



Physician Assistant SPOTLIGHT

For alumni and friends of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Physician Assistant Program

FALL 2023

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KEEP IN TOUCH!

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The Vital Role of Preceptors

Each fall, after one week of orientation, students in the School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) Physician Assistant (PA) Program embark on what is arguably the most exciting aspect of their education: 10 months of hands-on training in which they apply what they have learned in lectures, labs and discussions in real-world clinical settings. In addition to one elective, each student will complete four core two-month rotations, gaining experience in emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine and surgery.

Having co-directed the PA Program's clinical education for more than 10 years, Beverly J. Speece, MTS, PA-C, sees firsthand how valuable (if also challenging!) these months can be. That's in no small part thanks to the many wonderful volunteer preceptors who provide future PAs with the professional experiences that only clinical settings can offer. And because each student will complete at least one rotation at a rural site or with an underserved population—a tribal center, for example, or a veterans hospital—they are likely to find themselves



Rachel Stanley with preceptor Matt Rajala, PA-C '17. Photo: Brian McComb

serving communities they may not otherwise discover.

Hailing from health care centers around the state and beyond, a preceptor can be an MD/DO, PA or NP who is licensed and board certified in the area. With a zero-dollar appointment in the SMPH Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, preceptors can access a variety of UW-Madison

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The Vital Role of Preceptors... (Continued from page 1)

facilities, among other benefits. But that's not the primary reason preceptors take students under their wings.

"Precepting students is always rewarding," says **Brian McComb, PA-C '18**, who recently joined Speece as the PA Program's co-director for clinical education (see sidebar). After all, he says, "we were all students at one point. Having someone give you the tools to succeed in this profession is invaluable."

Interested in serving as a preceptor? McComb welcomes your questions. "I'm always happy to talk with others

who are eager to pass on their knowledge," he says. While most clinical rotation sites are in Wisconsin, some can be found as far afield as Minnesota, Illinois and the Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

"Today's students are tomorrow's colleagues," says McComb. "Help me make sure they are the future physician assistants we want to care for our families."

Visit <https://www.med.wisc.edu/education/physician-assistant-pa-program/preceptors/preceptor-signup-form/>

Preceptor Ellen Edison, PA-C'19 with student Addie Agboola. Photo: Beverly Speece



Alum Rick Clark, PA-C '16, with student Jacob Anderson in Rhinelander. Photo: Tracy Borchardt

Introducing New Faculty Member Brian McComb, PA-C '18

This fall, Brian McComb joined the PA Program as director of clinical education. Himself a graduate of the PA Program, McComb says he is eager to facilitate the same great experiences that he had. "I received exceptional training at the hands of all my preceptors," McComb says. "It gave me the confidence—and the competence—I needed to get started." Specializing in orthopedics, McComb practiced in Madison before moving to Darlington, WI. He says both experiences will prove valuable to his new role.

Brian McComb • Photo: SSM Health



2023 White Coat Ceremony



On June 16, 2023 the PA Program held its annual White Coat Ceremony, celebrating the class of 2024 as they transition into their clinical year.

MIDDLE ROW:

Judy Stolper presenting the Andy Stolper Memorial Scholarship to Nathan Lesnick; Angela Vitcenda dons white coat for Delaney Doering; Bev Speece with Tasneem Amro and Meredith DeCent, recipients of the Dr. Mildred H Evans Award

BOTTOM ROW:

White Coat 2023 Class Speaker Rachel Stanley; White Coat 2023 Guest Speaker Sarah Traynor, PhD Anatomy Professor; Erin McCarthy Orth with WROF Award recipients Nathan Johnson, Kaylee Jensen and Nathan Lesnick



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