

## Candidates for NCAPA Board of Directors and Nominating Committee Member-at-Large

Voting begins September 1-30; Terms begin January 1, 2020

### **President-Elect: 1-year term, followed by 1 year as President, and 1 year as Past-President**



Elyse J. Watkins, DHSc, PA-C, DFAAPA

I am honored and humbled to run for President of the North Carolina Academy of PAs for 2021. Since moving to North Carolina in 2014, I have been actively involved in my local and state PA organization in ways that I believe have had a positive impact on our constituents. One of my most recent achievements was to initiate a student scholarship for the PA students within our local service area.

I completed the North Carolina Medical Society's Leadership Institute training in 2016 where I was able to present my research findings on the utilization of PAs in obstetrics and gynecology practices across the state. Due in part to my involvement with the North Carolina Medical Society (NCMS), I was an invited member of the NCMS Legislative Cabinet in 2018. In addition to my involvement with my local and state PA organizations, I have authored multiple journal articles for JAAPA, two books, and one book chapter. I have also been invited to speak at

several state PA CME conferences on various clinical topics, testifying to my comfort speaking in public forums.

I have been a PA since 1993. While most of my clinical experience has been in obstetrics and gynecology, I have also worked in family medicine and urgent care. These clinical roles have given me a broad perspective on the issues facing both families and PAs. I have also worked in PA education since 2012. Working with PA students provides me with a specific understanding of what it is to be a PA student in today's often rapidly changing health care environment, including the competition for jobs upon graduation. Part of my desire to serve as President is to work with state PA programs and students to develop leaders who will continue to lead our profession along an upward trajectory.

I also teach in a professional doctoral program for PAs. Interacting with PAs from across the country who are seeking leadership opportunities within their health system has given me an appreciation of the myriad opportunities for PA leaders in North Carolina. The work of past Presidents of NCAPA does not go unnoticed, for without their leadership and vision, we certainly would not be where we are. I want to continue carrying the torch and work on your behalf to make sure we continue to have strong relationships with the physicians in our communities while also allowing each PA to work at the top of their license.

NCAPA Member since 2014.

- Director-at-Large (2017 – current)
- Member - Nominating Committee (2017)
- Member - Professional Development Review Panel (2016 – current)

Piedmont Association of PAs Member since 2014.

- Director-at-Large (2015)
- Vice President (2016 – current)

American Academy of PAs Member since original licensure.

- Moderator – AAPA's Annual CME Conference (2019)
- Member – Health of the Population Committee (2014 - 2015)
- AAPA Delegate - American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologist's Facility Standards Task Force Development Committee (2017 – 2018)

## Treasurer: 2-year term



Ryan Vann, PA-C

My name is Ryan Vann, and I am running for re-election as NCAPA Treasurer. I live in Winston-Salem, and I am a full-time practicing PA in Family Medicine. Treasurer is a position that requires a candidate who is experienced, enthusiastic, and detail-oriented. I believe that I possess all of these qualities, and I respectfully ask for your vote.

I am deeply involved in the Academy's financial life, serving as Treasurer of the Academy for the past two years, and also chair of the Finance Committee for the past several years. In these roles, I have had significant involvement in creating and implementing the annual budget. I have also worked with Academy staff members to monitor and analyze our financial position on a regular basis throughout the year. As with everything the Academy does, the Strategic Plan is our guiding document. My deep involvement in all things financial with the NCAPA has allowed me not only to be able to comment on the financial feasibility of parts of the Strategic Plan, but also to make sure that all expenditures align with the principles set therein.

Although the NCAPA is in a good financial position overall, there are troubling trends nationwide in regards to the financial health of professional organizations similar to ours. Thankfully, we are still taking in more than we spend, but it is essential that an experienced Treasurer work with equally experienced staff to monitor the financial picture closely, and to make sure we are spending our funds wisely. That is, I endeavor for your Academy to spend your money in a way that is most beneficial to PAs in North Carolina and most consistent with our agreed-upon priorities. As Treasurer, I will use my years of experience to ensure that this continues. Also, the NCAPA is fortunate to have a very large reserve fund so that we are prepared in the event of financial catastrophe. As Treasurer, I will continue to display the fiduciary leadership that has been in place since the Academy's inception, and I will continue to protect the hard-earned funds that we have in reserve.

