



**Conference Education Program Committee
Annual Report
March 22, 2008**

- Chairman:** Cary J. Stratford, PA-C
- Members:** Cathy Carpenter-Gillespie, D.H.Sc., PA-C
Catherine R. Judd, M.S., PA-C
Craig D. Lippitt, M.P.A.S., PA-C
John McGinnity, M.S., PA-C
John E. Padgett, PA-C, Ph.D.
S. Eric Schuman, M.P.A.S., PA-C
Donald A. Solimini, PA-C
Robert Rene Thomas, M.P.A.S., PA-C
Richard Clinton Vause, Jr., PA-C, D.H.Sc., M.P.A.S.
- Workshop
Coordinator:** Laurie Ellen Benton, PA-C
- Board Advisor:** Patti Pagels, M.P.A.S., PA-C
- Staff Advisors:** Shelley L. Hicks, M.A.
Amy Phillips
Greg P. Thomas, M.P.H., PA
- Meetings:** July 27-29, 2007 Washington DC
October 18-21, 2007 San Antonio TX

Charges:

The Conference Education Program Committee is charged with creating the CME program content for the AAPA Annual Conference. The 2007-2008 process began with the committee's first meeting during the Leadership Summit in July 2007 in Washington DC. At this meeting the four new members were oriented to the task at hand and discussion took place concerning several aspects of the 2008 conference. We received two charges from the Speaker of the House as part of the usually 5-year policy review process.

Both charges to the Conference Education Program Committee are up for AAPA's standard five-year review during the 2007-2208 leadership year.

HA-2400.3.5 The responsibilities of the Conference Education Program Committee shall be to develop quality continuing education sessions at the annual conference which address PA clinical and professional needs, and to serve as a resource for all constituencies of AAPA.

HA-2500.5.1 The annual conference provides quality, cost-effective continuing medical education, a forum for professional and social interaction, and a setting for activities of the House of Delegates and governance organizations of AAPA.

CEPC recommends that both policies be re-affirmed during the 2008 AAPA House of Delegates.

Work has been completed to address both charges.

2007-2008 Key Results

1. Ensure that the conference educational program addresses PA Competencies and reflects the AAPA's Strategic Management Directions. [SMD link: Strengthen and Promote the PA Profession – 2; Strengthen AAPA and its Constituent Organizations – 1 and 2]
2. Actively engage and solicit topic and speaker recommendations from AAPA membership and constituent components. [SMD link: Strengthen and Promote the PA Profession – 1]
3. Support the identification and utilization of expert PA speakers through the venue of the annual conference. [SMD link: Strengthen and Promote the PA Profession – 1; Strengthen AAPA and its Constituent Organizations – 1; Cross-cutting Concerns – Diversity and Leadership]
4. Support enhanced electronic options for syllabus and their timely submission as well as conference information dissemination. [SMD link: Strengthen and Promote the PA Profession – 2 and 3]
5. Encourage identified speakers to include issues regarding patient safety, health literacy, patient adherence, diversity, cultural competence, and disparities in health care in their presentations as appropriate. [SMD link: Strengthen and Promote the PA Profession – 1-4; Strengthen National and International Health Care Systems – 1-5; Cross-cutting Concerns – Diversity and Leadership]

These Key Results were developed and modified at the July meeting and reviewed at the October meeting without modification. During the July meeting, the committee agreed upon the importance of the following items as we began content development: workforce issues, professional practice issues, patient safety, cultural competence, and health disparities. These areas were considered as the 2008 annual conference CME agenda was developed and speakers again, have been asked to incorporate discussion of these topics where appropriate.

Committee Activity:

Since our January report, we have completed the selection of topics secured speakers, and maintained communication with Constituent Organizations involved in the process. We developed content for conference marketing in the AAPA News and Preliminary Program, and worked closely with staff to secure speaker submissions.

In October 2007, we met to set the program for the 2008 AAPA Conference in San Antonio TX. Working over a three-day period at the conference host city in late October, the CEPC reviewed several hundred topic submissions, discussed the direction and focus of multiple topics, and debated possible speakers to be invited. The committee anticipates that the attendance will, in no small part, be enhanced by the quality of the educational content developed. As part of our Key Results we gave attention to topics of interest in workforce and professional practice areas. Above and beyond the clinical content, we recognize that the national conference is in many ways the only viable venue to speak to issues unique to PA practice on a large scale. After discussion with Bob McNellis and other AAPA staff topics on patient safety, health literacy, and genetics were developed and placed on the agenda. As this report is being filed the majority of speakers have been secured and the committee continues consideration of additional offerings, late breaking topics and the Top Ten topic areas developed by the Clinical and Scientific Affairs Council (CSAC).

During the fall meeting, the committee spent a morning touring the conference site with AAPA staff and Convention Center staff. Room size and layout as well as traffic flow and organization were discussed. This was an invaluable tool for committee members to become familiar with the facility and to schedule sessions in appropriate spaces.

The committee terms and structure are working extremely well again this year. By expanding terms, the process continues to be more efficient than in years past. This should result in a better transition from year to year, improved and consistent communication with constituent groups, and a more fulfilling experience for members.

Laurie Benton continues to develop, coordinate, and manage the workshops on-site. Workshops are a complex and vital component of the educational offerings at the meeting. It became very clear to staff and the chair that workshops deserve a dedicated director during the planning and preparation stages as well as on-site, where a full time presence is required.

In AAPA's efforts to become a "green" conference, once again the conference syllabus will be available only electronically. This has provided increased flexibility for speakers and attendees alike. The PDA support was expanded in 2007 and was shown to be a popular and cutting edge addition to the conference experience. Each year efforts are made to add enhancements to this electronic option.

We encouraged speakers to include specific information on health disparities, patient adherence, patient safety, health literacy, and cultural competencies as they pertain to their topics. This was again coordinated with the gracious assistance of the Committee on Diversity (COD), who agreed to be utilized as a resource for speakers.

In addition to providing specific diversity topics within the conference, CEPC directed speakers to include this information, as part of all relevant sessions in the future so ultimately the relevant topics will address these issues as part of the core lecture content.

We continue to identify PAs to speak at the conference. The focus will always be on the best speaker for the topic, and increasingly we are blessed with PA speakers who meet that goal. We have worked with particular diligence to find presenters who demonstrate excellent presentation skills as well as intimate knowledge of the content.

The chair and staff have re-emphasized the vital importance of communicating with all of the AAPA's constituent organizations to solicit topic and speaker ideas from these groups. This is not always as simple or seamless a process as you might anticipate, so we continue to extend every opportunity for inclusion.

We are very pleased with the overall results of this year's process and hope the board, staff, and constituent groups will be equally as pleased. We hope to build upon the excellent reputation of this conference.

2008-2009 Committee: I will retire from CEPC service after completion of on-site duties and meetings at the San Antonio conference, having served for two years as chairperson, a prior year as co-chair, and five years of total committee service.

John McGinnity was proposed to the Executive Committee of the Board for an extension to a three-year term and was recommended as chairman for the 2008-2009 Leadership year. John Padgett and Don Solimini were also recommended for extensions to three year terms on the committee. These

