Education Through Simulation

At the University of Wisconsin–Madison Physician Assistant (PA) Program, we’re always looking for innovative ways to educate our students. One of our biggest challenges is teaching students to apply knowledge to a “real” situation. Simulation is a proven way to do this.

For many years, we’ve used standardized patients in teaching scenarios. Standardized patients follow a script and play a specific role that encourages interaction between the student and patient. They then provide feedback to help the student improve.

Now, thanks to technological advances, we can also use the state-of-the-art UW Health Clinical Simulation Program (CSP) to teach our students. The educational scenarios there are as limitless as the technology and the creativity of the teaching team.

Surgery and Emergency Medicine

In our surgery class, we use the CSP to teach students how to scrub, gown, and glove—as well as prep and drape a patient—in a full-size operating room.

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Above: Students drape a manikin at the Clinical Simulation Program facility.
Winter Wishes!

Here’s hoping you and your family had a wonderful holiday season!

I’d like to get the new year off to a great start by thanking every one of you for your dedication to the PA profession. Whether you’re a student, an educator, or a practicing professional, your efforts make us proud!

As I reflect on the new year, I realize how much our program has to be grateful for. We teach at a world-class institution, and our dedicated faculty, staff and volunteers are second to none.

Together, we truly make our program and our profession great. I treasure each and every collaboration with you, and look forward to many more in the future.

Enjoy 2015 and keep in touch!

All the best,

Virginia Snyder, PhD, PA-C
Director, University of Wisconsin–Madison
Physician Assistant Program

Wyne, Bowman, Wethal Honored

Clinical Instructor Kevin Wyne, MPAS, MSc, PA-C, was named the August 2014 Volunteer of the Month by the UW School of Medicine and Public Health’s MEDIC Council. He was honored for his commitment to care of the underserved and his thoughtful teaching of health professions students.

Student Lindsey Bowman received an Amy Hunter-Wilson, MD, scholarship from the Wisconsin Indian Education Association and the Wisconsin Medical Society. This merit-based scholarship assists American Indians who are pursuing advanced education for health careers.

Student Karla Wethal received the Wisconsin Academy of Physician Assistants Foundation’s Norien Friell Award for her commitment to volunteer service. Wethal advocates in the community for better sun protection for children and proper CPR training.

First wisPACT Class Introduced

The first students in the Wisconsin Physician Assistant Community-based Track, or wisPACT, were introduced at the University of Wisconsin–Marathon County (UWMC) on August 21, 2014. From left: Richard Clark, Chelsea Schummer, Abby Studinger, and Aaron Follensbee.

We thank UW–Madison, UWMC, Aspirus, Ministry Health Care, Marshfield Clinic and Essentia Health for their support of wisPACT, which is designed to provide PA training in northern and central Wisconsin.
Eleven of our faculty and staff traveled to Philadelphia in October to present at the 2014 Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) Annual Education Forum. The event had 100 peer-reviewed educational sessions and a record 739 attendees representing over 160 PAEA member programs.

Faculty and Staff Presentations

Using Google Glass in PA Education (Michelle Ostmoe and Kevin Wyne, MPAS, MSc, PA-C)

“A Day in the ED: Utilizing an Interactive Case Scenario to Improve PA Student Triage Skills, Medical Decision-Making, and Time/Resource Management” (Kevin Wyne, MPAS, MSc, PA-C)

“There’s No Place Like Home! Distant Physician Assistant Education” (Joel Hill, MPAS, PA-C, and Erin McCarthy Orth)

“Cases of Patients: Curricular Model to Enhance Patient-Centered Care” (Virginia Snyder, PhD, PA-C, and Beverlee Speece, MTS, PA-C)

Faculty and Staff Posters

“Physician Assistant Students Walk the Path of Distinction” (Virginia Snyder, PhD, PA-C; Barbara Duerr and Michelle Ostmoe)

“A Two-Year Observation in International Service Learning” (Joel Hill, MPAS, PA-C, and Kevin Wyne, MPAS, MSc, PA-C)
Catching Up With Grad, Preceptor
Daniel Barry, MPAS, PA-C

At left: Daniel Barry, MPAS, PA-C, is a recent graduate of our Master’s Degree Completion Program, and is a preceptor for UW–Madison PA students and UW Department of Family Medicine residents.

where he spent 13 years in urgent care and is now in his eighth year in orthopedics.