Finally, as a past President of the NCAPA, I have the vision and know-how to help lead our organization forward into future. Although much of what the Treasurer does is financial in nature, it is important to remember that this person is also a member of both the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. There are several important topics that are discussed and decisions that are made by both of these groups. The range and importance of what is discussed requires someone who is knowledgeable about both the inner workings of the NCAPA, and the challenges that face PAs practicing in North Carolina. I will use my prior presidential experience to carefully consider these topics and to make knowledgeable and informed decisions that are in the best interest of the Academy and its members.

In conclusion, I ask for your vote in the upcoming election. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have – please feel free to contact me at [ryancvann@gmail.com](mailto:ryancvann@gmail.com)

## Eight Candidates for Director-at-Large: Two-year terms, 3 open positions



### Meg Beal, PA-C

My name is Meg Beal and I am running for a Director-at-Large position with NCAPA. Being more involved in this organization and getting to work with such inspiring colleagues is one of the things I enjoy most about being a Physician Assistant in this state. I previously served the NCAPA on the Nominating Committee and currently serve on the Health Committee as well as the Government Affairs Committee. I am eager to be more involved as a member of the Board of Directors. I have called North Carolina home for 20 years, had the joy of training here at Wake Forest University, and now have served as a faculty member at the University of North Carolina's PA Program since its inception. I continue to practice clinically in primary care and appreciate how important our profession is to the care of North Carolina citizens, and beyond.

For the past two years, I have participated in the Academy's PA Day at the Legislature and consistently find myself motivated to advocate for our profession. I serve on the Advanced Practice Provider Advisory Council for the UNC Medical Center and am proud to represent our profession in this capacity. I also serve as a member of the Rural Interprofessional Health Initiative for UNC Health Affairs and departmental committees for Interprofessional Education and International work. My passion for the value of PAs in healthcare teams drives my desire to pursue the opportunity to expand advocacy efforts and enhance the practice of North Carolina PAs.

Many colleagues look to our state to lead the way for PA practice. We continue to remain at the forefront of the profession, and it would be a privilege to contribute further to our leadership as a representative on the NCAPA Board of Directors. I greatly appreciate your consideration of my candidacy for a Director-at-Large position. My email address is [meg\\_beal@med.unc.edu](mailto:meg_beal@med.unc.edu) if I can provide you with any additional information.



### Molly Calabria, PA-C

I am honored to have been nominated as a candidate for NCAPA Director-at-Large. Over the past several years, I have served NCAPA in various roles, including as an active member of the Government Affairs Committee, a Student Director to the Board, and Chair of the Student Affairs Committee. I have also participated in a number of work groups over the years – most recently helping to re-establish the NCAPA PAC. Through my involvement, I feel I have demonstrated a commitment to digging in, doing the hard work, and being a strong advocate for our profession. If elected, I would bring the same passion and energy to my role as Director-at-Large.

Through my experiences with NCAPA, I have seen how important it is to monitor legislation and proposed regulations affecting our profession. NCAPA has developed an ability to think strategically about what will benefit our profession long-term and to stand up for our members and our patients. I have seen how effective it can be to talk with legislators at the NC General Assembly and have watched legislators begin to better understand our profession in recent years. I would seek to continue those efforts. As a Family Medicine PA, I have come to appreciate the

importance of advocacy in ensuring our ability to practice to the full extent of our training. As such, I am dedicated to continuing the work of the current Board in pursuit of Optimal Team Practice.

My work as the current Chair of the Student Affairs Committee also enables me to stay connected with our PA students and to help empower the newest members of our profession through our Student Leadership Retreats and Challenge Bowls. I am dedicated to ensuring opportunities for trainees and new PAs around our state. North Carolina now has 11 PA schools, and it will be important to strengthen our membership by introducing each year's 400+ graduates to the services – and leadership opportunities – that NCAPA has to offer.

I am excited and motivated by the improvements and innovations I have seen both within NCAPA and in our profession more broadly. I look forward to continuing this momentum in the coming years.

Thank you for your consideration.



### Tanya Darrow, PA-C

My name is Tanya Darrow, and I am honored to be thought of to represent the members of our Academy in the role of Director-at-Large. In 2007, I completed my training at East Carolina University and began my career as Family Medicine PA in a Rural Health Clinic located in Vance County. I have remained in this position for the past 11 years. Since the start of my career, I've seen how our profession has become vital and necessary to allow for access to quality care for complex medical needs.

