



ASEPA Newsletter

Summer 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Amy Butts, PA-C, DFAAPA, BC-ADM, CDCES

Summer is in the air. Vacations, free time, beaches, bike rides, and baseball games are upon us. However, for Endocrine PAs it is a busy time for learning. We just wrapped up several important conferences that many members attended including AAPA, AACE, Endocrine Society, and ADA. I attended AAPA this year and had the opportunity to spend time with many of our members. What a wonderful opportunity it is to network and connect with like-minded people that practice across the United States. Please take advantage of these networking opportunities. I always find myself returning home with a feeling of empowerment and growth.

The board and I are interested in providing members with a community feeling. We all provide value to each other and can grow together. We are working hard to provide you with increased benefits. The membership directory, monthly webinars, and discounted conference fees are all membership benefits. We also have a goal to increase advocacy for our endocrine PAs and our patients. I am always available to hear any ideas our members have. Please feel free to email at asepaemail@gmail.com

I am looking forward to spending this next year with you. I hope to continue to grow our sense of community of endocrine PAs in our organization. Enjoy your summer and making memories with ones closest to you!



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SECRETARY'S UPDATE

Justine Herndon, MS, PA-C



Hello ASEPA Members! We have been working hard behind the scenes in building relationships with our partners to offer you all exclusive member benefits. With that being said, we want to know what our ASEPA members need and want from their ASEPA membership. Therefore, we are working on developing an **ASEPA Member-Needs Assessment Survey**, which we hope to send out annually. This way, we can continue to grow our organization and work towards continuing to tailor our offerings to the needs of our members! Expect this to come in later summer.

TREASURER'S UPDATE

Jesse Lyon, PA-C

In my first quarter as treasurer I am focusing on trying to ensure ASEPA remains a financially stable organization in the future with avenues for growth and expansion as more and more physician assistants join the field of endocrinology. In addition to looking at our financial expenses and returns we are working on developing scholarships and awards to help promote PA engagement in our industry so keep posted for more to come!



ASEPA BRINGS BENEFITS TO MEMBERS

Amy Butts, PA-C, DFAAPA, BC-ADM, CDCES

Our membership benefits continue to grow. We have monthly webinars that allow you receive CME and/or industry updates. Can't make it for the scheduled webinar? On our website, you can view these webinars at a more convenient time for you and still receive CME.

Our membership directory allows you to have your name included to network yourself with like-minded endocrine PAs across the country. Have a patient moving? This directory may help you find an endocrine PA in that area to refer them to.

Our board is working hard to get discounts to many different conferences that occur annually that are of interest to you. We are continuing to work hard at increasing more membership benefits to you. Any questions, do not hesitate to contact at asepaemail@gmail.com

MEMBER AWARDS

ASEPA Board Members

* Kristen Scheckel, PA-C has been named a distinguished fellow of the AAPA, giving her the credential DFAAPA. Fewer than 2% of AAPA members have earned this distinction. Congratulations Kristen!

2024 CONFERENCE REVIEWS

AAPA

Amy Butts: ASEPA represented the endocrine community at AAPA which was held in Houston from May 18-22, 2024. We had several members present endocrine/diabetes topics. We also had two networking dinners. It was a great opportunity to spend time with colleagues. Our HOD representative, Stephen Willis, submitted a proposal on ASEPA supporting CGM therapy and it passed with flying colors. You can read more about this in the HOD report. See pictures and information later in this newsletter of those that attended the conference. Keep in mind that next year AAPA will be in Denver, Colorado. Have you ever considered submitting a proposal to speak at this conference? Deadline for submissions is July 31, 2024.

Ashlyn Smith: PAs represented strong at this year's AAPA conference in Houston, TX! It was incredible to see so many colleagues and friends and meet new connections along the way. I was especially impressed by the representation on the Endocrine Track including key programs on ADA Updates, Obesity, Insulin Management, and a deep dive into SGLTs.

ASEPA hosted two programs for members and new friends while in Houston. We enjoyed a great discussion and collaboration with endocrine and cardiology PAs and PA students (albeit over questionable fare with a significant insect representation). On night two, we connected with veteran and newer members at an intimate joint program which included an inspiring and thoughtful HOD update.