Most days, he cares for patients in the outpatient orthopedic clinic—a role that suits him. “I like patient interaction and always have,” he says, “It’s been really enjoyable to have that continuity. A lot of patients come back and see me, which I’d never had in urgent care.”

An Educator’s Mindset

But for Dan, who first earned an education degree before entering the PA Program, teaching is an equally important part of his career. For many years, he’s offered students shadowing opportunities. He always asks them right away about their professional goals.

“I try to get a good sense of students’ interests, so I can show them as many things that will be useful to their future career,” he reflects.

In addition, he uses his educator’s mindset and training to make sure students develop critical thinking skills.

And just like his first preceptor, he asks students to see all new patients and present a workup plan.

“As a student, you have all this diverse knowledge, but how do you put it into some sort of order?” he explains. “Those are the sort of patterns that are going to help you as you progress in the profession.”

Investing in the Future

More recently, Dan has also become a clinical preceptor for third-year residents in the UW Department of Family Medicine.

He finds that his background in urgent care fits well with primary care, and the collaboration gives future family physicians experience working closely with PAs.

In August, he also completed the PA Program’s Master’s Completion Program, a 12-month online program that offers UW–Madison PA Program baccalaureate graduates the opportunity to earn a master’s degree in physician assistant studies.

“I try to get a good sense of students’ interests, so I can show them as many things that will be useful to their future career.”

According to Dan, the master’s degree completion program provided outstanding education on public health and the social and community aspects of health care—as well as a valuable academic credential.

Both are important, as he ultimately hopes to teach more someday, preferably in a PA program.

“I have a lot of knowledge and skills,” he says, “and I’d like to use them to make some improvement in health care for the future.”

D aniel Barry, MPAS, PA-C, remembers his first clinical rotation as a University of Wisconsin–Madison Physician Assistant (PA) Program student as if it were yesterday.

It was 1992, and his preceptor was a family physician in Sauk City, Wisconsin. Dan performed histories and physicals on each new patient, proposing workups for confirmation by the preceptor. “The first few weeks were intimidating,” he laughs, “but then I realized I could do it.”

That formative experience honed his clinical skills, and also influenced how he mentors learners to this day.

Patient Connections in the Clinic

After graduating from the PA Program in 1993, Dan worked at Physicians Plus for a year before moving to Dean Health System,
Master’s Degree Completion Program Students Graduate

In August, 19 students were the first to graduate from the PA Program’s Master’s Degree Completion Program, a one-year, online degree offered to UW–Madison PA Program baccalaureate graduates.

The program focuses on topics added to the curriculum as it transitioned from a baccalaureate to a master’s degree program, with a special emphasis on preventive health and community practice. It culminates in a capstone, which is based on a search of the literature on a topic relevant to each student’s practice setting. Students are invited to present their capstones at the graduation reception.

Master’s Degree Completion Program Graduates

- Daniel Barry, MPAS, PA-C
- Brian Beardsley, MPAS, PA-C
- Kenneth M. Christensen, MPAS, PA-C
- Carey Dachik, MPAS, PA-C
- Alissa DeVos, MPAS, PA-C
- Jean Sutschek Fischer, MPAS, PA-C
- Nicole Flohr, MPAS, PA-C
- Jennifer Jarrett, MPAS, PA-C
- Lynn (Heisel) Johnston, MPAS, PA-C
- Brian Kayon, MPAS, PA-C
- Liubou Korzun, MPAS, PA-C
- Lori Seaborne, MPAS, PA-C
- Kim Shefchik, MPAS, PA-C
- Annie (Neumann) Sugar, MPAS, PA-C
- Hugh Sugar, MPAS, PA-C
- Susette Thompson, MPAS, PA-C
- Courtney L. Warren, MPAS, PA-C
- Jared Waterman, MPAS, PA-C
- David Wilson, MPAS, PA-C

CALL FOR APPLICANTS

The PA Program will offer the Master’s Degree Completion Program for only as long as there is student interest.

As of January 9, 2015, we are accepting applications for the class that starts this fall. Applicants must be UW–Madison PA Program baccalaureate graduates.

The application deadline is April 1, 2015. For more information, visit our website or email Honorie Coté, MS, PA-C, at hocote@wisc.edu.

