

Specialty Update

FOCUS ON PA SPECIALTY ORGANIZATIONS

PAs in endocrinology, as well as other specialties, from time to time may want to find a new job. AAPA is the perfect place to begin the job search. The first step is The PA Job Link, the premier national job-posting service for PAs. To look up current positions and post a resume, visit the AAPA Web site at www.aapa.org and click on The PA Job Link logo.

▶ **For potential employers** interested in hiring a PA in endocrinology, the employers' page on AAPA Web site, www.aapa.org/joblink/employers.html, is a good place to begin the planning process. The employers' page includes links to a broad range of materials, including the following:

- Hiring a PA: the benefits
- Guide for new PA employers
- The physician-PA team
- PA scope of practice
- PA education

▶ **If you know clinics**, practices, or physicians contemplating hiring a PA, give the potential employer a hand in making the right decision by directing them to the employers' page on the AAPA Web site.

American Society of Endocrine Physician Assistants (ASEPA)



ASEPA provides PAs in endocrinology with a voice within AAPA and a working relationship with the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE) as a recognized endocrine-related sister society. ASEPA is capitalizing on student involvement to increase placement of PAs in endocrine rotations. ASEPA also enables PAs to find positions practicing this specialty through job postings.

▶ **PAs in endocrinology** are encouraged to attend endocrinology conferences to increase the exposure of physicians to the value of working with PAs. Discounts on registration fees for the AACE conference, the Cardiometabolic Health Congress, and the World Congress on the Insulin Resistance Syndrome are available to members of ASEPA.

▶ **ASEPA encourages** the dissemination of current information by providing members with subscriptions to endocrinology publications. Members receive ASEPA's bi-annual members-only newsletter and monthly subscriptions to *Clinical Endocrinology News*, *Endocrine Today*, and *Diabetes Vital*.

▶ **New and exciting breakthroughs** in endocrinology include a new class of drugs, dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitors, for the treatment of type 2 diabetes. Continuous glucose monitoring is a tremendous technological breakthrough in diabetes care, and immense improvements are also being made in delivery devices for many injectable medications.

American Society of Endocrine Physician Assistants; c/o Scott Urquhart, PA-C; 8116 Lee Jackson Circle, Spotsylvania, VA 22553-3818; (888) 441-0422; E-mail: endocrinopa@aol.com; Web: www.endocrine-pa.com.

PAs in asthma, allergy, and immunology, like PAs in all specialties, seek ways to have an impact in their chosen specialty. AAPA's outreach efforts are designed in part to give PAs a way to partner with other health care organizations on important patient care issues. For example, the Calling All PAs page on the Academy Web site, www.aapa.org/joint-efforts.html, discusses the Asthma Action America program and National Adult Immunization Awareness Week.

▶ **The Academy** also works closely with various federal agencies on clinical issues affecting the delivery of quality patient health care. An important element of AAPA's role in such programs is the distribution of information of value to PAs. For example, links to the latest recommendations on immunization schedules are available through the Clinical Issues section of the Academy's Web site, www.aapa.org/clinissues/Immun.htm.

▶ **Another important source** for information and networking opportunities for PAs in specialty areas is the Academy's annual conference. To view the latest schedule of CME opportunities at the May 2008 conference in San Antonio, visit the AAPA conference page on the Web at www.aapa.org/annual-conf/sanan08/pschedule.php.

American Academy of Physician Assistants in Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAPA-AAI)



AAPA-AAI is focused on developing specialty training for PAs, maintaining PA competency in the specialty, and promoting a core understanding of the allergy, asthma, and immunology specialty.

AAPA-AAI provides members with opportunities to stay up to date on the standards of practice, which allows them to perform with competence and professionalism.

▶ **PAs in allergy, asthma, and immunology** provide acute care, follow-up, and education for patients with allergies and asthma. A recent medical breakthrough is subcutaneous omalizumab, an immunoglobulin E blocking agent being used to treat moderate to severe persistent allergic asthma.

▶ **AAPA-AAI provides** PAs who practice in allergy, asthma, and immunology settings the chance to meet and exchange ideas with other PAs in this specialty through a membership meeting held during the AAPA's annual conference. Student resources, specialty-specific news, job postings, the newsletter *Asthma Issue Brief*, and more are available on the Web site (www.aapa-aaai.com).

▶ **The 2nd Annual Allergy/Asthma/ENT Conference**, will be held in Boston, Massachusetts, August 7-10, 2008. The conference offers updates on basic medical practices, the latest news and research findings, and information on the science of allergy, asthma, and immunology.

American Academy of Physician Assistants in Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology; 950 N Washington St, Alexandria, VA 22314-1552; (866) 980-2272; E-mail: aaai@aapa.org; Web: www.aapa-aaai.com.