

MILESTONES IN PA HISTORY

Since its inception over 40 years ago, the physician assistant (PA) profession has had a proud tradition that is reflected in the mission statement of the AAPA; namely, “to ensure the professional growth, personal excellence, and recognition of physician assistants, and to support their efforts to enable them to improve the quality, accessibility, and cost-effectiveness of patient-centered health care.” Since 1967 – when the first PAs entered practice – the profession has shown remarkable growth. Some of the highlights along the way include:

1961

- Proposal for “an advanced medical assistant with special training, intermediate between that of the technician and that of the doctor, who could not only handle many technical procedures, but could also take some degree of medical responsibility,” appears in an article by Charles L. Hudson, MD, in the [*Journal of the American Medical Association*](#).
- The [World Health Organization](#) introduces and promotes health care workers in developing countries (medecin Africain, dresser, assistant medical officer, rural health technician, etc.)

1965

- Eugene A. Stead Jr., MD, establishes a “physician assistant” educational program at Duke University in North Carolina. Program accepts four former Navy medical corpsmen (Kenneth F. Ferrell, Victor Hugo Germino, Jr., Richard John ScheeleDonald Guffey).

1966

- Barefoot doctors emerge in China in response to Chairman Mao’s purge of the elite and intellectual, which sent many physicians into the fields to work and left peasants without medical personnel.
- Child Health Associate program begun at the University of Colorado.

1967

- October 6 – Kenneth F. Ferrell, Victor Hugo Germino, Jr., and Richard John Scheele are the first PA graduates from the Duke University PA Program. They begin practicing.
- The first program to train surgical PAs (known then as surgeon’s assistants) is founded at the University of Alabama, Birmingham.

1968

- American Association of Physician Assistants (later to become the [American Academy of Physician Assistants](#)) is incorporated in North Carolina. William D. Stanhope, PA-C is the first president.
- Vol. 1. No. 1 of *Physician Assistant* magazine is published. The journal later ceases publication.

1969

- Colorado becomes the first state to enact legislation enabling child health associates to work.

1970

- Kaiser Permanente becomes the first HMO to employ a PA.
- American Registry of Physician’s Assistants founded by Dr. Robert Howard at Duke University.

1971

- Comprehensive Health Manpower Training Act of 1971 – Congress includes \$4 million for establishment of new PA educational programs in 1972 (Health Manpower Educational Initiative Awards).
- “Essentials of an Accredited Educational Program for the Assistant to the Primary Care Physician” – minimum standards for PA program accreditation endorsed by the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Physicians, the American Society of Internal Medicine, and the American Medical Association (AMA) Council on Medical Education, and adopted by the AMA.
- The American Medical Association (AMA) recognizes the PA profession and begins work on national certification and codification of its practice characteristics.

1972

- *The Physician's Assistant: Today and Tomorrow*, by Sadler, Sadler, and Bliss, the first book about the PA profession is published.
- [Association of Physicians Assistants Programs](#) (APAP) later renamed Physician Assistant Education Association, is founded in Washington, DC Alfred M. Sadler Jr., MD, is president.
- Joint Review Committee (JRC) on Educational Programs for the Assistant to the Primary Care Physician is formed to review accreditation applications and make recommendations to the AMA Council of Medical Education.
- Federal support for PA education is authorized by the Health Resources Administration.

1973

- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, van Ameringen Foundation, and Ittleson Foundation provide grants that allow AAPA and APAP to establish a national office in Washington, DC Donald W. Fisher, PhD, selected as AAPA's first executive vice president. He serves until 1981.
- First Annual PA Conference held at Sheppard AFB, Texas – 235 attendees, 1 exhibit.
- First national PA certifying examination is administered by the [National Board of Medical Examiners](#) (NBME).
- Three PAs are appointed to JRC as members-at-large.

1974

- AAPA becomes an official collaborating organization on the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs for PAs. The JRC reviews physician and surgeon assistant programs and makes accreditation recommendations to the Committee on Allied Health Educations and Accreditation (CAHEA).
- [American College of Surgeons](#) becomes collaborating organization to JRC.

1975

- [National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants](#) (NCCPA) established in Atlanta, Georgia, to determine eligibility criteria and to administer national certifying exam. David Glazer selected as NCCPA's first executive director. He serves until 1996.