Above, top to bottom:

Liubou Korzun, PA-C, and Jeff Oryall, MS, PA-C, MT

Honorie Coté, MS, PA-C, and Kenneth Christensen, PA-C

Beverlee Speece, MTS, PA-C, and David Wilson, PA-C
All About Diabetes with Guest Lecturer
Dawn Belt Davis, MD, PhD

Diagnostic Methods courses, giving students practical insight into the care of patients with diabetes and other endocrine disorders.

“I really enjoy being able to teach students the whole spectrum: from how does this disease happen in the first place, to what’s the underlying pathology, to how you take care of it in the real world,” Dr. Davis says.

“I know that no matter what students end up going into in their career, they will encounter patients with diabetes.”

Students learn through a series of lectures supplemented by a separate day devoted to case studies. The case studies give them an opportunity to think through a clinical scenario and make practical treatment recommendations. In their comments, students often describe this as their favorite and most helpful learning experience of the year.

In addition, second-year PA students with a specific interest in endocrinology may also be able to participate in a month-long clinical rotation with Dr. Davis and her colleagues, which provides more experience caring for patients in clinic and hospital settings.

For Dr. Davis, the rewards of teaching go beyond the positive student feedback she’s received. Some of the students she’s taught have since graduated and have been hired by the UW Department of Medicine’s Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism.

“I’ve seen them come full circle: from sitting in my classroom to now working as my colleagues,” she recalls. “Hopefully what I taught them sparked their interest enough that this is what they want to do with their career.”

Looking for Employment Opportunities?

Visit our website for job leads in Wisconsin and around the country:

http://www.fammed.wisc.edu/pa-program/employment

Check out the 19 open PA positions at UW Health, including jobs in cardiothoracic surgery and hospital medicine:*

http://www.uwhealth.org/madison-health-care-jobs/uw-medical-foundation/uw-medical-foundation-online-job-search/13166

* as posted at press time
Education Through Simulation

Continued from cover

The surgery class has been a great success, with many students providing positive evaluations of the experience.

Last year, our clinical-year students also began participating in a new emergency medicine scenario at the CSP. The scenario taught them about TeamSTEPPs, a new model for improving communication and patient safety.

First, they observed a simulation depicting a family of four who had been brought to the emergency department after a motor vehicle accident.

The simulation, which was acted out by the emergency medicine team and simulation center staff, deliberately showed mistakes in the care that the family received.

Next, the students met with the emergency medicine team to suggest improvements using techniques outlined in the TeamSTEPPs model.

The team then re-ran the scenario, this time incorporating the students’ instructions. Afterwards, the group met again for a second round of feedback using the TeamSTEPPs approach.

Interprofessional Simulation Course

Finally, clinical-year students can also participate in “Interprofessional Simulation Team Immersion Course,” a new educational offering taught by Susan Olson, RN, BSN, MSN, a simulation educator at the CSP.

The course is held several times per year and offered to many health profession students.

It uses simulation to teach communication, teamwork and leadership—skills that every PA needs to succeed in clinical practice.

Above: Student Roxanne Schmiesing learns surgical skills at the CSP.

Alumni Updates

Jessica (Borchert) Peterson, PA-C (’05), is working as a primary care PA at Bellin Northernaire Medical Center in Crivitz, Wisconsin—a position she’s held since graduation!

Valerie Mazziotti, PA-C (’91), is proud to celebrate over 20 years as a physician assistant! She practices in Kent, Washington, and has received certification as a certified menopausal practitioner through the North American Menopause Society.

We want to feature you in our newsletter!

If you have news, updates or accomplishments to share, please let us know at: www.fammed.wisc.edu/pa-program/alumni-contact
Physician Assistant Program
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH
Health Sciences Learning Center
750 Highland Avenue, Room 1278
Madison, WI 53705

We Want to Hear from You!
Please keep us up to date. Mail this form to the address below or visit www.fammed.wisc.edu/pa-program/alumni-contact. Thanks!

Name: __________________________________________________________
Name while a student: ___________________________ Grad year: _____
What’s your news? ____________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

What changed? □ Name □ Address □ Practice □ Email □ Other
The new information is: __________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

Send to UW-Madison PA Program, HSLC Room 1278, 750 Highland Avenue, Madison, WI 53705

key facts
about our master’s degree completion program

2013 year founded
19 graduates in 2014
20 students currently enrolled
1/9/15 application period opens
4/1/15 application deadline

For more information about the program, visit our website or email Honorie Coté, MS, PA-C, at hocote@wisc.edu.