



January 2022 Newsletter



I. Message from the President

By: Ashlyn Smith, PA-C



Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year!

I hope you and your loved ones are all doing well and that your holidays were happy. Mine were filled with family and the specific Christmas joy that can be experienced through children's eyes. My children are at vastly different stages during this holiday season: my five-year-old daughter is practicing the habit of giving to others (even when she REALLY wants all the gifts to herself!) and my 6-month-old son is practicing taking the shiny ornaments off the tree! Still, each of their experiences shape their memories of traditions being made.

Families and individuals across the globe are developing and cultivating their stories, traditions, and specific lenses, including each of us. It may be polarizing and personal, it may be silly and sweet, it may be moving and momentous. It is uniquely yours. The stories are the reason I love hearing holiday traditions, enjoy country music, and have a passion for endocrinology. Endocrinology allows for clinicians to partner with their patients to better their health through a tailored plan based on shared decision making. This plan must pivot and adapt as our patients' lives, priorities, and challenges change in order to be sustainable for lifelong changes. Endocrine PAs across the country are taking a couple of their precious busy minutes to ask that extra question or lend an ear a moment more in order to make the next small step that makes the difference. I am proud to be a part of ASEPA, full of empathetic providers, skilled historians, and creative

thinkers making meaningful changes in the complex world of endocrinology. Thank you for all that you do for your patients, your families, yourselves, and your stories!

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Secretary's Update

By: Amy Butts, PA-C



ASEPA will be working on a membership directory. The goal will be for providers to find an endocrine physician assistant near their local area. It also allows for a greater level of networking for members across the country. Many of our patients move to other areas. This will allow members to search for an endocrine PA for their patients to transfer their care when they are relocating. Look for an email in the near future to fill out your information to be included in the membership directory.

Treasurer's Update

By: Sean Flynn, PA-C

*Report available upon request by emailing
asepamembership@gmail.com*



II. HOD Update from AAPA

By: Stephen Willis, PA-C



My first opportunity to attend an HOD meeting was in 2021. It was very energized with regard to the title change of our profession. Going into this meeting, I became aware of the engagement from Constituent Organizations (CO) and amendments they were moving forward.

Going into the 2022 year, I ask ASEPA members and leaders to evaluate if there are bylaws or resolutions that we want to move forward. For example, ASEPA submits a resolution “to support and recommend Physician Associates being reimbursed for virtual care health visits at the same rate as in office.” Another example could be that ASEPA recommends resolution for “target A1C in patients less than 8%.” ASEPA recommends “following treatment guidelines for transgender patients that follows Endocrine Society Guidelines.” I share these as examples.

The House Officers and Governance Staff are working diligently to prepare for the HOD in Indianapolis May 20-22, 2022. We continue to make appointments for this leadership year and are grateful to all our fantastic volunteers. There are still opportunities to volunteer for the HOD. Are you interested in becoming more involved in the HOD? If so, please visit the HOD Volunteer page to learn about volunteer needs in the HOD. Submit your interest for any or all of the positions below:

- Reference Committees – Chair, Member, or Secretary
- Credentialing Committee – Member
- Elections Committee – Member
- Tellers
- New Delegate Mentors

AAPA 2022 and the HOD meeting will be being held in Indianapolis, IN. AAPA 2022 will be held May 21-25; the HOD will meet from Friday, May 20 – Sunday, May 22.

Submission of resolutions: resolutions can: (a) amend current AAPA policy; (b) fill a policy gap on a particular topic; or, (c) introduce a new policy on an issue which is relevant and important to the profession. HOD 2022 Resolution submission deadlines:

- Bylaws Resolutions – February 19, 2022
- Non-Bylaws Resolutions – March 21, 2022

The House Officers have identified the policies last acted on in 2017 and made assignments for the five-year policy review. You can view the policies on the AAPA website. <https://www.aapa.org/download/86981/>. These policies will be on the 2022 HOD agenda for delegate consideration and action.

