



APAO OncoNews

Association of Physician Assistants in Oncology E-Newsletter

1st Edition, January 2009

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UPCOMING EVENTS



12TH ANNUAL APAO CONFERENCE

September 10–13th 2009

Oncology 101 Track specifically designed
for the non-oncology professional,
students, and PA's new to oncology.

Hyatt Regency Boston
1 Avenue de Lafayette
Boston, MA

[http://regencyboston.hyatt.com/
hyatt/hotels/index.jsp](http://regencyboston.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp)

Room Rate \$239 plus taxes.
Tentative events include ASCO High-
lights and a welcome reception at one
of Boston's historic venues.

Letter from the President

Dear APAO Members,

I feel extremely privileged and excited to write this message to you. I feel honored to have been elected to represent YOU! I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the APAO happenings and some new projects the APAO will undertake during this coming year.

Plans to update the APAO Website is underway to provide you with more information about the organization's happenings, the field of Oncology, and offer oncology resources for you. We have selected a website committee that will work with COMS to create a new and improved website. More details to follow in the coming months.

The APAO annual conferences are the becoming exceedingly popular. The Conference Planning Committee has worked long and hard to put together an educational program with selected Oncology topics that will assist you in clinical practice. A special thank you to Dave Johnson, PA-C and his committee for organizing a spectacular conference. Stay Tuned for more information on the 2009 APAO Annual Conference led by Deborah Yolin-Raley, PA-C in Boston, MA, more information to follow in the coming months.

Developing future leaders in the organization is an ongoing goal for the APAO leadership. We are always searching for new leaders and members that are interesting in getting involved in various committees. The Board of Directors will be proposing a new and improved electoral process for future elections.

It is a personal goal during the next year to target PA programs nationwide and increase the knowledge of PA students regarding the field of oncology. If you are an educator or would like to help the APAO by reaching out to your local PA programs in your states, send an email to daynepa@earthlink.net.

I would like to thank all of you for your continued support to the APAO. I look forward to representing the APAO in this coming year!

Sincerely,

Dayne Alonso, PA-C
APAO President 2008–09



WELCOME TO THE ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS IN ONCOLOGY E-NEWSLETTER!

This is the first E-Newsletter for our organization and we are excited to provide you with clinical information and updates about our organization. The APAO and the OncoNews are geared towards mid-level practitioners in all fields on Oncology, including Medical, Surgical, Radiation, Hematology, Pediatrics and more!

Meet the Board of Directors

PRESIDENT • Dayne Alonso, PA-C



Dayne graduated from Nova Southeastern University in Davie, FL with a BS in Physician Assistant Studies and a Masters in Medical Science in 2004. She began to work in the field of oncology soon after graduation at the Miami VA Medical Center in Miami, FL, in a predominantly outpatient medical oncology

setting. Recently, she is employed by Advanced Medical Specialties in Miami, FL working in a large private practice doing inpatient hospital consultations and spear heading the inpatient acute leukemia service.

She is also on the CME Committee for the Florida Association of Physician Assistants.

PRESIDENT ELECT • David Coniglio, PA-C



David is a physician assistant in the Breast Oncology Program, Division of Medical Oncology, in the Department of Medicine at Duke University. He is also an academic coordinator and oversees the didactic year schedule for the Duke University PA Program. His areas of clinical and educational interest include:

breast cancer, cancer screening and prevention; medical issues in international adoption, evidence-based medicine, test-writing and analysis, and medical writing. David has published widely in oncology journals on a variety of research topics, and currently serves on the Membership Committee for the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the Nominating Committee for the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants.

PAST PRESIDENT • J.J. Mahany, PA-C



JJ Mahany is the Immediate Past President for APAO. He graduated from the Albany-Hudson Valley PA Program in 1976. JJ currently works for the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida in BMT and Clinical Research. He has also worked at the Cancer Therapy and Research Center in San Antonio, TX and the Richard

E. Winter Cancer Center in Ogdensburg, NY. JJ has served as APAO president and CME Chair twice and as the Scholarship Chair. He is a member of APAO, AAPA, ASCO, and AACR.

SECRETARY • Michele Taffaro-Neskey, PA-C



Michele is a physician assistant at the Mount Sinai Comprehensive Cancer Center in Miami Beach, FL. She graduated from the Yale Physician Associate Program in 2005, and has been working in the field of Hematology/Oncology for the last 2 years. Prior to becoming

a PA, Michele worked for 3 years at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston in the Thoracic Oncology department, which stimulated her interest in this field as a PA. Michele is a member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and the Florida based affiliate of this organization FLASCO, as well as the AAPA. She most recently became secretary of the APAO and hopes to further educate PAs, nurse practitioners and students about the field of oncology.

