

El Asociado Médico



HAPPY PA WEEK!

Celebrating Our Heritage, Our Profession, and Our Impact

As we close out National Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated from September 15 through October 15, we recognize the contributions and achievements of Hispanic and Latino communities across the country.¹ Representation within the PA profession continues to grow.

According to the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), 7.2% of board-certified PAs identified as Hispanic in 2023, an increase from 6.6% in 2019.² Among recently certified PAs, the percentage identifying as Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or of Spanish origin increased from 7.9% in 2019 to 10.0% in 2023.³ These numbers highlight the growing representation of Hispanic and Latino professionals within the PA workforce and the importance of supporting the next generation of PAs committed to serving diverse communities.

As we transition into PA Week, October 6–12, we celebrate the PA profession and the contributions PAs make to patients and communities across the country.⁴

AAPA describes PA Week as an opportunity to celebrate what PAs have accomplished, highlight the care they provide, and elevate the profession.⁴ For PALH, PA Week is an opportunity to recognize our members, celebrate Hispanic and Latino PAs and PA students, and highlight the importance of leadership, representation, mentorship, and service within the communities we serve.



In this newsletter
you can expect

Board Members
2026

2026 Student
Alliance

2026 scholarship
winners

Summary of past
events

Collaborations

Initiatives & Upcoming Events

Affiliate PA Schools



Affiliate Health Organizations



2027 Mentorship Cycle

Let's uplift the next generation of PAs—together!

The PALH Mentorship Program focuses on connecting future and current PAs across all stages. This is accomplished through one-on-one mentorship for Pre-PAs, PA students, and early career PAs. This is done through:

- Monthly sessions and panels
- Personal statement reviews
- Mock interviews
- Peer support and community

Applications ran through September 30th. Cycle is closed.

Upcoming Event

Date: 10/14/2026

Time: 7:00pm CT - 8:00pm CT

Creando Comunidad, Construyendo Futuros: Conversations for Future PAs!

Our panelists will share their experiences and discuss:

- PA school applications
- Scholarships & financial resources
- First-gen student experiences
- Finding mentors
- Working with Latino patients & communities
- Cultural identity in healthcare
- Supporting Latino communities
- Navigating higher education
- Building confidence & finding your path
- Challenges, successes & lessons learned

Register:



2026 Board of Directors



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Mayra O. Martínez,
DScPAs, MS, MPAS, PA-C



President-Elect Alternate Delegate
Janith K. Mills, DMSc, MPAS, PA-C,
DFAAPA



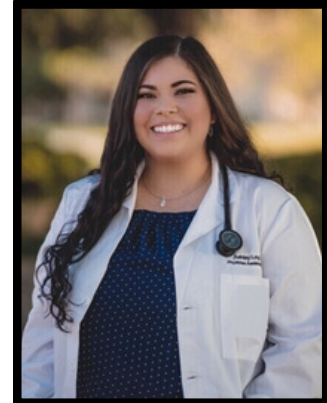
Immediate Past President-
Alternate Delegate
LT Jose Fernandez, MPAS, PA-C



Strategic Alliances & DEI
Director at
Large/Delegate
Yennie Armand M.S., PA-C



Treasurer Director at Large
/Alternate Delegate
Maria Castro Calzada, PA-C



CME Director at
Large/Alternate
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Ashley Loy, MPAS, PA-C



Membership/Public Relations
Director at Large /Delegate
Natalia Rangel, DMSc, PA-C



Secretary
Samantha Fortier PA-C



Student Alliance Chair
Joderick Castillo PA-S

2026 Student Alliance

Student Alliance Chair



Joderick Castillo, PA-S2

Joderick Castillo is a physician assistant student in the PA program at Ithaca College in New York.

Student Alliance Chair-Elect



Flor Mejia Mendoza PA-S1

Flor Del Cielo Mejia Mendoza is an incoming PA student at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Treasurer/Secretary



Christina Cardenas, PA-S2

Christina Cardenas attends Temple University Lewis Katz School of Medicine.

Communications Officer



Fatima Kosobutsky, PA-S1

Fatima Kosobutsky is a PA student at the University of Washington: MEDEX Northwest.

Didactic Affairs Officer



Brianny Marin Quezada, PA-S2

Brianny Marin Quezada is a PA-S2 is currently in her clinical year at Pace University (PLV).

Clinical Affairs Officer



Jovankah Rodriguez, PA-S2

Jovankah Rodriguez is a second-year physician assistant student at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS).

Professional and Leadership Development Officer



Katia Peña, PA-S2

Katia Peña is proud to call the Rio Grande Valley home as she pursues her dream of becoming a PA.

Pre-PA Representative



Jasmine Tixta, Pre-PA

2026 Scholarship Winners



PALH Scholarship Program

Each year, the Physician Associates for Latino Health (PALH), a caucus of the American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA), awards scholarships to currently enrolled PA students who demonstrate a commitment to serving Latino communities and advancing Latino health.

PALH scholarships support PA students who show leadership or an interest in Latino health issues, maintain good academic standing, and demonstrate financial need.

Congratulations to our 2026 PALH Scholarship Recipients!

We are proud to recognize these students for their dedication to the PA profession, leadership, and commitment to improving health outcomes within Latino communities. We look forward to supporting their continued growth and involvement in PALH.

Summary of past events

AAPA Leadership and Advocacy Summit 2026



PALH sent scholarship recipients to LAS Conference from Sept. 24–26, 2026 at the Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City.

TAPA Conference



The Texas Academy of PAs (TAPA) hosted its 52nd Annual CME Conference at Margaritaville Lake Resort in Lake Conroe, TX, September 17–20, 2026, offering 25 hours of CME credit, networking, and professional development for PAs statewide

REPRESENT! NCCPA Conference



The REPRESENT! NCCPA Summit is a biennial event focused on advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the physician assistant (PA) profession.

PALH RESOURCES



Whether you are a **Pre-PA, current PA student or PA-C**, you can benefit from PALH resources! From scholarships to mentorship opportunities, PALH is here to support you in your path as a PA!



palh.mypanetwork.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

Don't miss out on important opportunities! Follow us on social media!



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PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATES FOR LATINO HEALTH- PALH



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CLOSING

PALH is committed to render **loyal and honest service** to the medical profession and the public, to develop continuing medical or medically related education programs, and to **promote the Physician Associate (Assistant) (PA) profession** through the **education of medical professionals** and the general population. Furthermore, PALH strives to support the mission of AAPA by increasing the **diversity** of the Academy.

Let's continue to do this together!



PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATES
FOR LATINO HEALTH