I was honored to chair the CGM symposium for the third year in a row with incredible faculty of Drs. Eden Miller and Eugene Wright (pictured left). I am pleased to see recent efforts by AAPA to include CGM education by experts including a CGM and diabetes technology workshop. My hope is that ASEPA can support these efforts and further collaborate with AAPA to enhance these exceptional programs.

After the symposium, I donned boots to celebrate among many many PAs with country music and line dancing at PA Night Out! I hope to see many of you at AAPA 2025!

AACE

Sonia Bahroo: AACE 2024 took place in New Orleans May 9-11, 2024. In addition to enlightening talks and a hands-on diabetes technology workshop, highlights included a Cafe Du Monde pop-up that served fresh warm beignets and a puppy park which attendees really enjoyed. One medical update I learned about was the nomenclature change in June 2023 from NASH and NAFLD to MASH (metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic hepatitis) and MASLD (metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease). There was no ASEPA meetup as there were only 6 ASEPA members present, including myself. I met with AACE leadership and industry to strengthen collaborations between our organizations.

The Endocrine Society

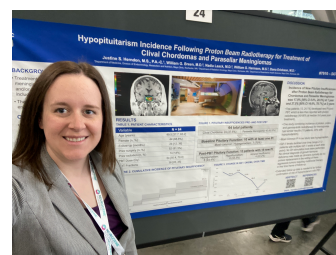
Justine Herndon: ENDO 2024 this year was a bustling conference in Boston with many endocrinology providers from around the world! Topics included clinical practice guidelines for Glucocorticoid-Induced Adrenal Insufficiency and Vitamin D for Prevention of Disease. Personally, my favorite lectures are the case-based Meet the Professor sessions, and I enjoyed attending the Endocrine Care of Incarcerated Individuals talk - highlighting that we have a long way to go in improving the endocrine care for those folks. We had two informal ASEPA meet-ups: a Friday night dinner and a Pituitary Society dinner gathering. Save the date for ENDO 2025 in San Francisco, CA, July 12-15!

Jesse Lyon: The endocrine conference was held this year in Boston, MA and there was a large turnout of providers from all over the world. Seminars included cutting edge develops in the field of endocrinology and potential new therapies/devices for the future. Hundred of abstracts were submitted with very interesting case studies and research projects from all across the globe.

ASEPA IN ACTION

ASEPA Board Members

- * Justine Herndon had quite a few publications; here's her PubMed site: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=Herndon%2C+Justine&sort=date&size=20>. She also had 2 publications on Gender Minority Medicine in Physician Assistant Clinics and presented a poster at ENDO.
- * Joy Moverley represented AAPA on the ADA Overcoming Therapeutic Inertia Workgroup. She presented as part of a panel about disseminating the findings on 6/20/2024.
- * Heidi Webb served on the ADA Primary Care Advisory Group.



* Ashlyn Smith did the following presentations and had a publication this year:

- March 9: Faculty at National Association for Continuing Education's Conversations in Primary Care "I Just Fell Funny' Narrowing the Gaps in Osteoporosis Care"
- April 13: Content contributor at National Association for Continuing Education's Emerging Challenges and Clinical Updates in Primary Care "CGM Success Blueprint: Fine-Tuning Diabetes Management"
- May 20: Program Chairperson and Faculty: CME Symposium "CGM Expert Boards Move Beyond HbA1c to Apply Technology-Based Advances Across the Full Spectrum of Diabetes Care."
- Published April 15: *Primary Care Advisory Group and Section Abridger: "Abridged American Diabetes Association Standards of Care 2024: Section 5--Facilitating Positive Health Behaviors and Well-Being to Improve Health Outcomes."*

Presentations at AAPA:

- * Amy Butts- How to Initiate and Intensify Insulin Therapy
- * Heidi Webb- 1) Diabetes Updates: A Comprehensive Update in the Management of T1DM and T2DM, 2) Endocrine Emergencies: A Case-Based Approach to Diagnosis and Treatment Guidelines, 3) The SGLT-2 Inhibitor: Its Indication in Glycemic, Cardiovascular, and Renal Management
- * Ashlyn Smith- CGM Expert Boards Move Beyond HbA1c to Apply Technology-Based Advances Across the Full Spectrum of Diabetes Care
- * Jonathan Weber & Kerstin Stephens- Workshop: Diabetes Technologies: AI Innovations for Patient-Centered Care
- * Sara Turner- Thyroid Eye Disease Awareness for Advanced Practice Providers: Enhancing Patient Outcomes – Featuring Rapid-Fire Roundtable
- * CJ Chun- Precision Medicine: Where are we with Diabetes?