As a bonus for working in a rural area, I had an opportunity to work with the North Carolina Medical Society in their Community Practitioner program. We had a variety of classes and seminars on the transition from quantity to quality and learned a great deal about how practices across the state had both unique and similar challenges. This created a drive to do more with the NCAPA and focus on ways to help maintain and improve access to care in rural areas while continuing to grow the role and responsibility of physician assistants.

For the past few years, I've served on the Government Affairs Committee and have attended White Coat Wednesday and PA Day at the Legislature consistently. It is always very enlightening and humbling to be reminded of how far the PA profession has advanced in what is considered a relatively short amount of time. Working with the NCAPA, talking to legislators about our profession is always an amazing and educational experience. To be even a small part of the continued evolution is an honor.

Currently, I am serving in my practice Quality Incentive Liaison at Vance Family Medicine and work with multiple payors and the Duke University Health System ACO to ensure we meet our quality incentives. Working together with other clinicians at my practice to ensure we are all doing our best for the good of our patients is, to me, a prime example of Optimal Team Practice as MD's and PA's share ideas and work together to ensure quality care.

I look forward to continuing my service and thank you for the consideration.



## Emily Epling, PA-C

My name is Emily Epling and I am honored to accept the nomination for NCAPA Director-At-Large. I am seeking your support to serve our state academy in this role and commit to utilizing my experience and leadership in advocating for our profession.

After graduating from Wake Forest PA program in 1994 I practiced Internal Medicine for more than a decade, for an underserved patient population; they taught me how to love and care for the whole patient. My current practice is in Hematology/Oncology, where I have the privilege of providing healthcare to determined, strong patients for 7 years. Clinical capabilities go hand in hand with the relationships that each clinician must build every day.

But clinical work is only part of the equation. Understanding the business and structure of healthcare is crucial in setting vision and leading broad change. Throughout my career, I have also served in administrative capacities in a wide variety of functional areas, from strategic planning, to risk management, to regulatory affairs. As Advanced Practice Medical Director for one of the largest health systems in North Carolina, I have a deep understanding of the opportunities and challenges that come with fully integrating PAs into changing healthcare delivery models.

With the complex, changing healthcare environment, I believe that we are at an inflection point, where dedicated PAs play a growing role in our industry and our patients' lives. As the birthplace of the PA profession, North Carolina's PAs deserve a strong voice, one that can advocate for structural as well as clinical changes to enhance our practices, our profession and the health of our patients.

How do we pursue/execute on this vision? Together. It is through education and collaboration that I have seen significant changes and advances over the course of my career. I have learned that connections—with patients, with fellow practitioners, with healthcare administrators and leaders—are the lifeblood for driving change.

Together, we will bring our community of practitioners closer together. Together, we will strengthen the knowledge and expertise for PAs. Together, we will continue the push to ensure our practice laws reflect our ability to deliver care. And it is with your help that we will ensure PAs are a keystone in meeting the health needs of our communities. Together, we will elevate our profession. I would be honored to serve as a member of the Board of Directors as a Director-At-Large. Thank you for your consideration.



## Alexandra Godfrey, PA-C

Thank you for considering me for the position of NCAPA Director-at-Large. I am asking for your support in leading the profession forward at both a state and national level. I cannot do this without your help.

### **Who am I?**

I have been a clinician for over 20 years. I started out as a CNA in a nursing home in the UK. The work was hard, the hours long, and the pay poor but it gave me the experience I needed to progress with my career. This work gave me a lifelong respect for my co-workers in other professions. I learned no work is ever too big or too small.

Later, I trained as a Physical Therapist and worked in the British National Health Service, rotating through myriad hospital-based specialties. When we relocated to the US, I switched from a hospital-based to outpatient practice. I found the shift between countries and systems challenging. I felt limited in my scope and dictated to by insurance. Often, I felt I could not give patients what they needed. Thus, I decided to advance my career and become a PA.

I graduated from Detroit's Wayne State University PA program in 2010. Since then, I have worked primarily in emergency medicine. Currently, I practice fulltime in two busy community EDs seeing some of the poorest of the US population. It's exactly where I want to be. I also teach students on clinical rotation at these sites.

I believe I bring NCAPA a unique frame of reference. My experiences as a clinician, a student and a patient in two very different healthcare systems in two quite different countries, offer NCAPA a fresh perspective along with a degree of diversity that should enrich NCAPA.

