



Physician Assistant Program

April 15, 2014

Dear Alumnus,

I am contacting you as a Penn State Hershey PA Alumnus to invite you to be our distinguished guest at the Penn State College of Medicine's Inaugural Physician Assistant Student White Coat Ceremony on May 20, 2014.

A formal invitation is forthcoming. In the meantime, please feel free to visit our designated alumni page at:
www.pennstatehershey.org/paprogram/alumni

We are well aware that Penn State Hershey previously hosted a PA program and I have had the pleasure of working with many of you in your role as practicing physician assistants. The PA program welcomes you back to Hershey to meet the future generation of physician assistant students beginning their studies at Penn State College of Medicine.

The Penn State PA Program is a graduate program classified as an academic program in the Penn State College of Medicine. The program has been in development since 2008 when the Academic Team hired a consultant from another academic medical center which also housed a PA program. This program's mission statement is to recruit a diverse class of academically and clinically well prepared students to Penn State who want to impact the US health care delivery system. Congruent with the original Hershey program and with the anticipated health care needs in the US, our program will emphasize primary care.

This program was developed in order to meet the health care needs for this community and the program will admit 30 students per year. We are fortunate to have the backing of administration and the medical school in our endeavor and this has allowed us to deliver a program and curriculum that is innovative and interdisciplinary. Our PA students will be taking several courses (including the anatomy cadaver dissection) with the medical students and we involved actual patients as part of our interview process. Additionally, we have adopted team-based learning as one of our instructional delivery systems. We will be utilizing the Penn State Hershey Simulation Center for training clinical skills, advanced cardiac life support, and history & physical examination using standardized patients.

We are fortunate to have an unbelievable electronic library and information technology support for our students. The majority of our required textbooks will be available electronically allowing the student to save on these costs. While the average student has to pay almost \$5,000 for their PA-related textbooks, our students will only need to pay about \$800 for these resources. Developed by our IT department, students rotating at Hershey will also be able to enter patient information on our own patient electronic medical record. They will gain exposure to Hershey's electronic medical record without affecting the reimbursement process for the medical center.

Being part of the Penn State Hershey Medical Center will allow us to have our students rotate here and be trained alongside our residents, interns, and medical students. Penn State College of Medicine was one of 11 medical schools in the country to receive an AMA grant to develop inter-professional training between medical students and other professionally licensed students on campus. This represents a great opportunity for both the medical school and the PA program to benefit.

We are pleased with the caliber of student who applied to Penn State and accepted our offer of admission. In the incoming class, the average student is 28 years old with over 4200 hours of health care experience with an average GPA of 3.64, MCAT of 33, and GRE of 313 (national average is 300). Seven of our 30 deposited students possess a

master's degree and three have completed doctoral training. We are proud to have three veterans in our incoming class.

This initial class has representation from throughout the country. As a Penn State program, we have 9 students who have obtained at least one of their degrees from Penn State. We have also admitted students with degrees from West Point, Michigan, UC Santa Barbara, UC San Diego, Pitt, Bucknell, Hopkins, Utah, and Miami. This class also has students who have some noticeable accomplishments: a four-time US winter Olympian, a former professional baseball player with the Cleveland Indians, trainers from a professional baseball team and the Pittsburgh Steelers, member of the US Mountain Biking Team, member of the US Australian Rules Football Team, a former engineer from Microsoft who also has her own non-profit organization in Tibet, several persons who performed medical mission trips outside of the US, an army intelligence officer and two special forces military medics. We could not be more pleased with the people who have accepted our offer for enrollment. These are the students who will be the future leaders in our profession. It would be wonderful for them to meet you, pioneers of the program who continue to serve patients as practicing physician assistants.

As a program, we would like to reach out to you to become involved with our program as it matures. Please feel free to contact me in person, by phone, or email. It would be wonderful to have a connection between the past and future students at Penn State Hershey.

Sincerely,



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