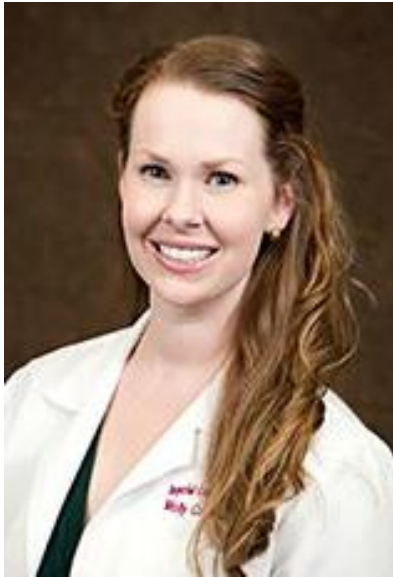


## Candidates for 2021 NCAPA Board of Directors and Nominating Committee

Voting September 1-30, 2020 | Terms begin January 1, 2021

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



Molly Calabria, PA-C

I am honored to have been nominated for NCAPA President-Elect, and I ask for your support. While North Carolina counts itself among the best states to practice as a PA, we must continue to advocate for our profession, to build a strong and diverse membership base, and to help PAs adapt and innovate in a rapidly changing environment.

As President-Elect, I would draw on numerous experiences to advocate for PAs and ensure the ongoing success of our profession. I initially joined NCAPA as a first-year PA student at Campbell University. Shortly thereafter, I was elected by my classmates to serve as Campbell's Student Representative to the Board of Directors. Spurred by a passion for advocacy, I also joined the Government Affairs Committee. As an eight-year veteran of that committee, I have helped organize statewide lobbying efforts at the

NC General Assembly and discussed the status of our profession with the Secretary of the NC Department of Health and Human Services. I have also twice participated in the AAPA Leadership and Advocacy Summit in Washington, DC to be a voice for PAs on a national level. My work on the Government Affairs Committee has led to my service as a founding member of NCAPA's Political Action Committee (PAC) Steering Committee (and the PAC Task Force, prior to the PAC's formation).

Additionally, I've volunteered as a member of the Student Affairs Committee and served as chair for 2 years. I am dedicated to ensuring opportunities for trainees and new PAs around our state. This position has also led me to think about how to better recruit members to our organization and encourage a more diverse set of PAs and PA students to become involved in NCAPA leadership—something that I believe will strengthen the entire organization.

I am also currently a Director-at-Large on the Board of Directors and a House of Delegates Representative to AAPA on the national level. More recently, I was asked to serve on the NCAPA COVID-19 Working Group to help develop a rapid and thorough response to the pandemic. I have also agreed to serve on the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, a role I have embraced, as it allows me to think about—and help shape—the future of our organization.

In these roles, I have come to understand and appreciate the ways that NCAPA advocates for PAs and seeks to advance our profession as we navigate the future of healthcare. As a Family Medicine PA, I especially appreciate the importance of advocacy in ensuring my ability to practice to the full extent of my training, which is why I am dedicated to continuing our pursuit of Optimal Team Practice in North Carolina.

I'm extremely proud of the work NCAPA has done to adapt to the demands of COVID-19, and I am enthusiastic about the work that we can and will do for North Carolina's PAs. I believe that I am the right person to lead the organization at this time, and I humbly ask for your vote.

## Vice President: 2-year term



John H. Cain, MSPAS, PA-C

Hello! My name is John Cain, and I am a candidate for NCAPA Vice President. I am seeking this position to continue my contribution to the important work NCAPA does to ensure North Carolina remains a great place for PAs. Since 2019, I have been NCAPA Secretary, serving on both the Executive Committee and Board of Directors. In 2020, I assumed the role of NCAPA Regional Chapters Committee Chair and have worked closely with NCAPA staff to support our numerous regional chapters in the areas of organizational structure, leadership, membership, and mission. In addition, I serve on NCAPA's COVID 19 PA Response Work Group and the 2021 Strategic Planning Work Group.

