to the master’s program. Under his direction, UPAP has become a financially self-supporting, respected, productive institution. His work with UPAP elevated the quality of education from a program on the brink of extinction in 1989 to repeatedly being listed among the top 5 graduate schools in the United States in the US News and World Report rankings. Even while building UPAP, he unselfishly provided consultative services to other programs and served clinically thousands of underserved patients in Utah. In 1989 he received the Paragon National PA Educator of the Year Award. In 2009, the Research Achievement Award. The AAPA also recognized him in 2010 with the Outstanding PA of the Year award.

Measurable impact of pioneering and innovative efforts

During the last decade, his service to the underserved includes an Innovations Award from the Physician Assistant Foundation for Screening Physical Exams for Children of Migrant Farmworkers, and the Papua New Guinea Student Exchange Program. The Utah State Bureau of Primary Care and Rural Health Systems and the Association of Utah Community Health recognized Dr. Pedersen for support of Federal and State supported Programs that serve the medically underserved people in the State of Utah. The AAPA recognized Don for efforts related to hurricane Katrina relief and Global Outreach humanitarian activities in 2007. His vision extends beyond the borders of the United States. He has overseen student placements in New Guinea, Ghana, Thailand and Guatemala. In each country he established ongoing relationships with medical personnel, providing hands-on health care and initiating educational opportunities for local health care professionals.

Evidence of service in leadership roles

Dr. Pedersen’s CV supports his leadership record. I can only add that I have observed him in many of these roles, and in every case, he has lead with dignity, integrity and professionalism.
Regarded as an exceptional mentor and role model by professional colleagues.

Having spent years with Don in the trenches of Utah PA education and the promotion of the profession in Utah, I can with relative certainty say that he is the single most influential PA leader our state has ever had. He is recognized as the father and leader of the profession in Utah. From the first lectures he provided at the Utah PA program when I was a student, to sustaining and supporting my efforts to start a PA program in Billings, Montana, to guiding my personal efforts as the first Executive Director of the Utah Academy of Physician Assistants (a position he created), he has been a devoted friend, mentor and guide. How many others has he influenced, guided, encouraged? I know of many, but certainly not all. We are all grateful to this selfless man.

Consistent record of advocacy for the PA profession and dedication to furthering PA education

It was my privilege to work with Dr. Pedersen in local PA law development. His vision advanced the PA profession in Utah from anonymity to a position of strength. His leadership assures continuity in providing health care in the environment of positive laws and established strong relationships with the Utah Medical Association, Utah State Department of Health, the University of Utah Medical School and other key organizations influencing health care in Utah. He has been involved in every significant PA legislative effort in Utah for the past 35 years. His service includes three years as Chair of the Physician Assistant Licensing Board in the Utah Department of Professional Licensing. Recognizing a need for the PA profession to become a more recognized contributor in the health care arena in Utah, Dr. Pedersen collaborated to organize and launch the Utah State Medical Education Council Subcommittee on APAs, Pharm Ds, and PAs. He influenced the creation of mechanisms to measure the contributions PAs make in the health-care environment in Utah. This work quantified the fact that PAs provide high quality care to the populations that need the services most in a remarkably cost-effective manner. The outcomes of those findings have launched multiple initiatives that have promoted the PA profession to employers, health care administrators and legislators.

Listing his numerous additional accomplishments here would add pages to this letter and become redundant. I refer the reviewers to his CV for continued listings of his remarkable contributions. I cannot think of another individual in the history of PA education and service who has contributed more to the development and maturing of our profession. Hundreds of graduates from the Utah PA Program are deeply indebted to him for the quality of education they received.

This is a wonderful opportunity to recognize a pioneer, a friend, a master teacher and exemplary leader as he completes his career serving the profession in a truly remarkable manner. His contributions compare with those visionaries who gave birth to this profession. His tireless service qualifies him for this great honor. Because Dr. Pedersen has given his full attention and effort to this profession, all PAs are enriched. The PAEA Lifetime Service Award would be a fitting form of recognition to this man who has provided such foundational strength to our profession.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very Sincerely,

Bob Bun nell, MS, PA-C
President, Belgium/Netherlands Mission
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Retired Executive Director,
Utah Academy of Physician Assistants
Retired President, Board of Directors,
Community Health Care of Utah, Inc.
Retired Director,
Rocky Mountain College Physician Assistant Program
If the physician assistant profession has a heart and soul, it is Don Pedersen. He is most deserving of the PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award. Don is truly a renaissance man. He is an artist, editor, educator and missionary, all rolled into one. I admire his work ethic, moral character, professionalism and passion and most of all, I cherish his friendship. As a colleague, I have had the privilege of observing Don’s growth into a highly respected leader, role model and advocate for the physician assistant profession, both nationally and internationally. Given his diverse clinical, research and educational background, Don is a highly sought after advisor and mentor. He is an outstanding ambassador for the PA Profession.

I have known Don for over 30 years. We have served on boards and committees together. I don’t need to summarize his accomplishments and the awards and recognitions that he has received over the years – you can find that in his curriculum vitae. His impact on the PAEA and Physician Assistant Foundation are still being felt today. He transformed the Perspectives in PA Education from a magazine (newsletter) into a highly regarded educational journal with beautifully designed artistic cover pages. Under his leadership, the Physician Assistant Foundation expanded its base to include corporate members and its funding increased exponentially. The Foundation’s focus began to shift toward meeting humanitarian health care needs. Don and his wife, Kathy, truly love to serve others as demonstrated by their work in Papua New Guinea, Thailand and Nepal. Who can ever forget Don’s journal titled Tsunami of Tears: 2005 Relief Effort in Southern Thailand describing his forensic work to help identify bodies for those seeking to find their lost loved ones?

When we began developing a national strategy to capture the history of the PA profession and make it available through the Internet, Don was one of the first people that I contacted for advice. He attended our first Planning Team meeting in Anaheim, CA in 2001 and served on the Physician Assistant History Society’s Board of Directors from 2002-2005. To raise awareness about and funds for the Society during its first years, Don had the Physician Assistant Foundation approve the printing and marketing of his painting titled The Preceptor for the Society. PA programs purchased these paintings, showing a mature and immature puffin together, for recognition gifts. Don played a key role in having a life-size bronze
combat medic statue gifted to the Society in 2007 and placed on the grounds of the Eugene A. Stead, Jr. Center for Physician Assistants located in Durham, NC. The statue was commissioned by Don and sculptured by John Prazen. The area surrounding the statue was designated a Veterans Garden in 2008. Currently, Don is working with the PA History Society and the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants to upgrade the Veterans Garden as a “place of remembrance” to honor PAs who are veterans.

I guess it is no secret by now, I admire Don Pedersen. I admire him as a Program Director who constantly sought ways to improve the curriculum and the status of the program within the academic community at the University of Utah. As an educator, he developed international health care experiences for his students and taught medicine as not only a science but as an art. I admire him as a leader and innovator who dedicated himself to improving the educational, research and literary skills of PA faculty who attended PAEA educational workshops or served on editorial boards. I admire him for being a good listener, soft-spoken, attentive to detail and a wise counselor. I admire his passion for the physician assistant profession, its legacy, its accomplishments and its future. I admire his humanitarianism, both an advocate and one willing to “put feet on the ground” for those less fortunate and in need of health care.

Most of all, I admire Don as a true friend. He goes beyond just being a professional colleague. He is genuinely interested in your personal wellbeing. He takes time to ask about family and what exciting things are happening in your life. He is not hesitant about giving candid advice and expressing his opinions, but always in a tactful way.

In summary, Don has all the attributes that one would seek for the recipient of the PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award. I whole-heartedly support the nomination for this prestigious award. Please let me know should you require additional information upon which to base your judgment. I wish you the best in your task and appreciate your service to the PA community.

Sincerely Yours,

Reginald D. Carter, Ph.D, PA
Historian Emeritus, Physician Assistant History Society
Former Chief Physician Assistant Education Division
Department of Community and Family Medicine
Duke University School of Medicine
Physician Assistant Education Association
Awards Committee
655 K Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001

February 14, 2016

Re: Nomination of Donald M. Pedersen, PhD, MS, PA
PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award

To The Awards Committee:

I write this letter to nominate Donald Pedersen, Professor Emeritus at the University of Utah, for the PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award. It is my privilege to know Don Pedersen, a friend and colleague for more than thirty years in the PA profession and I believe that there are few PA educators more deserving of this award than Dr. Pedersen. Don epitomizes the ideal of an academic: as an educator, scholar, and clinician. His 35-year career contains a long list of professional achievements that make him more than worthy to receive the PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Don served for many years as the Director of the Utah PA Program and built that program into a top-ranked health professions educational program based in the Department of Family Medicine within the School of Medicine at the University of Utah. The UPAP is widely regarded as one of the finest PA programs in the country. The Utah PA Program ranked 4th in the US News and World Report rankings of the top graduate schools in the United States for 2013 (PA Program Award). Don’s legacy will be the quality of the faculty he has hired for the UPAP and the enduring standard of excellence he has established. The UPAP has graduated hundreds of PAs now in practice in Utah and throughout the country serving patients and communities. In 1998, his peers in PA education awarded him the National PA Educator of the Year. In 2010, the American Academy of Physician Assistants named him the Outstanding Physician Assistant of the Year.

Dr. Pedersen has a long history of distinguished service and significant achievements in the PA educational community, within PAEA, and the PA profession. Don was the founder and Editor-in-Chief of Perspectives on Physician Assistant Education and for 10 years was instrumental in advancing research and scholarship forward in the PA educational community. That journal continues today (now JPAE) and is the established journal in the field. In his role as Editor in Chief, he nurtured and promoted PA focused research in during a time of low scholarly output within the profession. JPAEA continues to not only thrive but showcases important research in PA education and the health workforce.

Don Pedersen has demonstrated significant leadership within the PA profession. He served PAEA as President, and on numerous committees within PAEA. His record of scholarship comprises more than 30 peer reviewed papers, 10 book chapters, and numerous other materials important for education and advancing PA research. He has also served as President
of the PA Foundation of the American Academy of Physician Assistants. In recognition of his significant and lasting contributions to global health service, research, and education, the University of Utah Student Global Health Initiative presented the 2011 Global Health Excellence and Leadership Award to Dr. Pedersen. Don was also selected for the Veterans' Caucus Civilian of the Year award 2013 for visioning, creating funds, and implementing the "Combat Medic Statue". This life size statue, which he paid for, now stands at the Eugene Stead Center and in several other locations at PA programs (including, of course, the University of Utah). Many individuals have purchased the smaller version, all of which has been a fundraiser for the Physician Assistant Foundation.

I have only highlighted a few of the many significant achievements that Don Pedersen has made to PA education and to the PA profession. Don is a visionary leader in PA education and few can rival his roster of accomplishments and contributions. Donald M. Pedersen has done more for PA education and the profession than any other person. He is entirely worthy of the Lifetime Achievement Award. Don's rich career merits the PAEA lifetime achievement award. Now in retirement, he continues to serve many in his role as scholar and clinician for the profession. I urge the Awards Committee to give him full consideration for this award.

Sincerely,

James F. Cawley, MPH, PA-C, DHL (Hon)
Professor, Department of Prevention and Community Health
Milken Institute School of Public Health
Professor of Physician Assistant Studies
School of Medicine and Health Sciences
Physician Assistant Education Association
655 K Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Donald M. Pedersen, PhD, PA-C

February 7, 2016

Dear PAEA Awards Committee members,

Please accept this unwavering letter of support for the nomination of Donald M. Pedersen for the PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award. I have known Don since he was a student at the University of Utah so many years ago. As a fellow Idahoan we have followed each other’s careers from the very beginning. More importantly I have know him through our many decades of interaction through friendship, collegiality, and work on the important task of educating this nation’s physician assistants. We have shared many professional trips together and many stories about PA education. His experience and wealth of information on PA education is limitless. Dr. Pedersen is the quintessential PA educator.

