



The Vanguard

**Society of Physician Assistants in Otorhinolaryngology -
Head and Neck Surgery**

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Save the Date!

SPA-O hosts a Breakfast Lecture at
IMPACT 2013 in Washington, DC
Sunday, May 26th
7:00 am
Jose' Mercado, speaker

Message from the President:



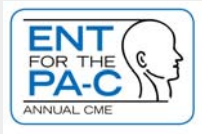
Marla Moore, PA-C

Looking back on 2012, I do not think anyone could make an argument that the year was dull. As a country, we completed one of the most contentious presidential elections in recent memory. Superstorm Sandy, likely the most expensive hurricane on record, slammed into the East Coast. The "fiscal cliff" continues to cast long shadows on medicine as a divided partisan Congress struggles to agree on plans to

**"ENT for the
PA-C" 2013**

April 26-28

New York City



This year's CME conference will be held in New York City on April 26-28, hosted by the Department of Otolaryngology of Weill Cornell Medical Center. It has been approved by AAPA for 29.5 Category I hours (24.25 earnable hours) in those three days.

As in previous years, it offers beginner to advanced levels of lectures and workshops spanning the spectrum of Otolaryngology and Head & Neck topics. New workshops, topics and speakers have been added to interest even return attendees.

Our sincere thanks to our SPAO members who will spend some of their meeting time as workshop instructors and proctors: Workshop Director Jose Mercado, President Marla Moore,

avert, if you believe the political pundits, financial Armageddon. Despite all this, SPAO remains steadfast.

Our progress over the past several years is due to a solid core group of people who have gotten involved and stayed involved. I would like to take this time to thank those PAs, who are on our SPAO Board of Directors - Jose Mercado, Immediate Past President, Jason Fowler, President-Elect, Marie Gilbert- Secretary, Grant Needham-Treasurer, Kevin McFarland- Membership Chair, Deb Munsell- Director-At-Large and Jackie Sylvia-Newsletter Editor. Without all of these tireless volunteers, there would be no SPAO. They work hard for you behind the scenes whether you know it or not. I encourage you to consider nominating yourself or another PA in ENT that you know that would make a good leader for our new Board of Directors. It does not take past leadership experience. It just takes passion for our profession, which I know we all have.

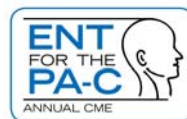
I had the pleasure of receiving an e-mail just this week from a pre-PA student who wanted more information on becoming an ENT PA. I was touched by the e-mail because I could tell this student was passionate and already leadership driven. I told him we would be sure to include him in our upcoming newsletter and try to make a contact in his area with a PA to shadow. This was a small gesture, but who knows maybe I just made contact with the future SPAO President?

[Marla Moore, PA-C](#)



Register now for the *Third Annual ENT for the PA-C*

April 26-28, 2013 - Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY



The Third Annual ENTfor the PA-C is co-sponsored by the American Academy of Otolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery Foundation (AAO-HNSF) and the Society of Physician Assistants in Otorhinolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery (SPAO-HNS). This continuing medical education activity is specifically designed for physician assistants, nurse practitioners and medical professionals working or interested in

President-Elect Jason Fowler, former President Debra Munsell, Jeffrey Fichera, Grant Needham, Kevin Prater, Andrew Clark, Kim Lakhan, Lilian Leung, Erin Butler, Susan Kepes, and Nurse Practitioner Kim Scott.

[Click here to register](#)

Quick Links

[SPAO Board of Directors](#)

Membership Application



Academy Committee Opportunity

The AAO-HNSF is looking for a Physician Assistant representative for its General Otolaryngology Education Committee. If you have the desire and a few hours of time to commit to education resource development, you are invited to apply to serve on this committee. The requirements for the position include: being a member of AAO-HNSF,

otolaryngology.

Lecture topics have been selected based on relevancy, practice need and audience requests from over seven years of lecture series. This program is not yet approved for CMEcredit. Conference organizers plan to request 24.0 hours of AAPA Category 1 CMEcredit from the Physician Assistant Review Panel. Total number of approved credits yet to be determined. The activity was planned in accordance with AAPA's CME Standards for Live Programs and for Commercial Support of Live Programs.

The course is organized to provide attendees with an excellent networking opportunity. Workshops are designed to maximize hands-on learning with concise content and small group settings. This is also the ideal setting to meet, network, and socialize with like-minded professionals from across the country.

For questions about your registration, please contact us at [SPAO's Administrator](#). We look forward to seeing you in New York!



Take Part in Oral, Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week®

The 16th Annual Oral, Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week® (OHANCAW®), sponsored by the Head and Neck Cancer Alliance, is scheduled for April 14 – 20, 2013. OHANCAW is a weeklong series of events promoting awareness of this potentially life-threatening disease, highlighted by a day of free oral cancer screenings held at medical offices throughout the country. According to a brand new Harris Interactive survey, 71% of Americans say they have not been examined by a medical professional for oral, head and neck cancer. Given the rise in oral cancers related to human papillomavirus (HPV), screening for and early detection of this disease is more important than ever. The Alliance is urging you to participate by conducting a free screening at your medical practice, clinic, hospital or university. For more details, promotional materials including posters, T-shirts and media kits, and registration information, please visit www.OHANCAW.com and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

The TNE Survey

SPAO has been contacted by a company that is developing a 2-day training program they describe as "very comprehensive and includes training in transnasal laryngoscopy, videostroboscopy, reflux testing and endoscopic dysphagia management or FEES. Our plans are to organize these courses in collaboration with The ENT Institute in Atlanta and offer them on an ongoing basis." It will be offered

attending one meeting per year, and participating in web or teleconferences. This committee aids in identifying, planning, and evaluating education needs based on practice performance and to improve patient care within clinical areas of otolaryngology – head and neck surgery. To read more specifically about the role of the General Otolaryngology Education Committee (GOEC) please visit [the AAO-HNSF website](#).

Also, I invite you to speak to our present representative, who has held the position for six years, [Marie Gilbert](#). [Dr. Karen Pitman](#), committee chair person, is also available.



AAPA's 41st Annual Physician Assistant Conference

Washington, D.C.
May 25-29

7:00-8:00am
SPAO-HNS
Breakfast lecture
Sunday, 5/26/13



[Click here to register](#)

nationwide to Otolaryngologists, Gastroenterologists, Surgeons and Primary Care Specialists; **PAs are to be included.**

In February, SPAO conducted an informal online survey of PAs in Otolaryngology. Of 395 ENT PAs contacted, 42 responded. Of those, 17 have Transnasal Esophagoscopy (TNE) in the office, and only 5 of those PAs are currently performing TNE themselves. There was a broad range of responses to the question of time spent in training, and getting to a level of comfort in performing the procedure.

Fifteen of the 42 respondents said they have an interest in TNE training.

The remaining respondents had no interest, explained that their practice wants only the physician to do it, or that the gastroenterologists in their referral base are the ones who do (non-transnasal) esophagoscopy.

If you would like to participate in the survey, or would like more information about the course when it becomes available, please contact [SPAO's Administrator](#) or [Marie Gilbert, PA-C](#).



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Contact email: natalie@catapult-inc.com

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