In 2014, I moved to NC from a state which at that time had multiple barriers to PA practice. I know firsthand the importance of having a strong state academy focused on protecting the PA profession. Several areas in which I would focus my efforts if elected include:

- Member education and advocacy surrounding Optimal Team Practice
- NCAPA membership growth
- Further development and utilization of Regional Chapters as the grassroots arms of NCAPA
- Expansion of diversity among NCAPA members and leadership
- Community service opportunities for NCAPA members
- Continued reliance on my public health background to help NCAPA navigate the COVID 19 pandemic

Since moving to North Carolina, I have worked as a clinical PA for Wake Forest Baptist Health (WFBH) at the Diabetes and Endocrinology Center in Winston-Salem and Greensboro. I currently serve as Co-Chair of the WFBH Advanced Practice Provider Recognition Work Group and precept several Wake Forest PA students each year. I have served in leadership roles, initially as Treasurer and since 2017 as President, with the Piedmont Association of Physician Assistants (PAPA). During my tenure as PAPA President, I have worked closely with the PAPA Board of Directors and CME Committee to increase our educational programming to include monthly Category I and Category II offerings, form a partnership with the Appalachian Association of Physician Assistants to offer a Spring CME Symposium, sustain membership, and support our signature PAPA Fall Seminar to ensure its continued success. In February 2020, I organized a successful fundraising campaign honoring PAPA's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which benefitted the NCAPA Endowment. The accomplishment I am most proud of, though, is the PAPA Fights Hunger Community Service Initiative which through a partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC has provided 28,500 meals to those in need since launched in 2017 to celebrate 50 years of PAs.

I completed my Bachelor of Science in biology at Centre College followed by graduate studies in public health and physician assistant studies at the University of Kentucky. Before becoming a PA, I worked as the Regional Epidemiologist for Kentucky River District Health Department overseeing the reportable disease registry and bioterrorism preparedness as well as Research Coordinator of the Burden of Lung Disease (BOLD) Study for the Marty Driesler Cancer Project at the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center. I served as a regional consultant and then Kentucky State Co-Chair/Coordinator for Action for Healthy Kids, a national non-profit organization and volunteer network that combats childhood obesity by working with schools to improve their nutritional and physical activity environments. In this position, I helped build coalitions, provided project management, developed a regional leader network, wrote

grants, and gave direct technical assistance to schools. This paved the way for many Kentucky schools receiving national recognition for healthier wellness policies, programs, and practices and myself being honored as a national Healthy School Hero Award in 2010. Through my efforts to combat childhood obesity, I was appointed to the Kentucky Farm to School Task Force, Kentucky Rural Association Health Board of Directors, and Advisory Boards of the KY Coordinated School Health Initiative, the National Farm to School Network, and the Texas Health Institute's Southern Obesity Summit for which I am currently a representative from NC. After completing PA school, I took a position in family medicine in rural Appalachia. There I developed a passion for treating diabetes and have since spent the majority of my clinical career in the field of endocrinology.

I have detailed my professional and volunteer experience supporting various organizations and causes over the years to demonstrate my qualifications to be NCAPA Vice President. If elected, I will apply the knowledge I have gained through these experiences to help navigate NCAPA during this period of uncertainty and maintain its status as one of the premier state academies in the country.

Thank you for your support.

### Secretary: 2-year term



Detra Chambers Robinson, PA-C

I am honored to be nominated for the position of NCAPA Secretary. This organization is near and dear to me, as it has helped to shape me into the PA that I am today. My involvement with NCAPA began as a second-year PA student at Duke University, when I joined fellow NCAPA members at Capitol Connection, which is now AAPA Leadership and Advocacy Summit. Those three days in Washington, D.C. were the building blocks for the service and leadership roles that came my way in the following years.

I joined the Government Affairs Committee as a student, and later became committee co-chair (2014-2018). My previous board service includes Secretary (2013-2014), Director-at-Large (2015) and Vice President (2017-2018). The past two years have proven to be busy for my personal life, thus I have taken a hiatus from leadership. Still I have stayed committed to the NCAPA mission of empowering members and working to enhance PA practice in North Carolina by serving on the Optimal Team Practice (OTP) Task Force. Additionally, I have been contributing to the ongoing work of the Policy Review Task Force.

My involvement in these activities has kept me engaged with the Academy and has allowed me to build upon the foundation laid before me 10 years ago in D.C. Although I am now a more seasoned PA, there is still much to learn. In these interesting times of the COVID-19 pandemic, PAs are well-positioned to meet the ever-increasing needs for quality healthcare, particularly in underserved communities of the state. PAs are needed now more than ever, thus advocating for the PA profession and for our patients is more critical than ever. As NCAPA Secretary, it will be my goal to continue to educate North Carolina legislators about the PA profession and why we are integral to this state's healthcare workforce.

I look forward to the opportunity to return to a leadership role and to serve North Carolina PAs in this capacity. Thank you for your vote in support!

## Six Candidates for Director-at-Large: Two-year terms, 2 open positions

### Shelda Amilcka, PA-C



I am honored to be nominated and thought of to represent our profession as a Director At-Large on the NCAPA Board of Directors. At such a pivotal time in our lives and our profession, it is critical; now more than ever that we are intentional in how we want to shape the future of our profession and how we position ourselves moving forward in the current health and cultural climate. I seek your support in being a part of the PA profession leading the pack.

I have been a member of NCAPA since my time as a student and subsequent graduate of the Duke University PA Program. During my time in training, I had the opportunity to serve as Diversity Chair in the Stead Society, our PA student organization. I also participated in the NCAPA Student Leadership Retreat, which is when I watered my leadership plant by being inspired from the panelists of PA Leaders that one Saturday. Two years ago, I was elected as Secretary of the Metrolina Association of Physician Assistants (MAPA) as Secretary and am proud to have increased our membership numbers and PA student scholarship during my tenure. I have also served on the Board of the Young Professionals chapter of a national non-profit organization and recognized as President's Distinguished Young Professional Member on an individual level and Distinguished Young Professional Chapter on the chapter level in regards to efforts in philanthropy, programming, advocacy and member recruitment and retention.

What I seek to bring to the Board and the profession, in addition to maintaining the vigor of our profession by ways of advocacy, legislation, education, leadership, professional development and networking, is the diversity of thought. I originally sought ways to be involved outside of medicine to challenge myself to be diverse in thought. These experiences have allowed me to be a better clinician and a better leader. I would also like to bring forth more representation from the Charlotte and surrounding areas where we have a large number of practicing PAs. Lastly, at this turning point in our profession, I aim to be innovative in all avenues in support of the NCAPA mission statement.

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

I greatly appreciate your consideration of my candidacy as Director-at-Large. I can be contacted at [shelda.amilcka@gmail.com](mailto:shelda.amilcka@gmail.com) if I can provide you with any additional information to help you make an informed decision.



### Jane Girskis, PA-C

My name is Jane Girskis, MS, PA-C. I am honored to accept the nomination of Director-at-Large, and would like to increase my participation by serving on NCAPA Board of Directors.

I have been a member of NCAPA for over 10 years, I have served on a number of different committees, including membership committee, PDRP, and regional chapters committee. During this time I have benefitted from collaborating with and learning from Physician Assistants all over the state that work with NCAPA to encourage PA recognition and enhance PA practice in our state.

I live and work in Western North Carolina, having practiced 12 years in Urology and I now working in the emergency department for the past 2 years.

I appreciated the support of NCAPA in my leadership position as President and Founder of (now defunct) FW NC PEA, and wish to increase a local and statewide presence of NCAPA and appreciation for PAs.

I would be honored to serve NCAPA as Director-at-Large, and look forward to helping PAs navigate this time of uncertainty and change in not just how we practice medicine but how we will live our everyday lives in the state, country, and world.



### Jessica Grice, PA-C

I am honored to have been nominated for the position of Director-At-Large and present the membership with a brief summary of my experience and qualifications. I am a life-long North Carolinian and graduated with my MMS from Wake Forest University in 2008. Since that time, I have worked as a PA-C in Hematology and Oncology, Dental Sleep Medicine, and currently Clinical Research focused on smoking cessation and nicotine addiction. I have been a member of NCAPA since 2008, but became more involved in 2018 during the state-wide OTP listening sessions. Since then I have increased my involvement, becoming a member of the Government Affairs Committee and a member and Assistant Treasurer of the PAC Steering Committee.

Most recently, I was chosen by the Board to attend the Leadership and Advocacy Summit in D.C. where I was one of three panelists discussing leadership as an action not a position. While there, I was part of a large group of NC PAs and PA students who advocated with our representatives for PAs to be able to sign for home health orders as well as receive direct pay from Medicare. I am in favor of modernizing PA practice regulations through this type of legislation, both state and federal, and feel the COVID-19 pandemic has pushed this advocacy focus to the top of the priority list. I believe in removing the

administrative barriers that would sideline so many competent and willing providers during this time of national crisis.

I am one of very few PAs that work in clinical research. Additionally, I am currently earning my Doctor of Medical Science degree from A.T. Still University, focusing on PA education. As a voting member of The Board I would contribute a different perspective from my unique work environment as well as what I am learning about organizational operations and change. I would work to leverage my knowledge and qualifications to support and contribute to the mission and vision of the NCAPA. That is, to empower NC PAs and PA students with information and resources, advocate for and increase awareness of the PA profession, and continue to push for equitable healthcare for all North Carolinians through cooperation and collaboration with other healthcare providers in the state.

Thank you for your consideration.



Bill Jarrett, PA-C

When I entered the PA profession in 2013, I only had one goal in mind; to provide the best care for my patients and connect with them in meaningful ways. The latter always felt easy. The former on the other hand has been difficult at times. Being a PA has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I am a neurology PA in Elkin, NC. The experiences of practicing in a rural area have revealed some legislative and organizational limitations that can form barriers when caring for my patients.

For example, I have developed a concussion clinic in Elkin. For the first couple of years I had to have return to play forms signed by my collaborating/supervising physician. To be clear, I am the sole provider offering this service in our clinic. Therefore, my collaborating/supervising physician would be asked to sign off on a form in which he had never seen the patient. This created multiple problems at times. The requirement of co-signature resulted in barriers to care that were felt by my staff, myself, and most importantly, my patients and their families. There were many instances when I had to inform my patients that I could not return them to play even though they had recovered from their injuries. But thanks to the hard work of the NCAPA, PAs are now able to sign return to play forms without co-signature.

I have also brought up other practice specific issues with leadership from the NCAPA and have received guidance and information that ultimately lead to solutions to practice and organizational concerns. I have contributed to the NCAPA as a member of a work group focused on reimbursement issues and the formation of the NCAPA's approach to Optimal Team Practice (OTP).

I am committed to OTP and the goals set forth by the NCAPA. I agree with the NCAPA's position that team-based practice results in the best care and best practice for our patients. However, I think that there are instances where PAs can and should be able to practice to the full extent of their abilities. For instance, many PAs practice in one specialty area for a significant number of years and end up changing specialties for one reason or the other. In these circumstances, PAs can only practice within the scope

of their supervising physician regardless of experience and previously developed skills that could provide benefit to their patients. Relevant experience includes:

- 4 years serving on credentialing committee with my hospital (No previous history of NP/PA involvement previously)
- 3 years serving on the Provider leadership council with my hospital
- 1 serving year on the leadership board with my organization
- 3 years serving on the Workforce Development Committee with the National MS society
- 4 years serving on the AAPA PA Research Team Initiative (PARTI)

I am happy to work in NC as a PA. I believe that we have great opportunities to practice to the full extent of our training; however, with some hurdles standing in our way. It would be my honor to serve as Director at Large in the NCAPA and address some of these issues with the great team representing our profession.

Thank you; Stay safe; Be well.



Brian Robinson, MS, MPAS, M(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, PA-C

I am asking for your support to serve as Director-At-Large for NCAPA. In these rapidly changing times, it is imperative for our profession and for the healthcare community to stand strong as advocates for high-quality, patient-centered healthcare. As I began my PA journey over 10 years ago that has been my aim and with the recent events with COVID-19 and concerns of racial-equality in healthcare, I believe this to be more relevant than ever.