During his career he has achieved national and state recognition for his contributions to the training and education of physician assistants. He has been recognized as a forerunner in international PA student elective educational opportunities. In particular, clinical rotations in Thailand, Guatemala, and Papua New Guinea. More recently Don (and his wife Kathy) have led many PA students on elective clinical experiences in Kathmandu, Nepal. It is not surprising that the University of Utah Student Global Health Initiative honored him with the 2011 Global Health Excellence and Leadership Award recognizing his significant contributions to global health service and education.

His list of accomplishments is inspiring and there is not enough room in this letter to mention them all, so I will focus on a few. Dr. Pedersen created and supported community engagement at the University of Utah PA Program, which focuses on a structured learning experience that combines community service with preparation and reflection with such opportunities as Head Start, a student-run free clinic, and a community action program. These experiences are critical to exposing PA students to underserved, diverse, and cultural aspects of different communities and Don has always been at the heart of these projects—many would say he is the heart of these projects.
Don has been an advocate of combat medics and corpsmen with their extensive practical experience and additional training in PA programs across the United States. These professionals have significantly increased the availability of needed primary health care services in rural and inner city communities in this country and around the globe. Don was the stimulus for the creation of the Combat Medic Sculpture, which has a permanent home at the entryway of the Utah Physician Assistant Program at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. A veteran himself, Don also received the 2013 Civilian PA of the Year award from the AAPA Veteran’s Caucus. Don has supported this organization and has attended every year the memorial service at the AAPA annual meeting, which honors the service of veterans.

In recognition of his significant contributions to the PA profession and healthcare to the underserved and underrepresented, my own university (A.T. Still University) honored him with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (D.H.L.) a few years ago when he was our commencement speaker for the Arizona School of Health Sciences. More recently I served with Don on the board of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) Health Foundation. He continues to bring his fund raising talents mixed with genuine caring for his fellow man to the table.

Dr. Pedersen is a transformational academic leader. His real-life experience and dedication in innovative curricula for physician assistant education is impressive. He has a comfortable way in managing change while developing trust in co-workers and leaders alike. He is comfortable in communicating effectively with stakeholders; particularly students, alumni, and community leaders. He is competent in developing fundraising support and developing community relations at the local and state level. He is also dedicated to interprofessional education and practice. His support of other members of the clinical team adds to his credibility as an effective leader.

I consider him a mentor, colleague, and friend—He is the best candidate for the PAEA Lifetime achievement Award. I hope you agree.

Thank you in advance.

Randy D. Danielsen, PhD, PA, DFAAPA
Emeritus Professor & Dean
5850 East Still Circle
Mesa, AZ 85206
480-219-6009
To: PAEA Awards Committee

Re: Lifetime Achievement Award

If ever there was someone that should be recognised with the PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award it is Professor Don Pedersen. Since graduating from the Utah MEDEX program in 1978, his accomplishments in the Physician Assistant sphere, particularly in education, have been awe-inspiring. I first met Don in 1990 when he was the relatively new Director of the Utah Physician Assistant Program (UPAP) and I was a visiting PA student from Chicago. He could not have been more hospitable. Over the next 26 years my relationship with him evolved from acquaintance to great friend and he remains a most important mentor. That cordial welcome was the beginning of a journey that set me on a path to working at UPAP for 14 years and eventually lead me to where I am now at James Cook University in Townsville, Australia.

Examination of Don’s CV easily ticks all the boxes for distinguished leadership, service and advocacy within institutional, local, state, national and international realms. Esteemed academics will tout these accomplishments in their letters of support. I suspect that there will be agreement amongst all of us that Don’s preeminent academic achievement would be establishment of the Perspective on Physician Assistant Education National Newsletter, Cum Journal of Physician Assistant Education. Less obvious might be his early advocacy of evidence based medicine as an integral component of graduate level PA curriculum and clinical practice. One of the characteristics that makes Don such a great leader is his ability to generate ground breaking ideas and then recruit the team to see them through. In this case it was the incomparable duo of Constance Goldgar and Dave Keahey who went on to set the standard for EBM teaching in PA education and become luminaries in their own right. Don’s superb team building skills are sometimes not as apparent as his multitude of officially recognised achievements. The program had a higher than usual retention rate for faculty members. In my tenure it was rare to have someone leave and sever all ties.

When Don took over the directorship of UPAP in 1989 the program was probably at the most vulnerable point in its history. I first joined the UPAP team as a clinical preceptor in 1992. I knew what a challenged PA program looked like having recently graduated from Cook County Hospital/Chicago City-Wide College. Due to my limited contact with UPAP at that time I didn’t initially appreciate just how challenging the situation was. As I would learn and attempt to emulate, Don has a distinctively unpretentious leadership style dominated by quiet persistence that conceals a steely determination. He never complained about the obvious negative circumstances and as those who have had the opportunity to work with him know, he possesses an infectious positive attitude. Under his guidance UPAP grew from a struggling operation with one administrative staff member and a skeletal faculty of three people (two at 50% time) to a prestigious and nationally recognised physician assistant program.
In 1994 I was invited to become more involved with the UPAP team as a Clinical Associate; a part-time faculty member responsible for small group teaching of clinical skills and reasoning. Duly flattered, I accepted and thus began my true introduction to PA education. Over the course of the next five years I found myself increasingly wishing I could stay at the program when it was time to leave my teaching sessions rather than returning to clinical practice. In 1999 that aspiration became reality when I became the UPAP Clinical Coordinator. Most importantly and without ever being obvious, Don taught me to be more confident in my abilities, play to my strengths and to break the habit of comparing myself to others. A somewhat humbling activity when working with Connie, Dave and Don. My interest in the international spread of the physician assistant profession and PA analogues in developing nations largely stemmed from Don’s influence. In fact, when I finally worked up the courage to tell him I was leaving UPAP to take up a position in Australia I pointed out that it was at least partially his fault. Along the way I’ve had the pleasure of observing other people Don influenced in some way blossom in to vital members of the PA education community; Nadia Minicier-Cobb, Karen Multitalo, Jennie Coombs, UPAP Chief Administrator and CASPA Board member, Doris Dalton and PAEA’s very own Olivia Walton.

During my last four years at UPAP Don and I participated in a campus based, weight training circuit class two to three times a week affording me unencumbered access. That time together will always be treasured. It got to be a bit of a joke around the program that Don and I would discuss business in the shower after class. “What do you guys actually do in the shower?” we were jokingly asked by the group. However, it wasn’t uncommon for colleagues to ask me to influence Don’s position on certain matters during our shower meetings. We have and always will share a good laugh.

Try as I might, quiet determination and an enduring positive attitude are not characteristics I have been able to master. No question though, that over the years Don nurtured within me a single-mindedness that allowed me to survive almost nine years of clinical coordination at UPAP. He most certainly had a hand in shaping my diplomatic skills that have served me so well in eight years of navigating the most difficult and frustrating conditions of my career attempting to introduce the PA profession to Australia.

Don’s long involvement and outstanding accomplishments within PA education should be distinctly acknowledged with the PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award and I wanted to make sure his superb qualities as a mentor and leader were emphasised.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Allan Forde, PA-C, MPAS
Clinical Coordinator
Bachelor of Health Science (Physician Assistant) Course
College of Medicine and Dentistry
PA BLUES
(You Don’t Have to Sing the Blues)
Luce Black, PA-S, class 37 (2008)

Proudly Presented to:
The American Academy of Physician Assistants
By Don Pedersen, Ph.D., PA-C
Director and Professor
University of Utah Physician Assistant Program
In gratitude for the outstanding work you do for the PA profession

“PAs Together: Caring for Communities”
© 2007 Luce Black and Don Pedersen
To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of Don Pedersen's nomination for the EAPA Lifetime Achievement Award. I met Don in 2005, in the hallways of the University of Utah PA Program. I was preparing myself to apply to PA school and was looking for advice on how to strengthen my application since I had little medical experience. Don, who was the Director of the program at the time, casually invited me to sit down in his office, as if he had all the time in the world. We were chatting like old friends when I noticed a Duke Ellington poster on his wall. "You like jazz?" I asked. "Most definitely", he responded. I am a jazz singer, he is a jazz lover, and we've shared our passion of music from then on.

During that meeting, Don suggested that I meet his wife Kathy, a PA, to shadow her in her clinics and gain more medical experience. They both took me under their wing, and a lasting friendship was born. I've now been a PA for eight years and I love my career. I still believe that had it not been for Don's guidance, I may not have followed that path. Don inspired me in many ways. One of his many impressive qualities is the ease with which he makes things happen, and his endless creativity to get there. I have observed him in several roles, professional and personal, and I could write countless testimonies of his contributions, but for our purpose, allow me to share this one experience.

In 2008, while I was in PA school with Don as our Program Director, I received the great honor of being invited by the President of AAPA, Stephen Crane, to go to Philadelphia to perform for the AAPA Board of Directors. While I was making my selection of songs, Don and I thought it would
be fun to create a song dedicated to Board Members. This idea grew, and a new PA Blues was born "You Don't Have to Sing the Blues". Don took the idea one step further and suggested I record the song so we can offer a CD to each board member as a recognition for their hard work in promoting the PA profession. A few weeks later, we were in studio recording the song.

Don personally helped contributing to make this possible. This was the first time, and only time I believe, that it had been done. The evening, and the CD, were a resounding success. A copy of the CD can be found at the PA Foundation library, and I am attaching photos of the CD as well as an audio file of the song with this letter. In fact, I have a few copies left of the CD with Don's original signature on the cover and would be happy to send you one at your request.

Renaissance Man. This is the kind of man Don is. His expertise spans a significant number of areas, from medicine to music. He thinks out of the box, he makes things happen that no one else would have thought of before. His efforts and kindness leave a lasting impression. He inspires. It seems well fitted to award a Lifetime Achievement to one who so clearly has left lifetime legacies to so many of us. I fully endorse his nomination, and I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this honor than Don.

Sincerely,

Luce Forté, PA-C
University of Utah Health Care Community Clinics
Redwood Urgent Care
Physician Assistant Education Association
655 K Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001

To Whom It May Concern

Re:
Donald M. Pedersen, PhD, MS, PA
Lifetime Achievement Award

Dear Nomination Committee,

I write this letter to nominate Donald Martin Pedersen, Professor Emeritus, University of Utah, for the PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award. There is no one PA educator more deserving of this award than Dr. Pedersen. This individual epitomizes the ideal of an academic; as an educator, scholar, and clinician. It is a noble 35-year career I portray in this letter but his achievements go further than his PA profession.

Dr. Pedersen was the founder and Chief Editor of the Perspectives on Physician Assistant Education for 10 years and was instrumental in propelling research forward in the PA community. It was a monumental achievement at the time and the journal continues today attracting contributions from the global PA community. The quality of his research deserves special attention as it shaped PPAE (now JPAE) and considered magisterial in achievement. His research is broad, highly disciplined, and very useful (a quality that is not often met in health services research). He brings to the fore style, substance, and genuine sense of purpose in addressing social theories about PA behavior. The body of his work alone can easily define him.

In this letter I lay out my argument as to why this professor above all others deserves recognition from his peers. I list the criteria for this award and identify the fulfillment of such criteria. It is an easy task to do and I do this with great pride of friendship and admiration. However, there is not enough space on these pages to do this service.
History of Distinguished Service

Distinguished service comes in many forms. Because there are far too many to include all I list only some. Dr. Pedersen’s achievements are better listed in his curriculum vitae.