While at AAPA, HCP Live interviewed CJ about his presentation. Way to go CJ! Here are his interview links:

<https://www.hcplive.com/view/should-we-reclassify-diabetes-subtypes>

<https://www.hcplive.com/view/optimizing-diabetes-therapies-with-new-classifications>





Pictures from AAPA 2024:

*Pictured L to R, page 5:
Amy Butts with Heidi
Webb; CJ Chun, Megan
O'Neill and Stephen Willis;
CJ Chun.*

*Page 6:
Members at ASEPA
hosted programs.*




HOD UPDATE FROM AAPA

Stephen Willis, PA-C

During the annual AAPA meeting in Houston, the House of Delegates met. Listed here are some of the many accomplishments that took place:

- 9 States have signed PA Compact, 11 states pending approval. The Compact addresses streamlining PA licensing across states. 18-24 months is the general timeline to get the compact completed for PA's to be able to work in multiple states.
- Oregon 1st state to change name to Physician Associate! A big applause!
- HOD discussion on supporting PA student attendance at AAPA and HOD. ASEPA to consider a student scholarship for AAPA- long debate and discussion on the student attendance at AAPA how this impacts programs, costs, learning about the PA profession etc.
- AAPA acknowledges that detransitioners exist. AAPA supports research into therapies to effectively restore natal sex traits for detransitioners. AAPA supports insurance equality for detransition care. No definition of detransitioners, other policy currently exists which addresses the need to provide gender affirming care. This debate was tabled as more information is needed on this topic and the rate of occurrence.
- Adopted policy on PA Education on supporting / providing gender affirming care.

Topics that AAPA has been working on: Diabetic Shoe Act 118th Congress and ACO Assignment Improvement Act.



ASEPA Policy Submission for Diabetes Technology was widely accepted. This was significant, in that 77 bylaws and or policies were put forth for acceptance and review. Of the 77 only 15 were accepted as written without debate, retraction or change in verbiage.

2024-B-19-ASEPA Support of Diabetes Technology for Patients with Diabetes

2024-B-19 Resolved

AAPA supports the use of diabetes technology for persons living with Diabetes to include insulin delivery devices, continuous glucose monitoring and integration of technology into clinical practice per American Diabetes Association evidence-based guidelines. AAPA further supports increased efforts to improve access to these treatments for patients of all socioeconomic backgrounds.

Rationale/Justification:

Treatment and care for Diabetes has been rapidly advancing. Delivery of insulin through insulin

pumps is becoming more commonplace and can improve glycemic control for patients living

with Diabetes. The use of continuous glucose monitoring for persons living with Diabetes is

becoming a standard of care for Type 1 Diabetes and patients needing insulin to manage Diabetes per CMS guidelines.

References:

American Diabetes Association 2024 Standards of Care (<https://doi.org/10.2337/dc24-S007>)

reference to recommendations 7.1-7.4.

Related AAPA Policy: None

Possible Negative Implications: Potentially increase PA training program curricula to include basic science on insulin pump and/or continuous glucose monitoring.

Financial Impact: None

MESSAGE FROM AACE

A wonderful writeup was sent to us by AACE President Dr. Susan Samson, MD, PhD, FRCP, FACE and AACE Endocrine Care Team Steering Committee Chair Dominique Uva, APRN, MSN, FNP-C, BC-ADM. This was emailed to members on 6/22/24.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- June 11 - Bempedoic Acid - Michelle Lim (non-CME)
- July 24 - Inpatient Endocrinology - Chris Detrick (CME)
- August 20 - Celiac Disease - Alyssa Greenleaf (CME)
- September 17 - Endocrine Case Studies

** All webinars take place at 8 PM EST via Zoom*

JOB POSTINGS

See website for the latest job opportunities: <https://www.endocrine-pa.com/jobs>

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

See website for the most current list: <https://www.endocrine-pa.com/conferences-events>

* ENS 2024 October 19, 2024 in Chandler, AZ (Only \$15 for ASEPA members to attend!)

Find ASEPA online at:

