

SPAP Shout Out

A monthly update for SPAP members with a purpose to educate and encourage the engagement of PAs who work with pediatric patients



Welcome from our President!

Elizabeth is the 2018-19 President of the Society for PAs in Pediatrics - she has previously served our organization as the 2017-18 President Elect and a Member-at-Large from 2015-17.



Welcome to a new year with the Society for Physicians Assistants in Pediatrics (SPAP)! I am excited to be part of such a great team this year. I hope to continue the hard work of our Past-President, Genevieve Del Rosario, and the rest of the wonderful SPAP Board of Directors.

Our organization participated in many initiatives to improve the health of children and their families last year. We plan to continue those endeavors this year with the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Physician Assistants. One such project is revision of a policy statement on the use of opioids in children that will be presented at the House of Delegates at the AAPA conference next year.

We will continue the student scholarship and the “Pediatric PA of the Year” award. We will also continue to work on growing our membership. Please see our website for information on membership benefits and special discounts for signing up in groups of three or more. And, if your colleagues are not members of SPAP, please share the benefits of SPAP with them and encourage them to join.

We have just finished our annual conference in beautiful San Diego, California. There was a great turnout with excellent speakers. The conference is an excellent chance to earn CME and network with others in our field. The conference was my first introduction to SPAP, and I immediately wanted to be more involved. We hope to see you for our next conference in September 2019 in Houston, Texas.

Thank you for your support of our organization and for children everywhere. My email is elliott@bcm.edu – please feel free to contact me with questions or interest in becoming more involved in SPAP. Hope to see you in Houston next year!

- Elizabeth

2018-19 Board of Directors

Please join us in welcoming the 2018-19 SPAP Board of Directors - We are excited for the year ahead! Please visit our webpage at www.spaonline.org for biography and contact information.

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SPAP Member Spotlight

Guerin Gagliastri-Jones, BS, PA-C

Guerin Gagliastri-Jones, BS, PA-C, is a graduate from the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) class of 2014 Physician Assistant program Summa Cum Laude. While in school Guerin received the Outstanding Physician Assistant Student of the Year voted on by his peers and professors. He currently works at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where he has been working in the Level IV Neonatal/Infant Intensive Care Unit since 2016. Guerin is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) and has presented at the Thomas Jefferson University Physician Assistant Program, in Philadelphia PA on a range of Pediatric and Neonatology topics.. He has also had the opportunity most recently to speak at the Society of Physician Assistants in Pediatrics (SPAP) Annual CME Conference. In his spare time, Guerin enjoys traveling with his husband, going for runs, hikes, drinking wine and spending time with his friends, family, and sweet cat Frex.

How did your career as a PA start? After graduation, I began my career at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore in Bronx, NY in Pediatric Internal Medicine. In this position, I cared for newborns to adolescents with a variety of pediatric problems requiring hospitalization, working on the general pediatric, cardiology, gastroenterology, adolescent, and hematology/oncology floors. I learned to care for a variety of peri-operative patients, pediatric infectious diseases and a multitude of subspecialty disorders/syndromes. While working at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore for two years, I had the opportunity to become a part of the LINC (Linking Individual Needs of Children with Services) program. In this per diem position, I cared for medically complex pediatric patients with multi-system involvement and technology dependencies in an outpatient and inpatient setting. Through these positions, I developed a passion for infants requiring complex care, and this led me to my current position at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.



What does your average day at work look like? In the Neonatal/Infant ICU, I am a Front Line Clinician caring for premature neonates to term gestation infants up to a year of life and their families. I attend deliveries, round daily on critically ill neonates, admit patients to the unit, attend transports, perform bedside procedures including endotracheal intubations, arterial line placement, umbilical catheter lines, lumbar punctures, chest tube insertions, fine needle aspirations, and more. I also have a special interest in Ultrasound Guidance procedures, performing Ultrasound guided arterial lines, and I am involved in research on the use of US for Lumbar Punctures. I am also one of the Medical NICU Team APP Liaisons for the Telemedicine team where I follow up via Skype with infants who have been discharged home from the hospital. I also teach the Physician Assistant Residents at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia during their annual bootcamp.

How did you first hear about SPAP? I first heard about SPAP while working at my first job at CHAM (Children's Hospital at Montefiore). A few of my colleagues were members, and I thought it

was pretty awesome that there was a national organization representing such a small group of us PAs who work in pediatrics.

Why pediatrics? Prior to starting PA school, I knew I wanted to do something related to Pediatrics, having a passion for caring for children. I always found it fascinating how their minds and bodies are so fresh and pliable. They could grow up to be the next president or develop a cure for cancer. Throughout PA school, I really developed a passion for pediatrics after gearing many of my rotations towards peds (pediatric psychiatry, pediatric emergency medicine, pediatric surgery, family medicine with a large pediatric practice). The reason I went into Pediatric Hospital medicine for my first job is that I really loved critically thinking and the ICU settings.

What is your favorite part of being a PA? My favorite part of being a PA.... ugh that's a hard one, because there are so many things that I absolutely love about the profession. I think I'd have to say the ability to develop close relationships with my patients and their families, and having that ability to make a large impact on the rest of their lives. Its a pretty amazing thing if you think about it!

Any advice for new PAs or PA students? If I had to give advice to PA students, I would say enjoy every minute of PA school, the time flies by and especially during your clinical year. Stay late, you'll see more and have the opportunity to do more! For new grad PAs, I'd say we all felt the same way starting our first jobs; nervous, scared, excited, and that feeling "am I ready?" Yes you are! There is a steep learning curve, but go into your first position with a positive attitude, eagerness to learn, and friendly demeanor and you will succeed! And for other PAs who have been doing this a bit longer, don't be afraid to try something new. Starting my career in Pediatric Internal Medicine, I did care for ill newborns, mostly whom were full term. Changing to Neonatology was a big change for me, with another big learning curve, but I couldn't be happier with my decision and absolutely love what I do!

We would like to make sure the “SPAP Shout Out” is meeting the needs and interest of our members. What information would you like to see in the upcoming year? We are continuing our “SPAP Member Spotlight” in our newsletters- if you are interested or know of someone who is, let us know! Follow us on Facebook and Twitter to stay updated on ways to get involved! Please contact our Secretary Tara Harkins at tgharkins3@gmail.com with any comments, suggestions, or feedback regarding the “SPAP Shout Out”.