1. Founder and Editor in Chief of Perspectives on Physician Assistant Education. He held this position for 10 years. This effort alone helped propel PA focused research into the 21st century when it had been flailing. That journal continues to not only thrive but has produced some pivotal and important research in education and the health workforce.
2. Author of over 30 peer reviewed papers, 10 book chapters, and numerous other materials important for education and advancing PA research.
3. Raising the quality of research in the PA community.
4. President of PAEA at a time of shaping the association.
5. President of the PA Foundation.
6. Other achievements are too numerous to count in this short space.

Measurable impact of pioneering and innovative efforts across PA education at state, national, and/or international level(s)

One of Dr. Pedersen’s papers is titled: The productivity of PAs, APRNs, and physicians in Utah. This well researched study showed that Utah’s PAs undertook more work per capita than the doctors that employed them. The study estimated that the state would need 350 or so PAs to accommodate the anticipated growth. The paper remains a model PA forecasting study for other states to follow.

1. Utah PA Program ranked 4th in the US News and World Report rankings of the top graduate schools in the United States for 2013 (PA Program Award).
2. Publication of literature on characteristics and distribution of PAs and NPs in Utah – a model of productivity and efficiency that continues to be referenced to this day.
3. Moved the PA program in Utah from a certificate program to a bachelor program to a master’s program.
4. Obtained Division status for the PA program in the Department of Family Medicine.
5. President of the PA Foundation, American Academy of Physician Assistants

Evidence of service in leadership roles in the following areas:

Institutional

Selection Committee member – New University of Utah Dental School Dean. 2012 – 2013.

1. Trustee - University of Utah School of Medicine Alumni Association Board of Trustees, 2009 – present.
6. Interdisciplinary Credentialing Committee member - University of Utah Hospital, 1998 - 2000.

**National and/or International**

The University of Utah Student Global Health Initiative presented the 2011 Global Health Excellence and Leadership Award to Dr. Pedersen. The University Students recognized and appreciated his significant and lasting contributions to global health service, research, and education. It is one small acknowledgement of a lifetime career focus on improving the health services for the world through the development of PA-like health professionals.

Don was selected for the Veterans’ Caucus Civilian of the year award 2013, for visioning, creating funds, and implementing the “Combat Medic Statue”. This life size statue, which he paid for, now stands at the Eugene Stead center, along with several PA programs (including, of course, the University of Utah). Many individuals have purchased the smaller version, all of which has been a fundraiser for the Physician Assistant Foundation.

3. No one has advanced the concept of the PA more than Don and his wife Kathy in their experience with PA prototypes in Burma, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, and Nepal.

**Regarded as an exceptional mentor and role model by professional colleagues**

Why has Donald Martin Pedersen succeeded where others have only treaded? The organizational researcher Warren Bennis found common characteristics of those who affect social change and are often cited for their achievements. In my observations Dr. Pedersen epitomizes the highest ideals of a PA leader. It is the manager administers; the leader innovates. The manager copies; the leader an original. The manager maintains; the leader develops. The manager focuses on systems and structure, the leader focuses on people. The manager relies on control; the leader inspires trust. The manager has a short-range view; the leader asks what and why. The manager has eyes always on the bottom line; the leader’s eyes on the horizon. The manager imitates, the leader originates. The manager accepts the status quo; the leader challenges it. The manager is the classic good soldier; leaders are their own people. The manager does things right, the leader does the right thing. Don is that leader and few can rival his style of leadership. It is a strong leadership, admirable at the very least, and he remains a charismatic model for many of us who wish to emulate his success. He is that rare role model of a PA leader and few are in our midst.
 Consistent record of advocacy for the PA profession and dedication to furthering PA education (e.g., influence legislation)

Donald M. Pedersen has done more for PA education and the profession than any one person that I know of. This has been by developing a set of research initiatives and grant funding opportunities. This research funding has come from his own personal funds and the intention is to stimulate PA focused research, sorely needed in policy development and policy implementation.

I close this letter with the hope that Don’s stunning career can be topped with this lifetime achievement award by PAEA. In retirement he continues to serve many in his role as scholar and clinician for the profession. We will be remiss if PA education ignores this model of lifetime achievement and service.

Sincerely,

Roderick S. Hooper, PhD, MBA, PA
Professor of Health Policy, Retired
Dear Nomination Committee,

I write this letter of nomination for the PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award as someone who has known Don Pedersen, PhD, MS, PA-C for 36 years. I met Don when I was a prospective applicant to the Utah MEDEX Project in 1980. From my first encounter, I sensed he was a special individual. Over more than three decades, my hunch has proven true. Don has been my teacher, clinical colleague, comrade in multiple legislative battles, faculty mentor, and dear friend. Don exudes calm under pressure and presents himself always as a dedicated, visionary, and tireless advocate for physician assistants and PA education. He has always been someone who earns respect rather than demands it, is generous with his time and counsel, and has set a high standard for selfless dedication to principles of fidelity, honesty, and integrity. More than once, I have heard students, faculty, and national colleagues remark that when they grow up, they want to be just like Don Pedersen.

**History of Distinguished Service**

Don’s role as a PA began in the same practice where he trained, rural Blackfoot, Idaho. His supervising physician hired him directly following graduation from the Utah MEDEX Project. Don practiced for several years in this setting where he lived the dream of the PA profession’s founders by caring for underserved populations. Don was profoundly affected by what he saw in his practice and has never wavered from the sense of societal responsibility it inculcated in him. He was asked to return to Utah and join the faculty where he served in every possible role. In 1989, he became program director of the newly renamed Utah Physician Assistant Program (UPAP). Don finessed the transition to full university status for our students and singlehandedly led the conversion of UPAP directly from a certificate to a master’s granting program. Presciently, he convinced the State Board of Regents to preserve our tuition-based funding stream as a direct pass-through that guaranteed there
would be no diminution in the quality of education. Don established a firm foundation of financial stability for his beloved program and collected around him a cadre of accomplished faculty whom he mentored. During all of this, he somehow found time to lead multiple PA Practice Act and scope of practice legislative efforts in Utah.

He broadened his participation to national PA education issues and leadership while amassing an impressive list of peer reviewed publications and book chapters. He was founding editor of *Perspective on Physician Assistant Education* that transitioned to the flagship journal *JPAE*. Along the way, he rose to leadership positions as president of the Association of Physician Assistant Programs and the Physician Assistant Foundation. And true to his heart, he continues to volunteer in a free clinic, caring for underserved populations.

**Measurable impact of pioneering and innovative efforts across PA education at state, national, and/or international level(s)**

Don helped build the PA profession in Utah through his persistent efforts to train the best PAs possible and matching them with areas of need across the state. He forged bridges of understanding and cooperation with the state medical association that survives to this day. He elevated the position of the PA program in our department through advocacy for Divisional status—making the program coequals in a academic medical center. Don championed a long and persistent struggle for full faculty status and he overcame significant opposition to make it a reality. He was the first person everyone in the state turned to whenever there were legal, administrative, or scope of practice questions. He has always understood how important it is to have a PA place at the table.

Don has dedicated a large portion of his professional life to global health care and established relationships and clinical rotations for students in Papua New Guinea, Thailand, and now, Nepal. He has created opportunities for student exchanges to foster growth of the PA ideal across the world.

**Evidence of service in leadership roles in the following areas: Institutional**

Don Pedersen is recognized as the prototypical PA ambassador in our institution. He has served on countless academic and search committees and served not only as program director, but also Division Chief of Physician Assistant Studies in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine where he holds the rank of professor (now emeritus). He has held positions on the University Diversity Advisory Board, Interdisciplinary Credentialing Committee, and the Steering Committee for the Health Professions Training.

**National and/or International**

Don has been awarded the most prestigious national awards available by our professional organizations. In 1998 he was recognized as the National PA Educator of the Year – Paragon Award from the American Academy of Physician Assistants. Later, in 2010 the American Academy of Physician Assistants recognized him as the Outstanding PA of the Year. He conceived, fund-raised and brought to fruition, the
"Combat Medic Sculptures" that stand in front of the Utah PA program and the Eugene Stead Center at Duke University along with numerous smaller scale versions that grace the entranceways of many PA programs across the country. The sculpture recognizes the Vietnam medics who collectively formed the substrate of so many early PA program students. Don honored them by serving as a PA in the Army Reserve and was activated during Desert Storm.

Don’s Global Health work in partnership with his wife, Kathy Pedersen, MPAS, PA-C stands as a testament to their shared vision of improving the health status of people across the world while promoting an enduring legacy of PA-like providers.

**Regarded as an exceptional mentor and role model by professional colleagues**

Quite simply, Don Pedersen has been an inspiration to countless students and faculty members in his program and across the nation. As a mentor, he has an uncanny ability to gently nudge and cajole those who look to him for guidance. He was one of the major reasons I decided to apply for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellowship. I understood that if I could convey a fraction of the interpersonal grace that Don demonstrates so effortlessly, that I could stand a chance of succeeding.

**Consistent record of advocacy for the PA profession and dedication to furthering PA education (e.g. influence legislation)**

If it were not for Don Pedersen, the PA profession in Utah might have been snuffed out in 1986. The original "delegation" paragraph in the medical practice act had outlived its effectiveness and we were in urgent need of a full PA Practice Act. Over two grueling years, Don led the effort to craft a statute acceptable to stakeholders and practicing PAs and get it passed. He then guided the process to repeatedly amend our current practice act that stands as one of the best in the nation. He served on the PA Licensing Board for 10 years, and was selected as chair for two years. In the early 2000s, he saw an opportunity to build bridges to natural allies and forged a relationship with the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine that resulted in a formal PAEA liaison that endures to this day.

In conclusion, Don Pedersen has had a stellar, world-class career that has inspired all those around him. He has played a crucial role in the both the physician assistant profession and physician assistant education. The PA professional world we all now enjoy owes Don a sincere debt of gratitude.

David Keahey, PA-C, MSPH
Associate Professor (Clinical)
University of Utah PA Program
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Health Policy Fellow 2015-2016
HOMELESSNESS IN OUR CITY

Don Pedersen

8th Annual International Street Medicine Symposium
September 27 - 29, 2012 Salt Lake City, Utah
Street Medicine Institute
February 9, 2016

Awards Committee
Physician Assistant Education Association
655 K Street NW, Ste. 700
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Committee Members:

I am honored to write on behalf of Professor Donald M. Pedersen, Ph.D., PA-C, for the PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Pedersen’s history of distinguished service exceeds all stated criteria in every category. One simply cannot have been in the PA profession for the past 40 years and not know of Dr. Don Pedersen’s long legacy of outstanding contributions and achievements. A summary of Dr. Pedersen’s career accomplishments in these qualifying categories is as follows:

History of Distinguished Service

Institutional: Dr. Pedersen has served as Professor and Training Coordinator for the Utah Physician Assistant Program, later serving as PA Program Director then Chief of the Division of Physician Assistant Studies. Additional service on numerous institutional committees included the RPT Committee, Steering Committee - Campus Health Enhancement Center, Steering Committee, Health Professions Training, Health Science Diversity Advisory Board, University of Utah Hospital Interdisciplinary Credentialing Committee, University of Utah Hospital, AHEC Advisory Board Member, and Finance Committee Member.

Local and State: Dr. Pedersen’s additional service on a statewide level include Executive Director, Southeastern Idaho Center for Health Resources, Inc., and Volunteer PA, Hope Free Clinic, Salt Lake City, UT.

National and/or International: In addition to his recognition as Outstanding Civilian PA of the Year by the Veteran’s Caucus of the AAPA, Dr. Pedersen has been recognized with the AAPA Outstanding PA of the Year and the PAEA Research Achievement Award. Dr. Pedersen has also served internationally as Physician Assistant for the Air Force Reserve and for the Utah National Guard.