Prior to my current position as an Assistant Professor at the Wake Forest School of Medicine PA Program, I worked full-time in private-practice family medicine and otolaryngology in a variety of patient care settings. A majority of that time spent practicing in rural areas and I have seen firsthand some of the healthcare disparities that exist in those communities. I also have a background in Army medicine serving 3 years active duty as a Microbiologist Medical Service Corps officer, educator, researcher in laboratory medicine.

The opportunity to become Director-At-Large for NCAPA is both humbling and exciting. Since I moved to North Carolina in 2014, I have been met by an accepting PA academy that displays on a constant basis the passion to see PAs reach their full potential in their practice. As Director-At-Large I will continue to exude the same passion extending opportunities to North Carolina PAs and advancing the practice within the state. In my current role since 2018 founding president of The Appalachian Association of Physician Assistants (AppAPA), a NCAPA Regional Chapter including 8 rural counties in the Northwest corner of the state, I have served the region and state as both officer and member as well as a member of the NCAPA regional chapter committee.

If elected to serve as Director-At-Large I will put every effort possible to support the work of PAs and NCAPA in my position. Specific areas of interest include education about the profession, recruiting and training PAs within the state, and retention of PAs in the state. Specifically, in the rural and medically underserved areas. Thank you for support. If you wish to contact me, please email me at [bjrobins@wakehealth.edu](mailto:bjrobins@wakehealth.edu)



Allie Thompson, PA-C

My name is Allie Thompson and I am the Senior Physician Assistant in Emergency General Surgery at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, NC. I have a Bachelors of Science in Biology from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, as well as a Masters of Science in Physician Assistant Studies from Kettering College in Kettering, Ohio. I have been a PA in North Carolina and in my current role for 4 years. I am Adjunct Faculty at Wake Forest School of Medicine Physician Assistant Studies Program, a clinical preceptor to physician assistant and medical students every year in the Surgical Clinical rotation, as well as serve as Vice President on the Piedmont Association of Physician Assistants (PAPA).

As a PA in acute and critical care at a Level I Trauma Center, I have been exposed to not only a wide complexity and acuity of patients from a clinical perspective, but also patients with significant barriers to adequate or appropriate healthcare due to social and/or economic limitations. With this exposure, I have become extensively involved in not only critical care and surgical critical care management of patients, but also hospital and health system implementation for patients with limited resources. I implemented a fully autonomous post-operative PA driven surgical clinic for our department while carrying a full inpatient load and first assisting with surgical cases. I also have a large interest in clinical and basic science research, as well as have presented at many local, regional and national meetings on a wide variety of acute care and critical care topics.

As a Director At Large on the NCAPA Board of Directors, I hope to use my clinical exposure and experience to help ensure that NCAPA and the NC medical board continue to work together to not only provide optimal care to our ever growing and ever-changing patient population and their needs, but also continue to grow the recognition and utilization of the Physician Assistant profession. I believe the PA role can be further defined and expanded to help meet the needs of our patient population and our healthcare system at large. Sitting on multiple departmental, hospital, and statewide committees and taskforce groups focused on our current COVID pandemic crisis, I have firsthand experience of ways in which the PA profession has led to solutions to problems associated with this crisis, as well as ways in which PAs can continue to be solutions during this challenging time.



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



Roger Austin, PA-C

I respectfully ask for your vote to serve on the Nominating Committee. While serving on the Health Committee and working with the Unifour PA Association regional chapter, I have seen the progress NCAPA has made for PAs, patients and citizens across NC. As we face tumultuous times and changes, the PA profession will need NCAPA's guidance and support, which is made possible only by the willingness of PAs to give of their valuable time and incredible talent. I would consider it a privilege to work with my colleagues to match their interests and talents with the work required to advance the PA profession and the health and wellness of the people of North Carolina. Together we can accomplish great things. Stay safe, keep resilient, and make the most of these challenging times.