1976

- The Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation (CAHEA) is established as an independent organization responsible for accrediting allied health educational programs (including PA programs).
- Health Professions Educational Assistance Act of 1976 establishes PA education program funding as a separate section of health education legislation.
- The first Constituent Chapter Officers Workshop is conducted in Washington, DC

1977

- The journal *Health Practitioner* (later renamed *Physician Assistant*) is published.
- AAPA Education and Research Foundation (ERF) is incorporated to recruit public and private contributions for student financial assistance and to support research on the PA profession. (In 1991, the ERF became the Physician Assistant Foundation.)
- Rural Health Clinic Services Act is passed by Congress and signed by President Jimmy E. Carter. It provides Medicare reimbursement for services provided by PAs in certified rural health clinics.

1978

- AAPA House of Delegates becomes policy making and legislative body of the Academy. William Hughes is first Speaker of the House.
- U.S. Air Force begins appointing PAs as commissioned officers.

1979

- The Graduate Medical Education National Advisory Committee (GMENAC) predicts a surplus of physicians and non-physician providers "in the near future."

1980

- AAPA membership totals 6,975.
- The AAPA Political Action Committee (PAC) is established to support candidates for federal office.
- Annual PA Conference in New Orleans surpasses 2000 attendees.
- Physician assistants have prescriptive authority in 10 states.

1981

- Donald W. Fisher leaves AAPA. Peter D. Rosenstein is selected AAPA executive vice president to replace him. He serves until 1984.
- AAPA's Annual Academy Awards program (recognizing members, constituent organizations) is established.
- AAPA's Regionalization Plan is adopted – establishing five regions with 11 constituent chapters in each regional as official AAPA regions – Northeast, Southeast, North Central, South Central, and West.

1982

- Annual PA Conference attendance surpasses 2,500 (Washington, DC).

1984

- *First Annual Report on Physician Assistant Education Programs in the United States*, by Denis Oliver and APAP, is issued.
- Judith B. Willis, PA-C, is the first woman elected president of AAPA.
- Peter Rosenstein leaves AAPA. F. Lynn May is selected AAPA executive vice president to replace him. He serves until 1992.
- The AAPA Health Care Industry Advisory Council is established.
- The Annual PA Conference is held in a convention center (Denver) for the first time.

1985

- The AAPA's first Burroughs Wellcome Health Policy Fellowship fellow is named, Marshall Sinback. Program continues until 1994.
- AAPA membership surpasses 10,000. Categories are expanded to include physicians, affiliates, and sustaining members.
- Regional meetings are begun in an effort to gather the suggestions and ideas of grassroots members and to offer leadership training to chapter officers in the regions (Operation Focus).
- AAPA and APAP begin a joint project, PA Job Find, to provide PA graduates with a national job bank service.

1986

- A videotape, *A Dynamic Profession: Past, Present, Future*, is produced by the AAPA.
- AAPA Corporate Associate Program is established (later transferred to PA Foundation).
- AAPA succeeds in a legislative drive for Medicare coverage of services provided by PAs in hospitals and nursing homes and when assisting in surgery (Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act).

1987

- AAPA contracts with C.V. Mosby Company to publish the Academy-owned *Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (JAAPA)*. The new editor (Leslie Kole) is the first PA hired on the AAPA professional staff.
- *Physician Assistant* magazine ceases to be the official journal of the AAPA with the June 1987 issue.
- Physician assistants around the United States celebrate the first annual National PA Day on the 20th Anniversary of the graduation of the first PAs – October 6.
- Project Access, the Minority Affairs Committee activity of outreach to high school and junior college students interested in pursuing a PA career, is established.
- Additional Medicare coverage of outpatient services provided by PAs in rural, underserved areas is approved by Congress.

1988

- AAPA's national office building (also housing APAP and PA Foundation) in Alexandria, Virginia, is completed and occupied by 25 staff members.
- Volume 1, Number 1 of *JAAPA* is published.
- Duke University PA Program awards the first master's degree for PA education.
- The Task Force on Organizational Efficiency (JOSE) issues its recommendations to improve the organizational structure of AAPA.

1989

- The House of Delegates establishes the AAPA's first councils, Professional Practice Council and Government Affairs Council, to provide in-depth studies of important issues.
- The House of Delegates establishes the Surgical Congress and grants it a seat in the House, continuing to recognize specialty organizations by providing them with representation in the House of Delegates.
- U.S. Navy PAs are commissioned as officers.