P. Eugene Jones, Ph.D., PA-C
Professor and Chair
Department of Physician Assistant Studies
UT Southwestern School of Health Professions

Mirrie Stevens Piper Professor
Distinguished Teaching Professor
UT Southwestern Academy of Teachers

Southwestern
Medical Center
Pioneering and Innovation in PA Education

State: Dr. Pedersen has served on the Utah State Medical Education Council Subcommittee on APNs, Pharm Ds and PAs, as well as the Utah Governor's Health Policy Commission Subcommittee on Health Professions Education.

National: In addition to the National Steering Committee, PAs for Prevention for AAPA and the Physician Assistant Foundation, Dr. Pedersen has served as Chair and Member of the Staff and Faculty Development Committee Association of Physician Assistant Programs, as well as the Membership Committee. One of his greatest accomplishments and achievements is the role he played as the founding Editor-in-Chief of Perspective on Physician Assistant Education, the only national and peer-reviewed journal for PA education.

International: Dr. Pedersen was honored with the 1997 Innovations Award, Physician Assistant Foundation, Papua New Guinea Student Exchange Program (PA Program Award).

Service in Leadership Roles
Institutional: Dr. Pedersen has served in numerous roles as committee member and chair of multiple institutional committees and leadership opportunities for the University of Utah. They are too numerous to list here and can be gleaned from his C.V.

Local and State: Dr. Pedersen's roles include service on the Legislative Committee Member, Utah Academy of Physician Assistants, Delegate, Utah Academy of Physician Assistants Representative to the National Academy House of Delegates, and President Elect, President, Past President Utah Academy of Physician Assistants. He received the Distinguished Support of Federal and State Supported Programs that Serve the Medically Underserved People in the State of Utah Award, Bureau of Primary Care and Rural Health Systems and the Association of Utah Community Health, the Lifetime Service Award, Utah Academy of Physician Assistants, and a Certificate of Recognition, Utah Department of Commerce.

National and/or International: Dr. Pedersen's extensive service history also includes Trustee and Emeritus Trustee, NCCPA Health Foundation, President, Physician Assistant Foundation; Kathmandu, Nepal - Earthquake Relief, and Project Hope and Manmohan Memorial Teaching Hospital, Kathmandu, and Phang Nga, Thailand - Tsunami Relief. Other roles have included Vice President, Physician Assistant Foundation, and President Elect, President, and Past President, Association of Physician Assistant Programs.

Exceptional Mentor and Role Model: As a personal recipient of numerous examples of Dr. Pedersen's legacy as a role model and mentor, I have been very grateful for the role he played in advancing my own career as a PA educator. I followed Dr. Pedersen in the
leadership of APAP as president, and I followed him as his successor as Editor-in-Chief of the former Perspective on Physician Assistant Education (renamed the Journal of Physician Assistant Education). He was instrumental to my success in these endeavors and was an outstanding mentor and role model.

Record of Advocacy for the PA Profession: In addition to the numerous advocacy roles already mentioned in this letter, Dr. Pedersen served as Student Representative to the Utah Academy of Physician Assistants.

Advocacy for PA Education: Having been named National PA Educator of the Year with the Paragon Award from the American Academy of Physician Assistants, Dr. Pedersen served as a national spokesperson and advocate/role model for the community of PA educators. Missing from his C.V. is his extremely generous philanthropic contributions to PA research. Dr. Pedersen single-handedly initiated and funded the PA educational research endeavors of PAEA, and the legacy he promulgated with the generous endowment from his family cemented the future for PA educational research. In summary, Dr. Don Pedersen is one of the most talented, respected, and all-around accomplished academicians and leaders in the history of the physician assistant profession. Professor Pedersen’s international reputation as a premiere PA educator and scholar is without question. I offer my strongest possible endorsement for his nomination for the PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

P. Eugene Joppe, Ph.D., PA-C
Minnie Stevens Piper Professor
Distinguished Teaching Professor
Southwestern Academy of Teachers
February 22, 2016

PAEA
655 K Street NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001-2385

RE: Don Pedersen, PA-C – Lifetime Achievement Award

Dear Awards Committee:

It gives me great pleasure to write this letter in support of Mr. Donald Pedersen’s nomination for the 2016 PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award. Don has been a PA educator for over 30 years. He has served as a mentor to students and faculty both internally at the University of Utah as well as externally to PA programs across the country and the world.

Don truly enjoys teaching and always looks for ways to enhance a student’s educational experience. He is personable and friendly with students, yet maintains a standard of academic integrity and professionalism and conveys the importance of those traits to them as future healthcare providers.

History of Distinguished Service:

Don’s devotion to his family, work, the profession and to healthcare globally is hard to match. He has made significant contributions in PA education in the areas of leadership, teaching, scholarship, research and professional service. Don has dedicated his career to helping others in the profession gain the education and skills they need to provide health care in Utah and globally.

Don has authored more than 60 research publications related to clinical practice and PA education along with numerous other columns, editorials, and articles. Don was instrumental in shaping PA education at the University of Utah School of Medicine for more than three decades, headed the implementation of the university’s Master of PA Studies degree, and pioneered the program’s humanitarian international clinical activities in Papua New Guinea and Thailand. He has also been influential in establishing clinical rotations for students from the University of Utah in several other countries.

A trustee of the University of Utah School of Medicine Alumni Association, Don is a former AAPA PAragon PA Educator of the Year (1998). He is also a recipient of the Utah Medical Association Distinguished Service Award and has been recognized by the AAPA board for his humanitarian outreach after the 2004 Asian tsunami and for his efforts to raise money for Hurricane Katrina relief.

In May of 2010, in recognition of his accomplishments, Don received the Outstanding PA of the Year at the AAPA Impact 2010 Awards Ceremony in Atlanta, GA. Don was honored for his exemplary service to the PA profession and the community and for advancing the public image of PAs.

In June of 2010 Don was appointed as the first division chief of the newly created Division of PA Studies in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine at the University of Utah. Don served on the faculty of the Utah program since 1979 and was the director from 1989-2010.

Measurable Impact of Pioneering and Innovative Efforts:

Don served as PAEA’s liaison to the Global Health Education Consortium (GHEC) from 2010-2013. In November of 2011, Don, along with three other members of PAEA presented a panel discussion at the CUGH/GHEC Global Health Education Consortium in Montreal, Canada. The panel presentation, "Global Provision of Health and Wellness: Recognizing, Validating, and Promoting the Role of Non-
Physician Clinicians and Their Contributions to Improving Global Health “focused on “PA-like” providers around the world, including the U.S. experience. The talk was well-attended and was profiled as a highlight session during the closing remarks by CUGH leadership.

Evidence of Service in Leadership Roles:
In addition to all his work in academia, Don has also made his mark as a leader in the profession serving in leadership roles with PAEA, the Physician Assistant Foundation and now with the necPA Health Foundation. Don has participated in and led numerous committees over the years at the University of Utah, PAEA, the PA Foundation as well as with non-PA organizations. His dedication in the boardroom is just as strong as it is in the classroom. Don is a true leader. He stays the course, even when things get tough. He leads by example. Don challenges us to think bigger and helps empower PAs to address issues of health equity and public health. His vision and insight on how to integrate global health into PA education in a meaningful way has opened opportunities for PA educators and students all over the country.

Don is a past president of the Association of Physician Assistant Programs/PAEA (1997-1998). During his tenure PAEA’s reserve fund was established with funds from the Pedersen family foundation. Don is also a past-president of the PA Foundation (2005-2007), where he continues to serve as an emeritus trustee. While PA Foundation president, Don established the R.K. Pedersen Global Humanitarian Outreach Grant Program to provide funding for PAs around the world who are working on sustainable, capacity-building projects involving health education and clinical care.

Consistent Record of Advocacy:
Don is the founding editor of the JPME. In January 2011, after many years of effort, the Journal of Physician Assistant Education (JPME) was selected to be indexed and included in the National Library of Medicine’s MEDLINE database. This was an important milestone for PAEA and had many implications including the benefit to member authors and others for purposes of promotion and tenure. Reaching the milestone of being included in MEDLINE database was a goal initiated by Don.

Research:
The PAEA Research Achievement Award provides recognition for research and scholarly work relating to PA education. In 2009, it was presented to Don (who was serving as the Director of the University of Utah PA Program). Don was at the forefront of the Association’s research and publications efforts for nearly two decades. From 1991–1997, he edited APAP’s newsletter, Perspective on Physician Assistant Education. In 1998, he transformed it into the Association’s official peer-reviewed journal and served as its founding editor. Eventually Perspective was revamped to become PAEA’s current journal, the Journal of Physician Assistant Education (JPME).

Don’s vision for a “full circle” of research activity on PA education motivated him to establish the Association’s Research Institute, which oversees all of PAEA’s research activities. One of the RI’s first activities was to develop a small grants program to encourage research on PA education. Don convinced his institution, the University of Utah, to underwrite Perspective as a scholarly journal that would publish the research that the grants program would help generate. And finally in 2001, Don completed the circle by establishing the PAEA Research Achievement Award, not foreseeing that he himself would someday be a recipient. In his acceptance remarks, Don quoted words of wisdom from Denis Oliver twenty years earlier. “We must do more. We must do so much more!”

Regarded as an Exceptional Mentor and Role Model by Professional Colleagues:
In addition to being a PA educator, mentor and leader, Don is a philanthropist. He defines the meaning of “giving back” and paying it forward” not just by his financial support but by the way he leads his life. Don has set the standard by which we should all try to live our lives. He has spent most of his PA career
looking for ways to help those most in need achieve a level of health. The selfless way in which he carries out good work motivates all those who work with him and moves those who have not worked with him to do so.

Students in PA programs today are the medical professionals who will fill the gaps in patient care tomorrow because of PA educators like Don Pedersen. I cannot think of a better way to honor Don’s work ethic, philanthropy, dedication to students, and commitment to high quality PA education than the PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award. Thank you in advance for your consideration of Don Pedersen for this award.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Booth Lord, MHS, PA-C
Associate Professor and
PA Program Director
Case Western Reserve University – Cleveland, OH
February 18, 2016

Physician Assistant Education Association
655 K Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Letter of Support for Don Pedersen, Ph.D., M.S., P.A. Nomination for Lifetime Achievement Award

Dear Nomination Committee:

It is with great enthusiasm that I provide this letter of support for the nomination of Donald (Don) Pedersen, Ph.D., M.S., P.A., for the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) Lifetime Achievement Award. Don is an extraordinary leader at the institutional, State, national, and international levels. Recognition via this award is simply so very appropriate for one who has done so much to advance health by leadership of the PA profession over so many decades of an amazing and exemplary career.

My department is very proud to say Don Pedersen started his physician assistant career here, at the University of Utah, as a student in our Utah MedEX program. Don graduated from the program in 1978 and, after a year of serving in private practice in Idaho, returned to the University of Utah to assume the position of training coordinator for the (renamed) Utah Physician Assistant Studies Program (UPAP). While in this role, Don also practiced as a physician assistant for many entities within the Salt Lake City community, as well as the Utah National Guard and Air Force Reserve. Don continued to play an integral role in UPAP, while also continuing his own education by obtaining a Ph.D. in Health Education.

In 1989, Don became the second program director in UPAP history. During his tenure and under his enthusiastic leadership, the Utah State Board of Regents authorized the program to offer a graduate degree, Masters of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS). Also, under Don’s helm, formal University faculty status was granted to UPAP educators, and the program was elevated as a division in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, with Don as its first division chief. The program and then division flourished under Don’s leadership, advancing to number 2 in US News and World Report’s ranking of top PA Program in the nation.
In addition to his service to UPAP, Don is a major national leader for the PA profession. In 1998, he founded *Perspective on Physician Assistant Education* (now the *Journal of Physician Assistant Education*), the official journal of the PAEA. Don served as editor for Perspectives on PA Education National Newsletter. He served as president of the Association of Physician Assistant Programs (APAP, now PAEA) with four years of service on the board of directors. To emphasize the importance of physician assistants as part of an inter-professional care teams, Don established a liaison position with the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine and served in this capacity for two years.

Don did not stop at the national level to promote and bring prominence to the profession. He pioneered the University of Utah’s international clinical activity for PA students, and in advancing the PA profession worldwide through partnership with multinational corporations. Even though he is now in phased retirement, he has not stepped back from showing how PAs can make an impact outside the US. Don traveled to Thailand to help identify bodies of people killed by the devastating tsunami of 2005. Don and his wife, Kathy, continue to lead student groups throughout Nepal to help provide medical care to areas that are hard to reach and sometimes overlooked. In 2015 after completing the four week Nepal clinical rotation, Don immediately caught a return flight to assist with earthquake recovery. He partnered with Project Hope and Mannohar Memorial Teaching Hospital to provide medical care for patients who could not make it to the hospital. Don was instrumental in setting up an emergency clinic at Swayambhu Temple, and personally caring there for earthquake survivors.

In summary, Don epitomizes the candidate for the PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award. He is a true role model and mentor for current and future educators in the PA field. I feel fortunate to have had the pleasure of working hand-in-hand with Don to provide the support to make the PA profession what it is today. It is with sincere pleasure that I provide this letter of support for Don Pedersen's nomination for the PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award. Please contact me if I may provide any further information.

Sincerely,

Michael K. Magill, M.D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Family & Preventive Medicine
University of Utah School of Medicine
Physician Assistant Education Association
655 K Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

It is an honor and a privilege to provide you this letter of nomination for DONALD M. PEDERSEN, Ph.D., MS, PA, for the LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD OF THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION.

I have known Don for nearly his entire career, and I feel extremely qualified to speak to his sterling qualifications regarding this award.

Don represents the best of the Physician Assistant profession, in all aspects, in service and in education, professionally and personally.

History of distinguished service

His curriculum vitae provides ample evidence of his history of distinguished service over his entire career in institutional, local and state, and national and global venues.

From his initial commitment as a student representative, to his service in professional associations, to his roles as teacher, initiator, leader, and philanthropist locally and globally, Don has exhibited the passion and dedication to improve the health of individuals and society. His capabilities have been acknowledged by the Department of Health and Human Services in their award of over $1.5 million in training grants to the PA Training Program in Utah, for over a dozen years under his leadership.

He continued his service to the profession and to the nation as he assumed leadership roles in the Association of Physician Assistant Programs (APAP) and in the Physician Assistant profession, external validations of the esteem in which his peers hold him and his quiet and effective outcomes, which have advanced the physician assistant profession, physician assistant education, and the health of our society. In his academic roles, he has the distinction of being the founder and editor in chief of Perspectives on Physician Assistant Education, the official journal of APAP.
His service goes beyond his professional career, and is manifest in his personal commitment to helping others. He has provided hands-on relief to victims of the tsunami in Thailand in 2005, and of earthquakes in Nepal in 2015. He was instrumental in establishing the Robert K. Pederson Global Outreach Endowment through a major donation from his family foundation in 2005 to the Physician Assistant Foundation, a program that continues its positive impact today.

Measureable impact of pioneering and innovative efforts

Don has had, and continues to have, measureable impact with pioneering and innovative efforts across PA education at state, national, and international levels. As Director of the PA Training Program in Utah, he has helped produce hundreds of PAs to serve Utah and the Nation, in his twenty two years tenure, providing leadership and direction to one of the first PA training programs in the nation for nearly half of its 45 year existence.

He has written and spoken extensively about PA education, and, as mentioned above, is the founder and editor in chief of the official journal of APAP.

Evidence of service in leadership roles

Even in his pre-professional life, as a physician assistant student, he manifested his service as a student representative to the Utah Academy of Physician Assistants, followed by his holding the offices of President-elect, President, and past President of that organization. He proceeded to expand his service and impact to the national level as the delegate to the National Academy House of Delegates, In the mid-1990’s, he then assumed the offices of President-elect, then President, and past President of the Association of Physician Assistant Programs. He followed that service with election to the Board of the Physician Assistant Foundation (PAF), where he rapidly moved into leadership roles, culminating as President of that organization. His service was so noteworthy, that the PAF elected him an Emeritus Trustee, a lifetime honor, in acknowledgement of his service to the Foundation and to the nation. During his tenure, he initiated programs with global reach and impact, which exist till today.

As mentioned previously, he has held leadership positions in the Association of Physician Assistant Programs, having direct impact on the direction and nature of physician assistant education, locally and nationally.

His impact goes far beyond the physician profession itself, a manifestation of Don’s passion for excellence and for helping those in need.

Regarded as an exceptional mentor and role model

Don is a servant-leader, humble and effective. Students and colleagues, both within the PA profession and outside, regard Don as an exceptional mentor and role model, through his knowledge, his skills, his experience, and his personality. In recognition of his sterling capabilities in this realm, in 1998 he was named the National PA Educator of the Year, and received the PAragon Award of the American Academy of Physician Assistants.
Time and again, I have personally observed him in these roles, using quiet humility as a vehicle for substantive mentoring.

Consistent record of advocacy

Don is passionate about his chosen profession, and never ceases to advocate for it, whether in academics, the community, or politics. He has been active in quality assurance and credentialing for and on behalf of the profession for over a quarter of a century, serving on the Utah State Licensing Board for PAs, as well as the national accrediting body for PA education programs. He is a prolific writer, and has generated countless articles, editorials, letters, and book chapters to advance the cause of PAs, and PA education.

He has local to global reach. At any one time you might find Don in his backyard in Salt Lake City mentoring students, or overseas providing care to needy populations on behalf of his profession, or advancing the PA profession by developing and implementing overseas rotations for PA students.

One aspect of Don’s life which is not adequately captured in your criteria, is Don as a person. He is committed to doing good for the less fortunate of our society, nationally, and internationally. His mission is to dignify the lives of those we serve.

Clearly, Don meets and exceeds every one of the criteria you have established for this Lifetime Achievement Award, both quantitatively and qualitatively. You would be hard pressed to identify any other individual who meets, and exceeds, your criteria for this recognition.

I am proud, honored, and privileged, to provide an unqualified and enthusiastic nomination for DONALD M. PEDERSEN, to be the recipient of the LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD of PAEA.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth P. Moritsugu, MD, MPH, FACP
(Former) Surgeon General of the United States
EXCLUSIVE RANKINGS

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February 29, 2016

Physician Assistant Education Association
655 K Street NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Lifetime Achievement Award Selection Committee:

I am writing to you today to add my ardent support for Don Pederson, PhD, PA-C, a nominee for the PAEA’s Lifetime Achievement Award. While there are many others who have known Dr. Pedersen for much longer than me and who have had the privilege of being eye witnesses to his impressive career and the impact he has had on the PA profession, I feel that my letter regarding Dr. Pedersen’s merit to receive this award may add a unique perspective when reviewing his nomination materials.

I know that to be considered for the PAEA’s Lifetime Achievement Award, a potential recipient must demonstrate excellence in many categories. In preparation for writing this letter of support for Don Pedersen, I have asked many longtime PA educators how they would describe Don and the words they chose included calm, professional, caring, genuine, innovative, respectful, and humble leader. I know other letters of support for Don have focused on how he meets each of the different criteria needed for selection. Because I didn’t get to know him until late in his career, I can mostly comment from a personal standpoint on how he has become for me “…an exceptional mentor and role model.”

I first met Dr. Pedersen in the spring of 2012 while attending the AAPA conference in Toronto. I was at a session that was being presented by a speaker originally from an African country and raised my hand to interject a comment about the utilization of PAs in Liberia, a country I was preparing to visit later that year. Shortly after the session ended, I was approached by a woman who had a mutual interest in Liberia and she suggested that I meet her husband and we could get to know each other and continue our discussion. I had no idea what an important moment that was in my life as the woman I had met was Kathy Pedersen and she arranged my first meeting with Don Pedersen.

I greatly enjoyed talking with this amazingly kind and humble couple. They immediately treated me like an old friend and seemed to take great interest in my life and future endeavors in Liberia. I left that first meeting feeling very affirmed and excited about my new friendship. Later that day I ran into a colleague who has worked in PA education longer than me and I told her about this nice couple I had met and relayed to her how kind they had been to me. When I mentioned that their names were Don and Kathy Pedersen, she made sure to educate me on the many contributions Don
had made to the PA profession and how revered he was to all who knew him. She also had many wonderful things to say about Kathy.

When I first met Don, my career was at a crossroads. I had just returned from my first medical mission to Haiti and knew I was heading to Africa for the first time later that year. I had no role models in my life who had taken on a leadership role within the realms of both PA education and global health. I was in the midst of discovering a whole new passion for figuring out how to facilitate increased access to healthcare for those in developing nations. I was finding that my interest was not so much in the area of direct patient evaluation and treatment, but instead I was more energized by empowering local providers and medical educators to become independent and self-sustaining. With Dr. Don Pedersen in my life, I finally had that role model to help guide me.

As I progressively became more involved in the realm of international healthcare and education consulting, many of my long-term PA education colleagues were somewhat perplexed and hesitant to endorse my efforts. It was an isolating experience to have my colleagues not understand how my life had been transformed by my many trips to Haiti and Liberia over the years that followed, but Don has been a constant source of support, encouragement, inspiration, and information. Don has never demonstrated anything but a servant leader’s heart and a wonderful sense of compassion that is awe-inspiring. When I read through his CV, it is hard not to feel like I have accomplished nothing in comparison to what he has done, but he always treats me like a colleague and does whatever he can to lift me up and support my efforts.

During the recent Ebola virus outbreak in Western Africa, I let Don know that I was trying to raise revenue to secure and ship personal protective equipment to the healthcare workers in Liberia that were dying while trying to do their job with no way to protect themselves. Instead of pointing out that there was likely little I could do to make a difference in that massive crisis, Don immediately caught the vision and significantly helped our cause through both personal financial contributions and by connecting the group I was working with on this initiative to Chevron and the PA Foundation. With Don’s endorsement and assistance, we were able to raise nearly $30,000 and ship thousands of pounds of PPE and other medical equipment to Liberia with more planned to head over there soon. I was also invited to be the keynote speaker at the AAPA / PA Foundation Gala event during the AAPA conference in San Francisco in 2015. It was my pleasure to sit that night with the Pedersen and be present as they were recognized with a prestigious service award by the PA Foundation.

As if providing guidance for me in the realm of global health and PA education was not enough, I will soon begin an exciting new chapter in my relation with Dr. Pedersen. He is one of the few PhD, PA-C that I have had the pleasure to know well. In 2014, I decided to head down that same path and began working on a PhD in Leadership and Policy at Niagara University. Recently, I passed my comprehensive exams and moved on into the ranks of PhD Candidate. This semester I am working on my dissertation proposal and putting together my dissertation committees. My topic mixes global health, leadership and ethics together. After selecting three faculty members from Niagara University to be on my committee, I was told I needed an external committee member who had a PhD and was a content expert. I was incredibly excited that Dr. Pedersen agreed to serve as that external committee member. I am greatly honored to have him share with
me in this PhD dissertation journey and look forward to learning even more from him in the years ahead.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and please let me know if I can be of further service to your selection committee. I do not believe it will be possible to find a more worthy recipient of the PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award than Dr. Don Pedersen and the impact he has had on my life as a mentor is a blessing that is beyond compare!

