THREE GREAT WAYS to stay connected with the UW–Madison PA Program

1. SHARE AN ALUMNI REFLECTION
Where are you practicing now? Any big accomplishments to announce? Great memories from PA school to share?
We’d love to print your news and photos in a future newsletter.
Contact us at: go.wisc.edu/657684

2. BECOME A VOLUNTEER PRECEPTOR
Share your knowledge and help educate future PAs. You’ll pay it forward and receive benefits of an UW–Madison appointment, including campus access and potential CME credit.
Learn more at: http://www.med.wisc.edu/pa-preceptor

3. GIVE A STETHOSCOPE
Welcome an incoming PA student to the world of medicine with a stethoscope.
Learn more at: https://jumpstart.supportuw.org/campaigns/pa-stethoscope-2

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IN THIS ISSUE

Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Last summer, as uprisings against social injustices took place across the country, the School of Medicine and Public Health Physician Assistant (PA) Program formed the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force to address issues of inequality within physician assistant teaching and practice.

“We are fortunate to have people who are able to help us connect the dots between the wider societal upheaval and the environment in which we exist every day,” says PA Program Medical Director Dipesh Navsaria, MPH, MSLIS, MD who co-chairs the committee with faculty member Amy Parins, MPAS ’15, PA-C ’08.

Comprised of 15 PA Program students, staff, faculty, preceptors

Students Explore Tough Issues Together

First-year students Ashley Crawford and Lisette Serrano imagined a space in which they and their classmates could question and discuss difficult issues without judgement. That’s why last fall they hosted their first “PASS the Mic” session, in which they explored together what it means to be an anti-racist health care provider.

“The need for these sessions became clear as we pushed through a summer of grief, racial injustice and isolation,” they wrote in an email. “We needed a space to both learn from and lean on one another.”

Having received a warm reception, they are planning future sessions with input from the participants.
and alumni, the committee came together to ensure that the PA Program is doing everything possible to not only provide an inclusive and respectful learning environment but also to dismantle inequitable practices in education and patient care. Over the fall, the committee authored a Statement on Diversity and Inclusion which has since been approved by the PA Program as a whole. (The entire statement is available on our website’s “About” page: https://www.med.wisc.edu/education/physician-assistant-pa-program/about.)

Beyond employing a curriculum that embraces individual differences and enhances cultural awareness, the PA Program will place special emphasis on recruiting students, faculty and staff who are historically underrepresented in health care. We will also seek opportunities to foster safer, more empowering spaces for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) students, immigrant students and students with disabilities. At the core of this initiative is a mission to develop humble, empathetic, thoughtful and compassionate medical providers. After all, says Navsaria, embracing a broad array of viewpoints, perspectives and experiences is at the very foundation of equitable health care: “If we are concerned with improving the human condition, we cannot ignore large parts of it in favor of a dominant narrative.”

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—Dipesh Navsaria

Donors Welcome New Students with Stethoscopes

When Ryan Anderson opened his mail last May to find a stethoscope and congratulatory note, he felt “humbled and super appreciative.”

A first-year student in the PA Program, Anderson says he has already put his gift to good use. He initially learned to listen to his own heartbeats and rhythms via online instruction. Later, he practiced with standardized patients in the in-person Clinical Skills class.

All 58 incoming students received a stethoscope from PA Program donors. Anderson received his from Judy Stolper and Gene Haug of Madison. “I’ll be using this stethoscope for a long time,” Anderson says by way of expressing the lasting impact of their generosity. “In a way they’ve given a gift not just to me but also to all the people I’ll be able to care for in the future.”

Learn more about the “Gift a Stethoscope, Welcome a Student” initiative at: https://jumpstart.supportuw.org/campaigns/pa-stethoscope-2

Saying Thanks! Students Send in Stethoscope Selfies

Students model their new stethoscopes (L to R): Anne Mills, Bek Eshtemirov, Ashley Crawford, Anna Heid, Abigayle Wellnitz, Elizabeth Pretto