1990

- Physician assistants have prescriptive authority in 30 states and the District of Columbia.
- AAPA membership totals 14,387.
- Student Academy Challenge Bowl is founded to offer a *Jeopardy*-style competition to PA students at Annual Conference.
- AAPA Research Division creates a PA database of PA demographics and practice information.
- AAPA Education Council established.
- Task Force on Recertification is established to study NCCPA recertification issues and alternatives.

1991

- AAPA assumes administrative responsibility for the [Accreditation Review Committee on Education for the Physician Assistant](#) (formerly the Joint Review Committee).
- The Task Force on Recertification publishes its recommendation for an alternative pathway to recertification.

1992

- U.S. Army and U.S. Coast Guard PAs are commissioned as officers.
- The House of Delegates establishes and officially recognizes the Medical Congress. (A seat in the House was not created until 1994).
- Pathway II, an alternative method of achieving NCCPA recertification, is established by AAPA and NCCPA and administered by AAPA. In 1998, NCCPA assumes administration.
- Lynn May leaves AAPA. Harry Bradley is hired as the executive vice president to replace him. He serves until 1993.
- The U.S. Department of Labor projects the number of PA jobs is expected to increase by 36% from 1992 to the year 2005.
- The U.S. Department of Transportation authorizes PAs to certify the health of interstate truck drivers.

1993

- AAPA is granted observer status in the House of Delegates of the [American Medical Association](#).
- There are more than 23,000 clinically practicing physician assistants in the United States.
- There are more than 27,000 graduates of PA educational programs.
- 57 accredited PA educational programs exist.
- 35 states plus the District of Columbia and Guam allow PAs to write prescriptions.
- Harry Bradley leaves AAPA. Stephen C. Crane, PhD, MPH., is hired as the executive vice president to replace him. He serves until 2007.
- AAPA persuades the Drug Enforcement Administration to register PAs who are allowed to prescribe controlled substances.

1994

- The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) replaces the AMA's Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation (CAHEA).
- AAPA national office staff is reorganized, creating a senior vice president position and five departments (Member Programs, Information and Research Services, Finance and Administrative Services, Executive, Government and Professional Affairs).
- Number of staff: 49

1995

Number of accredited PA programs	61
Number of PA students	4,850
Number of PA graduates	29,000
Number of staff	49
Number of AAPA members	22,748
Number of PA prescribing states	39, plus DC and Guam

- New partnership with Medical Economics is established to publish the *Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants*.
- Fast Fax, a 24-hour toll free document retrieval service is established.
- *AAPA News* is re-designed to incorporate the "PA Career" employment advertising section in every issue. It is published twice a month.
- CME Opportunities Service is established to provide a listing of lecture-learner programs upon request.
- The Department of State agrees to hire PAs as Foreign Service health practitioners.
- Association Management Organization Services (AMOS) program is established to provide administrative support to constituent chapters and officially recognized specialty organizations and caucuses on a cost neutral basis.

1996

Number of accredited PA programs	85
Number of PA students	5,000
Number of PA graduates	32,600
Number of clinically practicing PA graduates	25,700
Number of staff	55
Number of AAPA members	25,549
Number of PA prescribing states	39, plus DC and Guam

- U.S. Postal Service approved PAs performing employee physicals.
- A new Department of Clinical Affairs and Education is created within the national office organizational structure.
- David Glazer leaves NCCPA. Kate Hill is selected as the new executive vice president.
- Clinical and Scientific Affairs Council is established.
- American Academy of Family Physicians welcomes AAPA's official liaison appointee.
- AAPA's World Wide Web site is established (www.aapa.org).

1997

Number of accredited PA programs	104
Number of PA students	7,500
Number of PA graduates	35,000
Number of clinically practicing PA graduates	29,000
Number of staff	55
Number of AAPA members	27,978
Number of PA prescribing states	40, plus DC and Guam

- The Health Care Services Committee is established to coordinate legislative and regulatory efforts to eliminate practice barriers and encourage the utilization of physician-PA teams.
- PAs recognized as Medicare covered providers in all settings at a uniform rate of payment for the first time in the history of the PA profession (Balanced Budget Act of 1997).
- A Congressional Key Contact System is established.
- AAPA's first official liaison to the American Academy of Pediatrics is appointed.
- Definition of CME is expanded to include professional education.
- Peer-to-Peer Assistance Program (P-PAP) is established to provide on-site strategic planning and leadership development assistance for AAPA recognized constituent organizations.
- The Archives Project is implemented, in cooperation with the National Library of Medicine/Division of History of Medicine, to preserve the Academy's and the PA profession's history.
- AAPA Board of Directors composition changed to 13 members to include House of Delegates officers.