Sincerely,

John Oliphant
PhD Candidate, MHP, MSEd, PA-C, ATC
Assistant Professor
John.Oliphant@rit.edu
(585) 475-5607 Work
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Physician Assistant Education Association  
655 K Street, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20001

To Whom It May Concern

Re:  
Donald M. Pedersen, PhD, MS, PA  
Lifetime Achievement Award

Dear Nomination Committee,

I write this letter to nominate Donald Martin Pedersen, Professor Emeritus, University of Utah, for the PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award. As I read through the criteria for this award I can think of no single physician assistant educator who more embodies the attributes that this award represents. I have known Dr. Pedersen for nearly 23 years, at first as my Program Director, then as a PA educator colleague down the highway from our brand new Program in Idaho that opened 21 years ago.

In his 35-year career, the evidence of his distinguished service is demonstrated by so many different contributions: 1) founder in Chief of Perspectives on Physician Assistant Education; 2) Multiple leadership roles in APAP and then PAEA; 3) involvement in the conception and establishment of the PA foundation; 4) mentoring of faculty at a national level; 5) commissioning of the iconic veteran PA sculpture; 6) leading by example in so many ways – international humanitarian work; research and scholarship; academic leadership at the University of Utah; being active military and serving our country; and demonstrating that effective leadership can come from a soft voice and a cooperative spirit.

Our profession has benefitted so much from Dr. Pedersen’s commitment and service. Let us now thank him by bestowing this prestigious honor on someone so deserving. I give him my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

Paula B. Phelps, MHE, PA-C  
Program Director/Department Chair
PROJECT HOPE
Health opportunities for people everywhere
RE: Nomination of Donald M. Pedersen for Lifetime Achievement Award

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing in support of nominating Donald M. Pedersen, Professor Emeritus, University of Utah, for the PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award. I can think of no one more deserving of this recognition.

Distinguished service hardly describes the attributes and contributions Don has given over his 35 year career. Not only has he contributed to the PA Profession and PA Education, but also to communities, local, national and international. He has touched thousands of lives during his career. And the impact of his ‘touch’ is palpable.

His CV outlines (in black and white) all of his activities and publications. What it does not show is the empathy, sympathy, compassion and passion he brings to all he does. He is a recognized leader locally within the underserved communities he volunteers with, nationally by the many boards he has served on, and internationally, by all of the countries he has dedicated his life to helping. Throughout his career, he has dedicated himself to service and this continues presently while retired.

Tangible measurements of his impact are clearly identified in his publications, especially as Founder and Editor in Chief of “perspectives on Physician Assistant Education”. He has authored Book chapters, peer reviewed papers and so many other papers all important to advancing research and PA education. He is a distinguished Past President of PAEA and the PA Foundation, serving enthusiastically in both positions. He has led research on PA productivity, critical to the utilization and hiring of PAs throughout Utah and adopted by other States. As a Program Director, he enabled his PA program to exceed in ranking to 4th ranked by US News and World Report and elevated his program from a certificate to master’s level.

His service to PA programs, Local, State and National and international communities is unsurpassed by any other PA I know. His CV outlines many Boards and committees that he has participated in. The recipient of many awards for contribution and leadership, tell the story of a
giving life, as well as a servant leader. I will not list them here as the CV identifies these, just suffice to say, his leadership within these boards and committees has enabled all of them to move forward to meet the every changing needs of healthcare and education.

Don is the epitome of a role model and what a mentor should be. Cultivating PA students, bringing together communities through volunteering, and affecting social change through advocacy for the underserved, Don is what everyone would hope to have in a mentor. He shows how to be a PA by actions, not by words. He shows how to advocate for change by action, not by words. And he shows how to develop strong PA educational programs by actions, not just by words. His actions have impacted so many lives and programs. Truly he is a leader, a role model and mentor to all.

Through development of research initiatives, and grant funding opportunities, Don has stimulated the focus on PA practice and PA Education. Through his own funding, the PA Foundation excels in supporting world healthcare endeavors and through his leadership and visions, policy development and implementation continues to evolve for enhanced educational programs for PAs.

What you won’t see on his CV is his selfless acts of compassion and courage during international disasters: He responded immediately after the Thailand Tsunami, identifying victims of the horrific disaster, and he returned to Nepal after the earthquake, showing his concern for others before himself. When disaster strikes, no matter where in the world, he does not hesitate to respond.

Donald M. Pedersen has lived a stellar life of service to PAs, Education, and Communities and to the world. Even retired, he continues to serve. I can think of no one else who has achieved so much throughout his life than Don. He deserves to be recognized with the PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Joanne Kissel Pagel MPAS, PA-C, DFAAPA, Karuna RMT®
Physician Assistant History Society

Thomas E. Piemme, MD
21036 N Carrillo Trail
Surprise AZ 85387
623-537-9155
tompiemme@gmail.com

Awards Committee
Physician Assistant Education Association
655 K Street
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001

February 26, 2016

To the Members of the Committee:

I am writing to strongly support the nomination of Donald M. Pedersen for the PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award.

In my long association with the PA profession, there are few whom I respect and admire as much as Don. In the modern world of academic achievement, it is rare to encounter what used to be referred to as a “triple threat” – a scholar who has excelled as a clinician, a teacher, and a researcher. Moreover, beyond his contributions to his own institution, he has provided leadership both nationally and internationally.

Having served as President of PAEA and of the PA Foundation, he has received awards and accolades from the American Academy of Physician Assistants. He pioneered in the development of PAEA scholarship as the founder and longtime editor of the well-respected journal, Perspectives in Physician Assistant Education.

Beyond his academic accomplishments, which his resume and letter of nomination will attest to, Don is a humanist of the first order. He has a thorough grasp of societal issues that led to, and fostered the growth of the physician assistant profession. He is an artist who has depicted many of the significant events that stand as highlights of the profession. He has made personal financial contributions to the development of the profession nationally and internationally.

PAEA will do well to honor Don with the highly-deserved Lifetime Achievement Award.

Sincerely,

Emeritus Professor of Medicine, George Washington University.
On Feb 17, 2016, at 6:19 AM, Alfred Sadler <dhrsquash@me.com> wrote:

To PAEA Awards Committee,

I am most pleased to write a letter of whole hearted support for Donald Pedersen to be the recipient of this year’s PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award.

He has been a dedicated practitioner, educator, teacher, program director and editor during his many years of work at the Utah MEDEX Program. I need not repeat all of his national leadership accomplishments which are outlined in Rod Hooker’s nomination letter. Of note certainly, is his past presidency of PAEA and his leadership in enhancing greatly, what is now the Journal of Physician Assistant Education.

His work abroad in developing countries has had an enormous impact - often working with his colleague and wife Kathy. This is work that they continue to do and set a fine example for the PA profession in particular and humanitarian aid in general.

Equally importantly, he is a generous exemplar of leadership with humility - a quality far too rare in our world today.

He is an excellent choice for this year’s award.

I am happy to provide additional details if needed.

Most sincerely,

Fred

Alfred M. Sadler, Jr. MD FACP

h 821 625 3435
c 831 238 2427
The Physician Assistant Education Association
655 K Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Life Time Achievement Award for Professor Emeritus Donald Martin Pedersen

Dear Nomination Committee,

I feel much honored writing this letter to you for strongly supporting the nomination of Donald Martin Pedersen, Professor Emeritus, University of Utah, for the prestigious PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award.

In this letter I humbly try to lay out my argument as to why this professor deserves due recognition from the fraternity. I allow myself to go along with the laid criteria enlisted for this award and boldly identifying the fulfillment of those criteria. I would do this with great pride and honor based upon the evidences drawn from his curriculum vitae and my practical and personal encounters with him.

As for his distinguished service are concerned Dr. Pedersen was the founder and Chief Editor of the Perspectives on Physician Assistant Education for 10 years and was instrumental in bringing in the research agenda forward in the PA community. He has been instrumental in raising the quality of research in the PA community.

He is the author of over 30 peer reviewed papers, 10 book chapters, and numerous other materials important for education and advancing PA research.

One of Dr. Pedersen’s papers titled: “The productivity of PAs, APRNs, and physicians in Utah”. This study showed that Utah’s PAs undertook more work per capita than the doctors that employed them. The study estimated that the state would need 350 or so PAs to accommodate the future need.

Some noteworthy responsibilities accomplished by him and demonstrated positive impacts in relevant areas of activities are enlisted:

- Selection Committee member – New University of Utah Dental School Dean. 2012 – 2013.
- Trustee - University of Utah School of Medicine Alumni Association Board of Trustees, 2009 – present.
Innovative and pioneering effort, leadership and advocacy in the National / international areas

Since year 2013 I closely know Dr. Pedersen and I found him as an ideal scholar, an excellent educator and a knowledgeable clinician. He is with the humanitarian touch and committed to building international fellowship to bring forward the theme and principle of PA's education and international analogue of PA through the global partners. His effort is ever tireless with the motto of meeting global health needs through education, research and clinical care.

His important publications as principle author and co-author related global partner are; 1. "The Burma Medic: an International Physician Assistant analogue", 2. "Thailand International Elective: A model curriculum in international Health and cross-cultural experience" and 3. "Connecting past and present: field study along the Thailand / Burma Border" are brilliant example and demonstration of his tireless fulfillment of international commitments to enhance the education of the health workforce in the developing countries with the example of Thailand and Burma collaborative program with huge positive impact.

The recent collaboration with Nepal is yet another milestone of achievement in his career and yielding positive impact of his sincere effort to bringing in the research, education and training in different environment and culturally diverse conditions. It is a challenging job but it is an opportunity nationally and internationally. The University of Utah school of Medicine, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine in Utah is partnering with Nepal Health Care Cooperative, Mannohan Memorial Teaching Hospital and Mannohan Memorial Health Foundation in Kathmandu Nepal. It became possible only through his and his wife Kathy Pedersen’s selfless effort.

After series of mutual consultative homework, in the year 2015 he brought the first batch of PA students in Nepal for the clinical rotation for getting clinical experience in the Mannohan Memorial Teaching Hospital and also obtaining exposure to the health services in the rural community of Nepal. This collaboration proved to be a great learning opportunity for the PAs from USA. It also provided arena for exchange of knowledge between HAS of Nepal and PAs of USA. Satisfied with the 1st batch of PA rotation now the second batch of PAs is going to come to Nepal as the continuum of the International collaborative program with Nepal, envisioned and initiated by Donald Pedersen.
Again with his initiative in Nepal Mannohan Memorial Health Foundation is conducting an important study "Career Prospects and Challenges of Health Assistants in Nepal". This study will provide in-depth understanding the gaps existing in building the carrier opportunity for Health Assistants (HA) the midlevel health work force of Nepal. The outcome of the research will pave the way for creating an enabling environment and training opportunity for health assistants. It is an example of Pedersen’s vision and commitments.

The disastrous earthquake in Nepal on 25th April and then another on 12th May, 2015 and trauma and casualties caused by this devastation has touched heart and soul of Don Pedersen and he came back as a Volunteer PA to assist the local effort in treating the victims. He was instrumental in bringing in the Project HOPE volunteers and himself as a member of the team for disaster relief. He not only assisted in the hospital overwhelmed with influxes of trauma victims but also moved into the damaged structures and treated on-site victims with his expertise and his humanitarian touch. He could save many lives and also he could make many friends in Nepal.