TREASURER • Eucharia Iwuanyanwu, PA-C



Eucharia graduated from UTMB in 1996, then obtained Masters degree from the University of Nebraska, and Doctorate in Health Science from Nova Southeastern University. She has been with MD Anderson for the last 6 years, working in the department of hematological malignancies for the first 5 years, and has now

moved to the Investigational Cancer Therapeutics department, which focuses on developing new therapies for cancer treatment, mostly with solid tumors. Eucharia is very excited to be in this research based department and is amazed at some of our success. She hopes this research will transend to better outcome for patients. Eucharia is also a Founder of Africa Cancer Care Inc, a non profit organization devoted to making a difference in cancer care for developing African countries.

ASCO LIASON • Maura Polansky, PA-C



Maura has been working at MD Anderson since 1995, when she joined the staff as a new graduate. She has been with the GI Medical Oncology Department since 1997, and has developed a multidisciplinary PA residency oncology program which enrolled it's first PAs in 2001. She serves as the program director of the

residency program and also am the Director of PA Educational Programs. Maura has been a member of APAO since 1999 and have served as the CME chair and HOD delegate. Since 2007, she has been the AAPA medical liaison to ASCO.

APAO has chosen a student representative to be a non-voting member of the BOD. Welcome Samantha Prinzing, PA-C New York Institute of Technology Class of 2010.

Top Ten Reasons to Join APAO

1. Yearly open meeting at AAPA

All members are welcome to attend to vote for new officers, present new business, and voice their opinion on matters of concern to the APAO.

2. APAO Newsletter and Website

Contains updates about the organization, clinical information and more via e-mail and print. Expect a quarterly issue with exciting new topics.

We are currently working to update our website, so keep looking at www.apao.cc.

3. Job Postings

Positions specifically related to Oncology, Hematology, and Radiation therapy.

4. Take a more active role in your career

Get involved with different committees, help plan a CME, broaden your knowledge in all fields of oncology and enhance your resume.

5. Networking with colleagues

Meet practitioners from all over the country at the annual meeting, share your knowledge of oncology, and make contacts for potential employment.

6. Annual CME meeting

A meeting designed specifically for the mid level practitioner in the areas of Oncology, Hematology, and Radiation therapy.

7. PA student scholarship

An annual scholarship awarded to students entering the field of Oncology.

8. House of Delegates representation at AAPA

Voting members capable of providing input to the relevant matter of concern to the APAO at the HOD.

9. Liaison with National organizations.

Presently the AAPA is recognized by ASCO, (with a joint symposium this year), and we will be attempting to establish a similar relationship with ASH. APAO has direct input into the ASCO-AAPA relationship.

10. Its Cheap!!

Annual dues are only \$40.00 a true value at twice the price!

Conference Highlights

11th Annual APAO Conference Denver, CO



Our annual conference was held at the beautiful Ritz Carlton Hotel in Downtown Denver this year. Again, many thanks to Dave Johnson and Amy Becker who worked diligently to plan this meeting. It was a great success! Here are some of the highlights:

- Speakers from all over the country covered a variety of topics within medical, surgical and radiation oncology during the General Session.
- Interactive question and answer sessions encouraged audience participation and discussion.
- 2 optional half-day workshops focusing on healthcare safety and compassionate care at the end of life.
- Keynote Speaker: Pregnant and Fighting for Two: A Cancer Survivor's Story. A personal story of triumph given by Michelle Kingsfield, a popular television newswoman, about fighting cancer during pregnancy.
- Dinner Synopsium focusing on Molecular Targets in Cancer Therapy, understanding novel agents and the future of cancer therapeutics.
- APAO Membership meeting to discuss practice issues, meet the board of directors and encourage membership.
- A comprehensive exhibit hall with information about current and future anti-cancer agents.
- A golf outing to Fox Hollow, a bus tour to Boulder, and discounted spa services at the Ritz Carlton, provided opportunity for attendees to get to know each other and have some fun!

Association of Physician Assistants in Oncology

Membership Application

New Member Renewing Member

Member Name

Home Address

City..... State..... Zip code.....

Work Phone # Fax #

E-mail.....

Employer

Work Address.....

City..... State..... Zip code.....

Work Phone # Fax #

E-mail.....

Specialty.....

Preferred Contact: Home Work

MAILING LIST OPTIONS

APAO periodically provide members contact information only to carefully selected organizations to send communications by or on behalf of APAO via regular mail or email. Please check if you wish to be added to this list: Yes No

ADDITIONAL AREAS OF SUPPORT

Please check all volunteer opportunities you would be interested in:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> APAO Leadership: Regional Director/Director at Large/Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CME | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing/Exhibit Booth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |

APAO DUES

(Membership year is July 1 to June 30)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fellow: \$40 per year | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining: \$40 per year | <input type="checkbox"/> Student: \$15 per year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physician: \$40 per year | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate: \$40 per year | <input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate: \$40 per year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honorary: Complimentary | | |

PAYMENT

Please make your check payable to APAO and mail to:



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www.apao.cc