



The Vanguard

Society of Physician Assistants in
Otorhinolaryngology
– Head and Neck Surgery

Volume 22, Issue 1

Winter 2014

IN THIS ISSUE

[From the President](#)

[Apply for an SPAO-HNS Scholars](#)

[Liaison Report: Stronger Ties, ar
New Avenues for CME](#)

[Free Certification Maintenance
Webinar](#)

[2014 ENT for the PA-C](#)

[Survey - NCCPA CAQ in ENT](#)

[There's a PA in the 'House': Q&A
with Amanda Shelley](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

[2014 ENT for the PA-C](#)

April 24-27, 2014
Westin Convention Center
Pittsburgh, PA

[AAPA IMPACT 2014](#)

May 24-28, 2014
Boston, Mass.

CONNECT WITH SPAO HNS



From the President

As I sit down to write this, I cannot help but be amazed at how time has flown this past year. Maybe it's just me, but the older I get I see my life as the snowball rolling downhill in a Wile E. Coyote cartoon picking up steam and no chance of slowing down! I only wish the Mother Nature and the doldrums of winter would get the memo, especially here in the northeast! I for one am very much looking forward to spring and some well-needed warm weather.



Speaking of spring, the annual conference will be here before we know it. As a reminder, the dates are April 24-27. The Westin Convention Center in Pittsburgh will serve as our venue, and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center as our host. If you haven't registered for the conference yet, you need to do so soon! The workshops are filling up fast. We are already on track for another excellent turnout with more exciting lectures and workshops than we ever have had before. Whether you are new to ENT, a seasoned veteran or interested in becoming a better primary care provider, this is the meeting to attend. Marie Gilbert, Jose Mercado and many others have put in countless hours to make this our best meeting yet and it is sure not to disappoint.

Lastly, I want to ask anyone with a colleague who works in otolaryngology that is not a member, to encourage them to check us out, and at least get on our mailing list. I feel that we offer a specialized voice for the concerns of our profession, particularly in terms of advocacy on a national level. I realize in today's climate of budgetary constraints and shrinking CME funds this may be difficult for some. It is for this reason that we try and keep dues low and the costs of the annual meeting to a bare bones minimum,

while at the same time providing a good product for our membership. I also realize that we aren't perfect and this is why we need your feedback. Only through the input and constructive criticism by our membership can we grow in strength and numbers.

I look forward to seeing you all in Pittsburgh. Go Penguins!



Jason Fowler, MPAS, PA-C

Apply for an SPAO-HNS Scholarship

The Society of Physician Assistants in Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (SPAO-HNS) offers scholarship opportunities every year for a motivated physician assistant student that is enrolled in a PA or post-graduate program that displays a strong interest in ENT. Since the scholarship program was initiated in 2005, there have been three recipients of the scholarship that have chosen ENT as their career path.

The number of scholarships and amount of financial award granted may vary from year to year. A minimum of at least one \$500 scholarship will be awarded. The qualifications and requirements for the student scholarship are listed below. The deadline for all applications is May 1, 2014. This is an excellent opportunity for students to become recognized and receive financial assistance for their hard work and dedication to the field.

To qualify, the physician assistant student must:

1. Be enrolled in either an accredited PA program or post-graduate program.
2. Demonstrate a financial need (copy of financial aid award letter).
3. Be in good academic standing (copy of unofficial transcripts).
4. Be a student member of SPAO-HNS in good standing.
5. Submit a letter from their PA program verifying student status, rotation selection and academic standing.
6. Submit a letter of recommendation from PA program faculty, instructor or preceptor.
7. Prepare a short (500 word) narrative explaining their desire to practice in ENT and personal career goals.

Recipients will be announced at the Annual Board Meeting held in conjunction with the American Academy of Physician Assistants conference each year.

Visit www.entpa.org/scholarship for more information if needed.

Interested students should contact:

Ryan Marovich, MPAS, PA-C

200 Lothrop Street, Suite 300

Pittsburgh, PA 15213

412-647-2171 (f)

Rmarovich@gmail.com

Liaison Report: Stronger Ties, and New Avenues for CME

Marie Gilbert, PA-C, DFAAPA, AAPA Liaison to AAO-HNSF

The last 6-12 months have been very positive ones for PAs in Otolaryngology. We have seen marked improvements in validation and support from our physician colleagues and supervisors. We have been welcomed into their clinical guidelines panels and included in their long-range goals and planning. There is resolve to educate, train and retain PAs in this specialty.

It was not long ago that there was strong concern about PA scope of practice and truth-in-advertising issues, with worries that PAs would want to be competing solo ENT providers, or that PhD level PAs would allow themselves to be misrepresented to patients as physicians. With representation from your Liaison and support from SPAO and AAPA leaders, that strong concern has been replaced with strong support, with a deeper understanding of the roles we play in this specialty. Clearly the Academy believes in the need to keep PAs on the team in pursuit of excellence in their mission to provide the best ear, nose & throat care.