Based upon the evidences and my personal experience I allowed myself to express my sincere feeling in regards to Don Pedersen in the above notes. Now I close it with the hope that he would be declared as deserving respectable candidate of the Life Time Achievement award by PAEA.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dr. Ram Prasad Shrestha, MD,MS,FICS,FCSS
Chairman, Mannohan Memorial Health Foundation
Director, International Relation Division, NEHCO
Head, Department of Surgery, MMTH

Date: 27th February, 2016
February 18, 2016

Physician Assistant Education Association
655 K Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Donald Martin Pedersen, PhD, PA-C
    Lifetime Achievement Award

Dear Nomination Committee,

I write this letter in support of Donald Martin Pedersen, Professor Emeritus, University of Utah, for the PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award.

I first met Dr. Pedersen in 1988 when I applied to the University of Utah Physician Assistant Program. I have intently followed his career since then. He has been and continues to be my mentor. His career is filled with accomplishments that most of us can only aspire to achieve. I am amazed how he has managed to touch so many peoples lives at home and throughout the world. His visions of what physician assistants can do and how physician assistant education can advance is focused on the ever-changing horizon. Dr. Pedersen is a “father” figure to many Utah physician assistants. His guidance and leadership seems to have always been in Utah and has spilled through out the United States. We have been molded by his wisdom and his gently guided road maps in our own careers.

History of Distinguished Service

Distinguished service is defined by Dr. Pedersen’s 35-year career. It is guided by his passion of helping others in their need. Dr. Pedersen has embarked on a professional journey that few have traveled. Most of us have trailed behind walking along the path he has cut. As an educator, he has helped students realize their dreams. Not only has he personally educated and advised students, but he has also strengthened the physician assistant curricula locally and nationally. As a leader, he has envisioned new ways and forged new paths. He gives selflessly of time and skills. He has contributed to professional organizations through his leadership and public speaking. He has advised community groups and participated in local and national legislative changes supporting the physician assistant profession.

Institutional

1. Raised the quality of the physician assistant education at the University of Utah.
   The University of Utah Physician Assistant Program has been held in high regard for many years. Through his tenure, he has propelled this program from MEDEX to Master’s level educational program.
Local and State
1. Utah Governor’s Health Policy Commission / Subcommittee on Health Professions Education
2. Chair, Utah State Division of Physician Assistant Occupational Licensing Board

National and/or International
1. Improved physician assistant research. Founder and Editor in Chief of Perspectives on Physician Assistant Education.

Measurable Impact of Pioneering and Innovative Efforts across PA education at state, national, and/or international level(s)
When I entered the Utah MEDEX PA Program in 1986, it was an 18-month certificate program that the University of Utah did not necessarily embrace. It was housed in a drafty one classroom building on the old Fort Douglas military grounds that the University of Utah procured. This did not stop Dr. Pedersen or the students from a quality education.

I remember countless times that he represented physician assistants at the Utah Legislature over his career to improve the physician assistant education and practice.

State of Utah
1. Educated physicians on the value of physician assistant practice
2. Advanced the PA Program in Utah from a certificate program to a bachelor program to a master's program
3. Procured Division status for the University of Utah PA Program in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine
4. Instrumental in obtaining improved educational facilities for the University of Utah PA Program. In 1988, there was only one classroom in an old drafty military wooden building with poor heating in the Utah winter and poor cooling in the hot desert summers.

National and/or International level(s)
1. President of the PA Foundation, American Academy of Physician Assistants
2. National Educator of the Year, Paragon Award, American Academy of Physician Assistants

Evidence of Service in Leadership Roles
One would have to have their head buried in the Utah desert sand not to be aware of Dr. Pedersen’s leadership and achievements. Utah was prime for a physician assistant “father” to lead us from a rural MEDEX program to a nationally top ranked physician assistant program. A person with passion, Dr. Pedersen has forged trails that could have been left bare and untrodden. He had a vision that few in Utah saw. When many were content with the status quo he saw avenues that improved physician assistant education and practice, which in turn improved patient health care. Although his days were filled with jobs to do and the stress must have been high, I never saw it on his face or in his demeanor. The peace in his heart radiated in his endeavors.

Institutional
1. Director, Utah Physician Assistant Program for 21 years
2. Grant Management: grant writing / grant awards for physician assistant training and research
3. Service on multiple University of Utah committees, (a few are listed here):
   a. Selection Committee Member, University of Utah Alumni School Dean
   b. Trustee, School of Medicine Alumni Association Board of Trustees
   c. Health Science Diversity Advisory Board member
   d. Advisory Board Member, PAs for Cross-cultural Involvement (PAXI)
4. Utah PA Program ranked 2nd in the US News and World Report rankings of the top
   graduate schools in the United States (PA Program Award) 2011

Local and State
1. Lifetime Service Award, Utah Physician Assistant Program
2. First Place Publication Award, Utah Physician Assistant Program
3. Certificate of Recognition, Utah Department of Commerce

National and/or International
1. Outstanding Civilian PA of the Year, Veteran's Caucus of the AAPA
3. Research Achievement Award, Physician Assistant Education Association

Regarded as an exceptional mentor and role model by professional colleagues
I can personally attest to what Dr. Pedersen has meant to me as a mentor. I was a
registered nurse working on the only HIV/AIDS unit at Holy Cross Hospital in 1987 in Salt Lake
City. This was a time of fear, little health care support and many misconceptions about HIV. I
was approached by the only physician in Utah who would care for people with HIV. She asked
that I consider physician assistant school and come to work for her specifically to care for
people with HIV/AIDS. I applied to the Utah MEDEX Program in 1988. This is when I met Dr.
Pedersen. During the interview process, he was supportive of health care for people with HIV
when others did not appreciate the need. He was always available to me and the other
physician assistant students in our class. His teaching abilities were detailed, empowering and
memorable. He made sure that we learned what we needed to know to become excellent
physician assistants. He counseled us when we were feeling low and made recommendations
how to go forward. He was our educator, our ally and our advocate. He gave of himself and
never expected anything in return. I graduated in early 1990 to continue a career in HIV/AIDS.
Without Dr. Pedersen's support I may have not been able to make a difference in the lives of
people with HIV/AIDS in Utah. I think of my fellow physician assistant students and their
careers across the Western United States. We are the ripples that go forth from this gentle man
who has taught us much more than what we needed to know about medicine.

Dr. Pedersen has shown us how to balance our lives with work, leadership and self
enhancement. At heart, he is a leader that is unmatched. He shows his beauty in his artistic
paintings and allows us to see the peace that reigns in his soul. Puffins are graciously created
on canvas for the PA Foundation print. I have an original oil of an African refugee he so
carefully captured in oil based colors. It hangs in my home and reminds me daily of the
compassion this man has for humankind.

He has traveled the world setting up student physician assistant opportunities in New
Guinea, Thailand, Burma and Nepal. Many students have had exceptional learning experiences
that could not be replicated anywhere in the United States. Nothing like this had previously
been available in Utah for physician assistant students.

I admire his humane-ness for providing relief to people in disastrous events. Bound by his
compassion and toolled with his skills, he traveled to Phang Nga, Thailand post tsunami in 2005
and to Kathmandu, Nepal post earthquake in April 2015. His articles about these experiences
are profound.
There is no greater mentor than Donald M. Pedersen, educator, leader, artist, relief worker and human. I watch him in awe.

**Consistent record of advocacy for the PA profession and dedication to furthering PA education**

Donald M. Pedersen has done more for physician assistant education and the profession than any one person I know. From the early years to the current time, Dr. Pedersen has helped the profession grow through:

1. elected positions (i.e., Physician Assistant Foundation, Association of Physician Assistant Programs, Utah Academy of physician Assistants),
2. as an educator readying physician assistant students to start their own careers, and
3. as an advocate educating physicians and lawmakers about the physician assistant profession.

His quiet consistency over the 28 years that I have known him is admirable. He has always been available for physician assistants in Utah and in the nation embarking on trails that lead internationally.

Translation of emotions do not come easily to paper about how he has influenced me in my own career. How does one put into academic language the emotions of gratitude, pride and appreciation that one human has done for me, our fellow physician assistants and our patients for which we care? Just as a pebble dropped in a pond, I am proud to be one of his many ripples.

Indeed, Dr. Pedersen has served the physician assistant profession admirably. Please consider acknowledgement of his lifetime achievement by the PAEA.

With Respect,

Carol Magdalene (Maggie) Snyder, BSN, PA-C, MSHeD
3670 Millbrook Terrace
Salt Lake City, UT 84106
Cell: 801-349-6296
cmaggiesnyder@gmail.com
February 28, 2016

Gloria M. Stewart, EdD, PA
15185 Majorca Bay Dr.
Naples, Florida 34110

Physician Assistant Education Association
655 K Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001

To: 2016 PAEA Awards Committee
Re: Dr. Donald Peterson, PhD, MS, PA
PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award

This is a letter of support for the nomination of Dr. Donald Peterson, Professor Emeritus, University of Utah, for the PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Peterson has made extraordinary contributions to PA education and to the PA profession and is very deserving of this award and the recognition from his peers.

Dr. Peterson’s distinguished service, impact of pioneering and innovative efforts, leadership roles, exceptional mentor and role model, and consistent record of advocacy for our profession are well documented in his curriculum vitae and his letter of nomination. My letter of support will indicate some of the highlights of his lifetime of service to his community, institution, state and national organizations and internationally.

Don served his institution as a faculty member, director, and chief of the Utah Physician Assistant Program, where he was the driving force in the development of the PA program that has trained many exceptional students throughout his 35-year career in the physician assistant profession. Don’s accomplishment included eight research grants that helped prepare students in their development of caring for their future patients and innovative approaches to the education of students of medicine.

Dr. Peterson served on numerous university committees throughout his career at the University of Utah. Don’s leadership within his state included being a student representative, president and member of the legislative committee for the Utah Academy of Physician Assistants. Dr. Peterson’s role in the Physician Assistant Licensing Board and the Medical Education Council in the State of Utah provided positive growth and development of the PA profession.
I had the honor of serving as Chair of the Education Committee while Dr. Peterson was on the Board of Directors of the Association of Physician Assistant Program. Don served as a wonderful mentor of how an individual should provide leadership throughout my association with APAP/PAEA. Dr. Peterson has contributed leadership roles as an officer or committee member in all of the physician assistant organizations and their associate organizations. The following honors and awards that Dr. Peterson has received are but a few of his well-deserved honors and demonstrate his impact on our profession.

- Outstanding PA of the Year - AAPA
- Outstanding Civilian PA of the Year, Veteran’s Caucus of the AAPA
- National PA Educator of the Year – AAPA
- Research Achievement Award – PAEA
- National PA Educator of the Year

One very important accomplishment of Dr. Peterson was as the founder and Chief Editor of the Perspectives on Physician Assistant Education. Don’s leadership of this journal was a major factor that helped the PA profession demonstrate that PA educators provide quality education of PA students and provides an avenue for PA faculty into the world of research and publication. This journal has had immeasurable effects for the development of the PA profession. Don has written numerous articles, book chapters and a book, letters/editorials, and presentations that are presented in his curriculum vitae, which clearly demonstrates his ability to provide measurable impact for PA education at state, national, and international levels.

Finally, Don is a great humanitarian that can be demonstrated from the beginning of his career working in underserved areas as a physician assistant to currently volunteering in a free clinic. Don’s relief work during Hurricane Katrina and Global Outreach, Tsunami in Thailand and during the Earthquake in Nepal, demonstrates his passion to help all of mankind. Don has used his incredible artistic ability to benefit our PA profession by his generous gifts and his works illustrate the soul of a physician assistant.