These are volunteers who have agreed to serve on the Clinical Ratios Task Force:

- Toby Brower, PA-C, DFAAPA, Indiana
- Eric Buchl, PA-C, Texas

- Lauren Davey, PA-C, Pennsylvania
- Alisha DeTroye, MMS, PA-C, DFAAPA, North Carolina
- Heather Hylton, PA-C, DFAAPA, New York
- Wayne Mathews, PA-C, DFAAPA, Nebraska
- Angie McIntosh, PA-C, Texas
- Josanne Pagel, MPAS, PA-C, M.Div., DFAAPA, Ohio
- Tammi Pavey, PA-C, Georgia
- Scott Sherry, PA-C, Oregon

The House Officers have also appointed this year's Sergeant-at-Arms: Jessica Filangeri, PA, from New York.

Two new COs that have joined since the last HOD: Puerto Rico Academy of PAs (chapter) and the PAs for Women Empowerment (caucus).

AAPA's Leadership and Advocacy Summit (LAS), will not be held in spring 2022 and has been postponed until September 29 – October 1, 2022. Stay tuned for more information on registering for this event when we get closer to the meeting.

III. ASEPA Brings Benefits to Members

By: Ashlyn Smith, PA-C

Fellow members continue to benefit from ASEPA membership including complimentary and discounted access to quality endocrine CME detailed below. For more information on how to make the most of these benefits, please visit <https://www.endocrine-pa.com/> or contact Secretary Amy Butts, PA-C at aebutts412@gmail.com.

Benefits to ASEPA events 2021:

2021 CMHC Annual Conference: Members Joe Largay, Karina Miranda, and Ashlyn Smith benefitted from complimentary access to this quality conference.

5th Annual Heart in Diabetes Conference: The complimentary registration for 2021 went unclaimed! Be sure to submit for the complimentary and discounted conference registrations to take full advantage of your ASEPA membership.

CMHC Masterclasses: ASEPA partner CMHC offers complimentary online CME for cardiometabolic health at www.cardiometabolichealth.org/cmhc-on-demand/

The following are live CME webinars created, led, and attended by fellow ASEPA members! If you can't attend an event live, you and your colleagues can access the webinar online and claim CME credit for up to one year past webinar date by visiting <https://www.endocrine-pa.com/webinars>. If you are interested in leading a CME program for your fellow members, we would love to hear from you! Please contact: asepawebinars@gmail.com.

UPCOMING WEBINARS:

January 2022: no scheduled webinar

February 17, 2022 at 8 PM EST: Omnipod 5



Don't forget about [DANatech.org](https://danatech.org), powered by ADCES, a free web-based resource about all things related to diabetes technology. Use code DANA2021SEPA772 for access.

IV. Committee Update: Social Media

By: Shannon Bauer, PA-C

The Social Media committee members (Sydney Franco, Karina Miranda, and Boyd Hammond) have been busy creating an Instagram page. Instagram has been a great opportunity to bring more awareness and promote PAs working in Endocrinology, as well as educate on Endocrine medicine. So far the Instagram page has already done highlights on Pheo-Para awareness week, PCOS awareness month, and National DM awareness day and other endocrine diseases.

If you have not already followed the page and are interested, then search ASEPA Endocrine PA on Instagram, search using the handle @asepa_endocrinepa, or use the link below. If ever interested in joining the social media committee reach out to any of the board members for more information.

ASEPA is on Facebook as well. If you have not already joined our private page, please do so by clicking on the link below. Both Facebook and Instagram are great ways for our members to connect.

Facebook group URL: www.facebook.com/groups/639214720287669/

Instagram URL: https://www.instagram.com/asepa_endocrinepa/

V. Award/Service Recognition

By: Sonia Bahroo, PA-C

Congratulations to our members **Amy Butts, PA-C** and **Benito Lopez, PA-C** who are winners of the POCN America's Top PA's of 2021. This is Amy's second time winning in

a row! **Amy Butts, PA-C** has also been rewarded as one of AAPA's Distinguished Fellows of 2021. Only 2% of the AAPA membership holds this distinct status; Amy is only one of 48 PAs to earn this distinction in the past year. Double congratulations to Amy!!

