NOTICE: 50 YEARS OF UPAP CELEBRATION POSTPONED

Due to rising COVID-19 infections in the state, all University of Utah Health Alumni Events, including UPAP’s 50th Celebration, have been postponed. Watch your email for the announcement of the new date of the celebration, which will likely take place in Spring 2022.

A Living Legacy: The Don Pedersen Endowed Chair in Physician Assistant Studies Established

Don and Kathy Pedersen have a long legacy of providing support and leadership to the Utah Physician Assistant Program. This year, the Pedersens’ donorship reached even greater heights in the form of the Don Pedersen Endowed Chair in Physician Assistant Studies in the School of Medicine. The donation, which is the first of its kind in Utah, will provide support for many different initiatives throughout the program.

Virginia L. Valentin, DrPH, PA-C, associate professor and chief of the division of Physician Assistant Studies at the University of Utah, will be the inaugural holder of the chair. Michael Good, MD, CEO of University of Utah Health, will appoint her to the chair later this year.

Read More
PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Now is the Time

By Jared Spackman, MPAS, PA-C

I hope UPAP alumni and friends are doing well and staying safe. Classes are back in session, and the regular rhythm of the program continues. We graduated our 50th cohort on August 6, 2021. This remarkable group of graduates persisted during these pandemic conditions, and are beginning their clinical journey in many locals and practice settings. We are proud of them and wish them well. Class 51 began clinical rotations and are settling into their new routines and educational experiences. And Class 52 is continuing the lengthy process of learning clinical medicine, history and physical exam within the classroom... Read more

Class 51 Research Poster Presentations

Class 51 presented their Community Engaged Master's Projects in which they worked with community partners to address community questions. These projects allow students to develop hands-on research skills in a community and clinical setting.

The 2021 Research Poster event was a return to in-person presentations, and students and faculty alike enjoyed being able to meet in person while discussing student research.

UPAP NEWS and ACTIVITIES

Class 50 Celebrates Graduation

UPAP celebrated the graduation of Class 50 in August, the first group of students to graduate during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the ceremony, graduates were keynoted by Dan Crouse, PA-C, MPAS, associate professor of UPAP and president of the Utah Academy of Physician Assistants. Following his remarks, awards of distinction were given to students, preceptors, and scholarship recipients. At the conclusion of the program, graduating students Jillian Barker of the Salt Lake campus and McKenzie Reynolds of the Saint George campus celebrated the fortitude and resolve shown by their fellow UPAP students during the challenges of the last two years. After their remarks, assistant professor Chaz Whitbeck, MMSc, PA-C led the newly graduated physician assistants in the Physician Assistant Oath.

Student Highlight
Kenzi Bartz Selected for PAEA Fellowship

In August, UPAP student Kenzi Bartz (Class 51) was informed that she had been selected for the 2021-2022 Student Health Policy Fellowship. Students in the fellowship learn from influential policy staffers, experts in physician assistant practice and advocacy, as well as other advocacy stakeholders.

Bartz is the first UPAP student to be selected to the competitive program. "My peers and I learn in both the UPAP classroom and the clinic that healthcare is not equitable," she says. "I am excited to gain more tools from PAEA and the other fellows on how to further healthcare equity through policy change."

NEWS AND UPDATES

Read more about the exciting developments and honors at UPAP below.

- In early summer, a HRSA grant was awarded to the Division of Family Medicine at the University of Utah. The grant supports increased training in maternal health and provide opportunities for interprofessional education between our family medicine and PA divisions.
- UPAP faculty and students visited the Migrant Farm Worker Clinics in their annual outreach to provide pediatric physicals to migrant workers in the state. UPAP has been visiting rural communities under the Migrant Farm Worker Clinic program for over 25 years.
- Associate professor Joanne Rolls, MPAS, PA-C, was named associate director for the University of Utah's Master of Education in Health Professions program. The program trains health professionals with clinical degrees in educational theory and practice so that they can teach future healthcare providers.