1998

Number of accredited PA programs	110
Number of PA students	8,000
Number of PA graduates	41,000
Number of clinically practicing PA graduates	34,000
Number of staff	61
Number of AAPA members	30,196
Number of PA prescribing states	44, plus DC and Guam

- Seminars on "Reimbursement and Coding for Medical Services Provided by Non-physicians" are implemented.
- A major article on the PA profession appears on the front page of *The Washington Post*.
- Bridges program for constituent organization presidents is established.
- Gateways program for student leaders is established.
- CCOW is renamed Capitol Constituent Organization Workshop.
- Construction is completed on AAPA's building expansion in Alexandria, Virginia.
- Oral history project with audio interviews of PA profession founders (Stead, Estes, Stanhope) is begun.
- Knowledge Partner Program is established to develop CME programs in collaboration with pharmaceutical industry supporters.
- APAP Degree Task Force (with AAPA representation) is established to address the issue of a standardized degree offered by PA programs upon graduation.

1999

Number of accredited PA programs	120
Number of PA students	10,000
Number of PA graduates	45,000
Number of clinically practicing PA graduates	37,821
Number of staff	70
Number of AAPA members	33,604
Number of PA prescribing states	46, plus DC and Guam

- The Network for Supervising Physicians is launched to provide supervising physicians with information to maximize the role of PAs on the health care team. (Program ends in 2000.)
- The Work Group on PA Workforce Issues is appointed and meets.
- “PAs for Prevention” is launched with PA Foundation as a national integrated health awareness campaign.
- The Leadership Advisory Commission is established to address leadership development for PAs.
- A new Department of Data Systems and Analysis is established within the AAPA staff structure.
- NCCPA and AAPA work together to increase administrative effectiveness of CME logging procedures.
- Diversity training sessions for the AAPA Board of Directors and AAPA Minority Affairs Committee are conducted.

2000

Number of accredited PA programs	123
Number of PA students	10,000
Number of PA graduates	47,180
Number of clinically practicing PA graduates	37,912
Number of staff	83
Number of AAPA members	31,300
Number of PA prescribing states	46, plus DC and Guam

- Mississippi legislation authorizing PA practice is approved by state legislature. All 50 states now authorize PA practice.
- International Affairs Subcommittee is established by the Board of Directors to coordinate international issues of importance to PAs.
- AAPA leaders and staff meet with Canadian officials to discuss the means for developing a parallel accrediting, certifying, and licensure system for PAs in Canada.
- AAPA’s Web site receives 9.4 million hits (a 50% increase over the previous year).
- The House of Delegates amends the AAPA bylaws to grant one delegate seat to each officially recognized specialty PA organization. The one HOD seat granted to the Surgical Congress in 1989 is terminated.
- AAPA's headquarters organization is modified to create a chief operating officer position to direct the internal operations of the AAPA's national office. The title "chief executive officer" is added to the executive vice president title. Cheryl Kasunich is hired as the first COO.
- Legislation is passed by Congress to create a PA Advisor in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA).
- AAPA obtains clarification from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) that physicians may delegate histories and physicals to PAs.
- The AAPA Public Relations Committee develops a physician education program called “The Physician-PA Team: The Doctor’s Perspective” that uses physicians to help explain the roles and responsibilities of PAs.

2001

Number of accredited PA programs	129
Number of PA students	10,000
Number of PA graduates	51, 280
Number of clinically practicing PA graduates	40,469
Number of staff	83
Number of AAPA members	33,215
Number of PA prescribing states	47, plus DC and Guam

- An Ad Hoc Committee on Trauma and ATLS is established by the AAPA Board of Directors to coordinate ATLS issues of importance to PAs.
- ARC-PA withdraws from CAAHEP and becomes a freestanding accreditation agency. Its new name becomes Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant.
- The House of Delegates adopts guidelines for practice for PAs working internationally.