VI. ASEPA in Action

By: Ashlyn Smith, PA-C and CJ Chun, PA-C

The following members have been speakers for our exclusive ASEPA webinars since their inception in November 2019: **Ashlyn Smith, Megan O'Neill, Jenna Brothers, John Sink, David Doriguzzi, CJ Chun, Patrick Cacchio, Robert McKenna, Bradley Adams, Joseph Largay, Maria O'Connor, Allison Gracom, Rachel Garcetti, Justine Herndon, and Lisa Ward.** We appreciate each of you for sharing your area of expertise with your Endocrine peers.

Amy Butts, PA-C and **CJ Chun, PA-C, MPAS, BC-ADM** were speakers at the virtual ADCES conference August 12-15, 2021. Amy's topic was "Overcoming Barriers to Insulin Initiation and Intensification."

During the virtual ADCES conference August 12-15, **CJ** did a presentation entitled "Secondary Diabetes: not the typical diagnosis." His talk was so well received that afterwards the medical writer Miriam Tucker wrote up his presentation and it was included in the August 20 Medscape Diabetes & Endocrinology alert. Here is the link to that article: [Looking for a Zebra: Pay Attention for Signs of Atypical Diabetes](#)

CJ was also a speaker at the 3rd Annual Endocrine Nurses Society (ENS) Regional Endocrine Symposium on October 16, 2021, in Chandler, AZ. He co-presented the topic "Oh Baby! Thyroid Disease During Pregnancy".

Scott Urquhart, PA-C, DFAAPA, was Co-Chair of the 4th Annual Advanced Practice Collaborative (APC) virtual interactive conference on September 10-11, 2021.

Sarah Logan, PA-C, Joanna Gonzalez, PA-C and Stephanie Giparas, PA-C, who work at the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, FL, shared a fascinating case study to highlight and increase awareness about pheochromocytoma during the 2nd annual Pheo Para Awareness week, August 23-27, 2021. It was organized by [Pheo Para Alliance](#), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower patients with pheochromocytoma or paraganglioma, their families, and medical professionals through information, support, and advocacy while advancing research to facilitate treatments and cures. A link to the case study can be found on the [Education](#) page of our website.

ASEPA representation at Fall MEDS:

Scott Urquhart, PA-C (Conference Chair): Diabetes, Thyroid Nodules Case Studies, and multiple live expert commentaries.

Amy Butts, PA-C (Conference Co-Chair): Managing Diabetes in the Era of COVID-19: What We've Learned and What Works, Diabetes live expert commentary

Ashlyn Smith, PA-C: The Cost and Cost Effectiveness of Managing Diabetes, Hyperthyroidism Case Studies, and Pediatric Adrenal Insufficiency

David Doriguzzi, PA-C: Thyroiditis Case Studies

Scott, Ashlyn, and David also participated in live Q&A discussions.

VII. MEDS Update

By: Scott Urquhart, PA-C



Returning LIVE! Here is a brief update on the upcoming 2022 Metabolic & Endocrine Disease Summit (MEDS). We are having a summer (West) and a fall (East) “live” MEDS. We’re excited for the return to in person summits and to have you participate in our outstanding educational programs.

Updates on agenda and speakers will be forthcoming in early 2022. For now, please save the date and pass on these early details to your colleagues:

MEDS West - New Port Beach, CA July 13 - 16th, 2022.

MEDS East - Lake Buena Vista, FL October 12 – 15th, 2022.