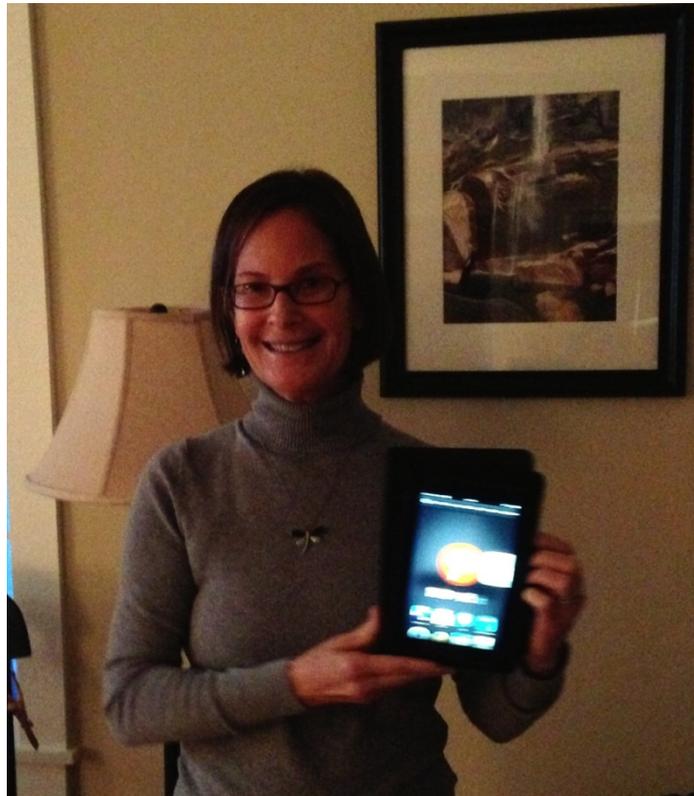
To that end, we have also advocated for AAO-HNSF and SPAO cooperation in making sure PAs in Otolaryngology can access excellent education and CME in our specialty. Affiliate members now have full access to Academy U® and its free CME. Any PA can access the COOL program for primary care ENT training and free CME. But we know we will need more than that to stay on top of our game.

Our newest project is to advocate for AAPA approval of many of

AAO-HNSF physician materials, as well as new materials to be designed by SPAO, for use in the new NCCPA 10-year recertification cycle and its requirement for Professional Improvement (PI) and Self-Assessment (SA) CME. We recognize the need for materials that will be simple enough to complete in the workplace setting, yet meaningful for learning and improved patient outcomes. We hope to have materials developed and approved within the next year, to help the 13,000 PAs now under the 10-year cycle. Even those of us still in the 6-year cycle will be able to use these materials for Cat I CME.

I urge you to learn as much as you can about what NCCPA expects of us in the 10-year cycle, and watch SPAO's website in the coming months for updates. Please also support SPAO's efforts with your continued membership, and consider donating some of your time to help us develop these CME materials.

We value your input as members of SPAO, and as our colleagues in Otolaryngology. We hope you will contact us with your needs and ideas for improving our education and service to you.



Denise Smith, winner of the 2013 SPAO-HNS Work/Benefits survey

drawing, poses with her prize - a new Kindle. Be on the look-out for future surveys and be sure to participate for a chance to win!

Free Certification Maintenance Webinar

In February 2014, AAPA and NCCPA hosted a joint webinar on the new ten-year certification maintenance process. A recorded version of that webinar is now available online at no cost, and PAs who view it can earn one free Category 1 CME credit.

The webinar provides background on the development of the new ten-year process, but it is primarily focused on explaining and describing the new self assessment (SA) and performance improvement (PI-CME) requirements and identifying resources available to PAs for both.

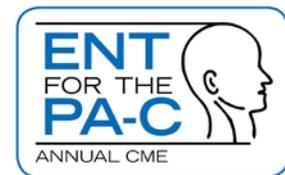
View the webinar online at [AAPA's Learning Central](#). (Click on the "select" button, and then log in to AAPA's Learning Central. Create an account there for free if you don't already have one; access to Learning Central is free to members and non-members. Not sure if you have an AAPA account? Check [here](#).)

Trouble logging into Learning Central? Please contact membership@aapa.org.

For a message about the timing of your transition to the new ten-year process, sign in to your online record at www.nccpa.net.

2014 ENT for the PA-C

April 24-27, 2014
Westin Convention Center
Pittsburgh, PA



The ENT for the PA-C Annual CME conference is co-sponsored by the American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery and the Society of Physician Assistants in Otorhinolaryngology / Head & Neck Surgery (SPO-HNS). This continuing medical education activity is specifically designed for physician assistants, nurse practitioners and medical professionals working in ENT, or interested in learning more about otolaryngology in primary care, urgent care, pediatric, and emergency room settings. Students are also welcome.

The course is organized to provide attendees with an excellent and practical educational opportunity. There will be basic and advanced tracks in all topics. Hands-on workshops will be held on Thursday and lectures will be held Friday-Sunday. 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 more information, visit www.entpa.org/ent_for_the_pac. It's not too late to register!

Survey - NCCPA CAQ in ENT

SPAO is discussing surveying people on whether there is interest in applying for an NCCPA Certificate of Additional Qualifications (CAQ) in Otorhinolaryngology. Please visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/PMFLJRV to take this one-question survey.

There's a PA in the 'House': Q&A with Amanda Shelley

[I'm a PA](#)

Yes, you heard it right: President Barack Obama acknowledged a physician assistant during his State of the Union address on Jan. 28 in the House of Representatives chamber.

That PA is Amanda Shelley, who practices in Gilbert, Ariz., on a mobile health unit treating geriatric patients. She applied for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act and was soon hospitalized to have her gallbladder removed.

She recently talked to PA Professional about attending the State of the Union, why she became a PA and what it's like being a healthcare provider without insurance.

[Click here](#) to read the Q&A.