Dr. Donald Peterson is very deserving of the PAEA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Sincerely,

Gloria Stewart, EdD, PA
To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Donald M. Pedersen, PhD, MS, PA

Lifetime Achievement Award

Dear Nomination Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter of support for Donald Martin Pedersen’s nomination for the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) Lifetime Achievement Award. Don has been my colleague and friend for much of my approaching four decades of being a PA. I have yet to meet or work alongside an individual who has contributed more to the development and growth of the profession.

As a PA, Don has had a career of distinguished service and leadership roles; a few to mention - Trustee and President of the PA Foundation, President of Utah Academy of PA’s, and President of PAEA. His many roles within the university, steering & credentialing committees, alumni association, and the health science diversity advisory board amongst others have shown his unwavering support to the progression and enhancement of the profession. The American Academy of Physician Assistants recognized Don as the Outstanding PA of the Year and National PA Educator of the Year. The veteran’s caucus of the AAPA has also recognized him as the Outstanding Civilian PA of the Year.

I graduated from the Utah Medex project just one year before Don. Therefore, I have been able to personally observe the tremendous growth of the PA program and the profession under Don’s leadership. Once a certificate program he helped further it to a master’s level education. It has been named one of the best graduate programs in the country. During a period of 10 years, I was on the PA Foundation board with Don. Throughout this time I observed his outstanding leadership and mentoring skills. I considered him my mentor when I was president elect and he was president. He has mentored many of the trustees over the years both while as an active board member and as an emeritus trustee.

Don has also been instrumental in working with international institutions in Ghana, Nepal, Burma, and Papua New Guinea in the development and enhancement of PA type education. Beyond his academic excellence, Don shows others his stewardship and practical skills by “rolling up his sleeves” and working in very difficult and trying circumstances, whether it a catastrophic tsunami in Thailand or a devastating earthquake in Nepal.
One only needs to review his CV to understand the impact he has had on the PA profession, in education and domestic healthcare provision and also his impact on health care globally. He and his wife Kathy (also a PA) have been relentless in their pursuit and advocacy of the profession.

The old clichés help sum it up about Don: "He walks the walk and talks the talk" and "He leads by example". Donald Martin Pedersen certainly is the most deserved PA in the country for this lifetime achievement award.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent W. Wallace, PA-C, ARNP
DONALD M. PEDERSEN
4539 Thousand Oaks Dr.
Salt Lake City, UT 84124
801-558-2487
dpedersen@upap.utah.edu

EDUCATION
1988 Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD), Health Education
University of Utah, College of Health
Salt Lake City, UT

1973 Masters of Science (MS), Health Education, Community Health
Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

1971 Bachelor of Science (BS), Biology
College of Idaho, Caldwell, ID

CERTIFICATIONS
1986 Occupational Ergonomics, University of Michigan

1984 Pulmonary Function Testing, NIOSH Certified Course, University of Utah

1984 Audiometric Testing, NIOSH Certified Course, University of Utah

1983 ACLS Certified, University of Utah School of Medicine, Re-certified 1988

1978 Physician Assistant (PA-C), Utah MEDEX Project
University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City, Utah

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE
2010 – 2011 Chief, Division of Physician Assistant Studies
University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City, Utah

1989 – 2010 Director, Utah Physician Assistant Program
Department of Family and Preventive Medicine
University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah

1979 – 2012 Professor, Utah Physician Assistant Program
Department of Family and Preventive Medicine
University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah
1979 – 1989  Training Coordinator, Utah Physician Assistant Program
Department of Family and Preventive Medicine
University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah

1990 – 1997  Physician Assistant for the Air Force Reserve, Rank - Major
Salt Lake City, Utah

1980 – 1990  Physician Assistant for the Utah National Guard, Rank - CW2
Salt Lake City, Utah

1979 – 1986  Physician Assistant for Family Health Plan, FHP
Salt Lake City, Utah

1983 – 1985  Physician Assistant for Intermountain Health Care, WorkMed Clinic
Salt Lake City, Utah

1978 – 1979  Physician Assistant to A.E. Miller, M.D.
Blackfoot, Idaho

1974 – 1977  Executive Director, Southeastern Idaho Center for Health Resources, Inc.
Pocatello, Idaho

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

1998 - Present  Founder and Editor-in-Chief, Perspective on Physician Assistant Education,
Official Journal of the Association of Physician Assistant Programs

1991 – 1997  Editor, Perspective on PA Education, National Newsletter of the Association of
Physician Assistant Programs

1993 – 1996  Editorial Board, Utah's Health: An Annual Review

1980 – 1989  Editor, Utah Academy of Physician Assistants' Newsletter

GRANT MANAGEMENT

2003  Principal Investigator, DFPM Health Studies Fund research grant ($3,000)
Survey of the international activities of Physician Assistant programs

2003  Principal Investigator, DFPM Health Studies Fund research grant ($700)
Review of PDA programs used by PA students and graduates

2002  Principal Investigator, DFPM Health Studies Fund research grant ($2,680)
Study to assess the benefits of an international exchange for PA students

2003  Principal Investigator, for a Three-year PA Training Grant ($487,100)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
2002  Principal Investigator, DFPM Health Studies Fund educational project ($3500) video of The “Gold Standard” integrated physical exam for students of medicine

2000  Principal Investigator, for a Three-year PA Training Grant ($397,000) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

1997  Principal Investigator, for a Three-year PA Training Grant ($405,000) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

1994  Principal Investigator, for a Three-year PA Training Grant ($356,400) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

ELECTED POSITIONS

2011 - Present  Trustee, NCCPA Health Foundation

2008 - Present  Emeritus Trustee, Physician Assistant Foundation

2005 – 2007  President, Physician Assistant Foundation

2003 – 2005  Vice President, Physician Assistant Foundation

2000 – 2003  Trustee and Secretary, Physician Assistant Foundation

1996 – 2000  President Elect, President, Past President
  Association of Physician Assistant Programs

1983, 1986  Legislative Committee Member, Utah Academy of Physician Assistants

1982 – 1983  Delegate, Utah Academy of Physician Assistants Representative to the National Academy House of Delegates

1979 – 1982  President Elect, President, Past President
  Utah Academy of Physician Assistants

1977 – 1978  Student Representative to the Utah Academy of Physician Assistants

SCHOLASTIC HONORS

2013  Outstanding Civilian PA of the Year, Veteran’s Caucus of the AAPA

2011  Utah PA Program ranked 2nd in the US News and World Report rankings of the top graduate schools in the United States (PA Program Award)

2010  Outstanding PA of the Year, American Academy of Physician Assistants

2009  Research Achievement Award, Physician Assistant Education Association
2008  Utah PA Program ranked 4th in the US News and World Report rankings of the top graduate schools in the United States (PA Program Award)

2007  Commendation from the American Academy of Physician Assistants for efforts related to Hurricane Katrina relief and Global Outreach humanitarian activities.

2003  Utah PA Program ranked 5th in the US News and World Report rankings of the top graduate schools in the United States (PA Program Award)

1998  National PA Educator of the Year
Paragon Award from the American Academy of Physician Assistants

1997  Innovations Award, Physician Assistant Foundation
Papua New Guinea Student Exchange Program (PA Program Award)

1997  Distinguished support of Federal and State Supported Programs that serve the medically underserved people in the State of Utah, Bureau of Primary Care and Rural Health Systems and the Association of Utah Community Health

1993  Lifetime Service Award, Utah Academy of Physician Assistants

1990  Certificate of Recognition, Utah Department of Commerce

1989  Outstanding Graduate Student, University of Utah Dept. of Health Education

1988  First Place Publication Award, Utah Physician Assistant Program

1988  Army Commendation Medal for Injury and Illness Prevention

1988  Army Achievement Medal for AIDS Education and Prevention

1988  Outstanding Teacher of the Year, University of Utah PA Program

1987  Outstanding Teacher of the Year, University of Utah PA Program

RELIEF WORK

2015  Kathmandu, Nepal - Earthquake Relief (April, 3 weeks)
Project Hope and Manmohan Memorial Teaching Hospital, Kathmandu

2005  Phang Nga, Thailand - Tsunami Relief (January, 3 weeks)
University of Utah PA Program, Thai Ministry of Health, and Sorenson Genomics

PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

2011 - Present  Volunteer PA, Hope Free Clinic, Salt Lake City, UT

2002 – 2005  Board Member-at-Large
Society for the Preservation of Physician Assistant History
2002 – 2005  Gateways Steering Committee Chair
AAPA Student Leadership Development Program

1999 – 2002  Advisory Board Member, PAs for Crosscultural Involvement (PAXI)

1999 – 2000  National Steering Committee, PAs for Prevention
AAPA and the Physician Assistant Foundation

American Academy of Physician Assistants

1997 - Present  Utah State Medical Education Council
Subcommittee on APNs, Pharm Ds, and PAs

1995 – 1997  Utah Governor's Health Policy Commission
Subcommittee on Health Professions Education

1991 – 1996  Clinical Skills Test Committee Member
National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants

1991 – 1997  Site Review Team Member for the Accreditation Review Committee,
The Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation of the American
Medical Association

1994 – 1997  Chair, Physician Assistant Licensing Board
Division of Occupational and Professional Licensure, Dept. of Commerce

1990 – 1994  Physician Assistant Licensing Board
Division of Occupational and Professional Licensure, Dept. of Commerce

1991 - Present  Chair, Member, Staff and Faculty Development Committee
Association of Physician Assistant Programs

1989 – 1991  Staff, and Faculty Development Committee, Membership Committee
Association of Physician Assistant Programs

1988 – 1990  Physician Assistant Advisory Committee
Physician Licensing Board, Division of Occupational and Professional Licensure,
Utah Dept. of Commerce

1987 – 1991  Rural Health Advisory Committee, Utah Health Department

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

2012 – 2013  Selection Committee Member, University of Utah Dental School Dean

2009 - Present  Trustee, School of Medicine Alumni Association Board of Trustees

2001 – 2002  RPT Committee Ad Hoc Clinical
2000 – 2001 Steering Committee - Campus Health Enhancement Center
1998 – 2000 Steering Committee, Health Professions Training Building
1998 – 2000 Health Science Diversity Advisory Board, University of Utah
1998 – Present Interdisciplinary Credentialing Committee Member, University of Utah Hospital
1997 - Present Education Committee Member, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine
1996 - Present AHEC Advisory Board Member, Finance Committee Member
1979 - Present Selection Committee, Utah Physician Assistant Program

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

1995 - Present Member, Utah Medical Association
1998 - Present Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
1979 - Present Fellow Member, Utah Academy of Physician Assistants
1978 - Present Fellow Member, American Academy of Physician Assistants

THESIS / DISSERTATION


ARTICLES


Donald M. Pedersen, PA-C, Ph.D. page 9


BOOK CHAPTERS


Donald M. Pedersen, PA-C, P.h.D. page 10


BOOKS


LETTERS, COLUMNS, EDITORIALS


Pedersen, D.M. Creating a Body of Knowledge. Editorial - Perspective on Physician Assistant Education. 11 (3) 151. 2000


Pedersen, D.M. Professional Associations and the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890. Perspective on PA Education. 8:4, 2-6, 1997.

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Pedersen, D.M. PA Program Proliferation. Perspective on PA Education. 7:2, 2, 1996.


PRESENTATIONS

Graduation Address – A. T. Still University – Arizona School of Health Sciences, Mesa, AZ. March 7, 2014.

Graduation Address – Idaho State University Physician Assistant Program. Pocatello, ID August 2013.

Graduation Address – Oregon Health Sciences University Physician Assistant Program. Portland, OR. August 11, 2012.


Generations 2006 presentation and panel discussion – PTSD – Not Me. April 7, 2006. Salt Lake City, UT.


Annual PA Mesquite Conference. Tsunami Relief Effort in Southern Thailand. April 8, 2005. Mesquite, NV.


CONGRATULATIONS!