All the best and a very Happy 2022 to you all,
Scott Urquhart, PA-C

VIII. Message from AACE

By: Felice A. Caldarella, MD, FACP, CDCES, FACE, AACE President

Dear ASEPA Members,

Wishing all of you the very best as we begin the new year of 2022. As you’re part of the clinical endocrine community, we are excited to kick off this year with new educational opportunities, events, and programs - all created with multidisciplinary care teams in mind. Before I jump into our plans for this year, I want to take a moment to share a few reflections on last year and how that’s shaped our goals for 2022.



With the uptick in COVID cases taking place around the country, last year taught us patience, perseverance, and appreciation for our members, partners, and global community. We opted to virtually continue our educational conferences so all members of the endocrine care team could join us from around the world. We also developed a new strategic plan that allows us to move closer to achieving our mission of elevating the practice of clinical endocrinology to improve global health, while also focusing on our vision to achieve healthier communities through endocrine innovation, education, and care.

The first goal of our new strategic plan is to offer a more inclusive learning environment for all of those on the endocrine care team. As PAs, you have a lot on your shoulders, from caring for your patients, to keeping up with the latest technology advancements, to continuing medical education. You care about making a difference and we at AACE are here to support you. We are working hard to ensure our programs and offerings are inclusive and beneficial to you and everyone in our community. Key offerings include over 100 online educational opportunities, the latest gold standard clinical practice guidelines, live virtual interactive learning conferences and much more. To learn about our other goals, you can read our full strategic plan here: <https://pro.aace.com/about/strategic-plan-2022-2025>

As we kick off 2022, I'm pleased to announce we are planning for a potential return to in-person events that brings both excitement and new opportunities for our community. Our team is currently putting together a strategic approach to bring you multiple meeting options at different destinations throughout the year, so that you can choose to attend all or just the ones that are most convenient or relevant to you. Our events will feature the latest education through a full lineup of state-of-the-art sessions with expert speakers, and we are building networking events and interactive sessions for you to meet your peers, industry partners, and endocrine-focused experts from all stages of their career. **Here is a glance at some of our upcoming events so you can save the date:**

[AACE Obesity Conference: February 4-6, 2022, in Tucson, AZ](#)

A micro weekend (Fri-Sun) conference with content focusing on obesity, nutrition, NAFLD/NASH, and other relevant topics for all members of the endocrine care team.

[AACE's 31st Annual Meeting: May 12-14, 2022, in San Diego, CA](#)

As our largest annual event, this three-day conference will touch on everything in clinical endocrinology with six disease state content tracks, plus hands-on training, and educational workshops.

[AACE Endocrine Exchange: July/August 2022, location TBD in US](#)

A micro weekend event with content focusing on reviewing updates in clinical endocrinology with endocrinologists and care team members.

[AACE Cardiometabolic Conference: September 30 - October 2, 2022, in San Antonio, TX](#)

A micro weekend (Fri-Sun) conference with content focusing on cardiometabolic disease and other relevant topics for all members of the endocrine care team.

It is important to us that we provide you with the opportunity to reconnect with our AACE community in person. Our team will continue to monitor the pandemic and any guidance to keep attendee health and safety top of mind. However, if you are unable to make it for any reason, we will still strive to offer you access to on-demand sessions post event and cutting-edge online education options.

As we embark on this new year, I'd like to thank ASEPA for your long-standing collaboration and we look forward to having you join in our upcoming educational opportunities to advance your knowledge, patient care, and elevate clinical endocrinology.

For further information about our upcoming educational programming for PAs and to stay up to date on AACE and ASEPA collaborations, visit our website at [AACE.com](https://www.aace.com), subscribe to our e-newsletters, and/or follow us on social media via @theaace.

IX. Job Postings

See website for the latest job opportunities: <https://www.endocrine-pa.com/jobs>

X. Upcoming Conferences

See website for the most current list: <https://www.endocrine-pa.com/conferences-events> * **New for 2022:** AACE Endocrine Exchange

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Find us online at:

<http://www.endocrine-pa.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/639214720287669/?ref=share>

https://www.instagram.com/asepa_endocrinepa/ (@ASEPA_endocrinepa)