### **What leadership experience do I have?**

I have worked in many different leadership positions. Prior to graduation, I was a student member of the university's academic integrity board, the president of our chapter of SAAAPA, and the chair of the community service committee. After graduating, I served for six years on the editorial board of JAAPA. This work required me to stay up to date on our profession's legislative, practice and clinical challenges. I participated in peer review and clinical editing as well as writing my own column. At the end of my term with JAAPA, I was invited to be an author and columnist for the New England Journal of Medicine. This work required me to engage with healthcare professionals all over the world.

Currently, I serve on the membership and CME committees of NCAPA. I also sit on our hospital's bioethics board as well as the patient experience group. Recently, I spearheaded a committee to review our care of patients presenting to the ED after sexual assault or intimate partner violence. As a consequence, we have updated and improved our care of these populations.

Throughout my career, I have written and published extensively. Soon I will complete a narrative healthcare certificate through a satellite program of Columbia University. In 2017, I was the first ever APP to be awarded ACEP's national writing award; this was repeated in 2018. In October, I will be faculty at a narrative healthcare symposium at UNC, working alongside the field's national leaders.

### **What are my values?**

I am committed to protecting the reputation and values of our state organization while recognizing the changing needs of our maturing profession. We can have vision and direction and protect our heritage at the same time.

There are barriers in place that hinder our ability to provide care and compete in the marketplace. Some of these barriers are remnants from earlier times. Unfortunately, these now create an administrative burden, making it easier for clinics and institutions to hire someone else. We must work to protect our jobs, our values and our mission. We need to keep working on practice act amendments that more accurately reflect what PAs do every day. We need to continue to focus on self-governance. I am passionate about this.

I believe we can utilize our superior credibility as licensed medical professionals to improve the health our patients at the legislative, judicial and regulatory level. In other words, we need to stand with other professional associations to advise policy makers and SCOTUS on medical science. We need to stand up, speak up and sign on.

NCAPA has made great progress at the state level, but more needs to be done and we need to keep up the momentum. Vote for me and I promise you I will work hard to make this happen.



## Michelle McMoon, PA-C

It is with pleasure that I submit my nomination for the Director-at-Large position for the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants. I have been extensively involved in organizational leadership and advocacy at the national and specialty level for the length of my 15-year PA career. If elected to the NCAPA board, I will apply these experiences to the state in which I practice, advocate for the NCAPA mission, and make a valuable contribution to the NCAPA membership and the PA profession at large.

I have practiced clinical medicine for 15 years in the areas of cardiology, trauma and emergency medicine, and critical care medicine. While working in each of these demanding areas, I consistently carved out time to advocate for my profession. As a student, I served on the Student Academy of the AAPA Board of Directors, first as the Senior Director of External Affairs (DEA) and then the Vice President. During this time, I collaborated with medical student colleagues, educating them on PA practice and the physician-PA collaborative work model.

After graduation, I was selected to chair the AAPA's Leadership and Professional Development council (LAPD). In this role, I developed "toolkits" to assist in leadership development on all levels of academy involvement. I also provided leadership workshops to constituent organizations. Currently, I serve on the Research committee of the Society for Critical Care Medicine (SCCM), my specialty organization. SCCM has allowed me to grow my leadership skills within an interprofessional setting, thereby enhancing my networking skills across professional boundaries.

In addition, I have held several leadership positions in the clinical arena. Currently I work as the Director of Advanced Practice for Duke Regional Hospital, where I recruit, select, train, and assess NP and PA's in all areas of medicine. Having the opportunity to develop programs that assist the PA profession at both the national and state level run parallel with my career growth and continue to be a priority for me as I pursue additional advocacy opportunities in North Carolina.

Finally, I am currently completing a PhD in Public and Healthcare Policy. Through my formal research training, I have become an expert in qualitative and quantitative research. My final study examined current rehabilitative resources and how current policies support survivors. I anticipate completing this degree by October of this year.

As the Director at Large for NCAPA, I will work tirelessly to promote the mission of the organization and assist the executive members with on-going projects. PA advocacy and legislative efforts are key to the success of our profession and this has become an area of expertise for me as I complete my PhD. I hope to use the skills I have learned during my education to assist in advocating for PA policy and legislative efforts at the state level. Thank you for considering me for this important position on the NCAPA Board of Directors. I look forward to serving the membership of North Carolina Academy of PA's!



## Jordyn Parker, MMS, PA-C

My name is Jordyn Parker and I am honored to be nominated for Director-At-Large of the NCAPA Board of Directors. I am a 2016 graduate of the Wake Forest University Physician Assistant Program and was a member of the inaugural Boone cohort. I have since worked in outpatient neurology in Hickory, NC treating pediatric and adult patients.

I immediately jumped into a leadership position, at the local level and at the clinic level. As a first year PA, I was elected Vice President for the Unifour Physician Assistant Association. I am now currently on my second term as President for UPAA. One of my personal priorities as UPAA president is to recruit members, especially new graduates and PAs who are early in their career. Our continuous relationship with the Lenoir Rhyne University PA program has been fundamental in accomplishing this goal. It is important for PAs to be involved in PA leadership and advocate on the issues that impact PAs and ultimately impact patient care. As president of UPAA, I serve on the regional chapters committee. Attending NCAPA board of directors' meetings fueled my desire to remain involved and inspired me to pursue additional leadership opportunities.

At the clinic level, I felt there was a need for consistent cooperation amongst providers. I executed and planned a monthly "Lunch and Learn". One day per month, all providers in the clinic are invited to attend an in-office lunch. I obtained an approval from administration and in fact, our office administrator also attends the lunch regularly. The first half of the lunch session is open for all to discuss concerns or questions they have at the practice level. The second half of the lunch is open to providers to share complex patient cases they have encountered. Two-thirds of my clinic is comprised of PAs and nurse practitioners and I feel that these meetings have provided opportunities for us to speak up about issues in our health system. They also promote a team approach to patient care.

We are fortunate to live in a state where PAs are respected and even more fortunate to have a state academy that supports us. Serving as Director-At-Large would provide me an opportunity to advocate for our profession at a state level representing future generations of PAs. I would also hope to inspire other PAs, at a similar point in their career, to get more involved.

There are many remarkable PA leaders here in our state. They certainly have big shoes to fill but that is why it is important to get involved now, to learn from some of the pioneer leaders of our field and continue to pave the way for PAs.

I have enjoyed serving at the regional level and look forward to serving you on the state level.

Thank you for your consideration and vote.



### Krissi Williams, PA-C

Being a Wake '04 PA in North Carolina has allowed me unbelievable opportunities to practice and serve my community. I dreamed of practicing rural family medicine, and I did. My dreams changed as my family grew and experiences in medicine evolved. I opened Sunny Care Clinic in April 2018. During this journey, I maintained my membership to the NCAPA because our professional organization gives us voice, platform and unity. It is a commitment and deliberate decision to run for a director-at-large position due to the geographical distance and the time needed to contribute effectively; I live and practice on the Outer Banks. I hold that each of us is responsible in part for the shape and direction of our profession.

Optimal team practice is here. The PA profession must stay current and grow to be competitive in the healthcare job markets. We must insure that we are taking good care of people, educating the future providers, and actively reinforcing our contributions to the general wellbeing of our communities.

The NCAPA's leadership has a strong history of representing those of us on the front line. I would be proud to serve on the Board of the NCAPA.

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### **One Candidate for Nominating Committee Member-at-Large, 2-year term, one open position**



### Truett Smith, MPAS, PA-C, DFAAPA

I first became involved with the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants as a Student Board Representative from the Wake Forest PA program. I have served several terms as NCAPA Regional Chapters Chair and two terms as NCAPA Vice-President. I most recently served as NCAPA President-Elect, President and Immediate Past-President from 2016-2018. I have been involved nationally as NCAPA Delegate or Alternate Delegate to the AAPA House of Delegates for many years. I am the current OTP (Optimal Team Practice) Taskforce Chair and I also serve on the NCMS Medical Team Taskforce.

I am married and reside in Troutman, North Carolina. I enjoy playing league soccer, competing in obstacle course racing and hiking. My clinical passion is Family Medicine and I currently serve as the Family Medicine ACP Fellowship Coordinator and Preceptor for AtriumHealth. I serve as a student Preceptor to the Wake Forest, Wingate and Gardner Webb PA Programs.

I have been a strong proponent for PAs and PA practice locally, at a state level and nationally for the past 30 years and hope to continue to educate students, Fellows and push for improved PA practice for many to come.

Please consider me to serve you on the Nominating Committee of North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants. My professional and life experiences make me uniquely qualified for this position and continued service to the Academy.