- A PA Professional Standards Committee (made up of AAPA recommended PAs) is appointed by the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) to verify the credentials of foreign-trained PAs applying for visas to enter the U.S..
- The PA History Office is established at Duke University to preserve and present the history of the PA profession electronically.
- AAPA convinces AMA to revise language in its 2002 CPT book clarifying that the codes can be utilized by all health care providers, not just physicians (which should result in fewer claims denials by third-party payers).
- NCCPA announces its decision to assume responsibility for all CME logging beginning with the 2002-2004 CME logging cycle – thus ending AAPA’s 25-year role in this CME logging function.
- JCAHO’s Board of Commissioners approves the appointment of AAPA to JCAHO Standards Oversight Committee.
- NCCPA Board of Directors removes AAPA as a participating organization.
- AAPA's 2001 Market Research Survey results show that 86 percent of PAs would enter the PA profession again.
- AAPA Board of Directors approves creation of new board committee, International Affairs, to respond to international issues. It replaces the International Affairs Subcommittee.

2002

Number of accredited PA programs	131
Number of PA students	10,000
Number of PA graduates	53,000
Number of clinically practicing PA graduates	42,708
Number of staff	87
Number of AAPA members	36,098
Number of PA prescribing states	47, plus DC and Guam

Data as of January

- First cross-organizational meeting of national PA groups (AAPA, APAP, ARC-PA, and NCCPA) held.
- First PA doctoral program established at Nova Southeastern University in Florida.
- The Society for the Preservation of Physician Assistant History is established and incorporated in North Carolina.
- AAPA returns to NCCPA as a participating organization.
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services issues new Medicare Carrier Manual instructions to expand employment and practice ownership opportunities for PAs.
- Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) offers PAs opportunity to use their Federation Credential Verification Service (FCVS).
- Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education’s (ACGME) policy of limitations on medical residents’ working hours increases PA opportunities in hospitals.
- *Eighteenth Annual Report on Physician Assistant Educational Programs in the United States, 2001-2002*, shows applicants to PA programs on decline by 17 percent from previous year.
- AAPA is part of a coalition of organizations that helps amend HIPAA’s privacy regulations that go into effect in April 2003.
- The last CCOW is held. The Grassroots Congressional Visits program begins in 2003.

2003

Number of accredited PA programs	134
Number of PA students	10,000
Number of PA graduates	57,705
Number of clinically practicing PA graduates	46,002
Number of staff	83
Number of AAPA members	37,467
Number of PA prescribing states	47, plus DC and Guam

Data as of January

- General election for AAPA board members uses electronic balloting for first time.
- Grassroots Congressional Visit program begins.
- Two American PAs begin two-year stint in England in pilot program.
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) expands ability of PAs to have an ownership interest in a practice under the Medicare program.
- International delegates from five countries participate in a four-day invitational symposium on PA practice issues held in conjunction with AAPA’s 31st Annual PA Conference.
- AAPA grants approved provider status by National Athletic Trainers Association Board of Certification (NATABOC) to begin offering continuing education credit to athletic trainers.

- AAPA and APAP embark on research grant partnership to fund independent research on the PA profession.
- The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) formally recognizes the PA profession.
- AAPA Board of Directors approves first Annual PA Conference to be held outside of the United States. The meeting is scheduled for Toronto in 2012.

2004

Number of accredited PA programs	133
Number of PA students	10,000
Number of PA graduates	57,705
Number of clinically practicing PA graduates	50,121
Number of staff	84
Number of AAPA members	38,386
Number of PA prescribing states	47, plus DC and Guam

Data as of January

- Physician assistants officially included as “covered professional providers” under new policy by Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BCBS) Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP).
- Canadian Medical Association (CMA) accredits first physician assistant program at the Canadian Forces Medical Services School (CFMS) in Borden, Ontario.
- PA organizations draft shared definition of PA competencies. The participating organizations are the AAPA, the Association of Physician Assistant Programs (APAP), the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), and the National Commission on Certification of PAs (NCCPA).
- The AAPA launches new Legislative Action Center allowing PAs and PA students opportunity to quickly contact their elected officials at the federal and state level about issues important to PAs.
- The first PAs in the Netherlands and in Europe graduate in September from Academie Gezondheidszorg Utrecht.
- Two PAs, Karen Bass of California and Mark Holloof North Carolina, become the first PAs to be elected to state legislatures.
- The American College of Physicians (ACP) offers a new affiliate membership classification exclusively to AAPA fellow members.
- New partnership with Haymarket Media is established to publish the *Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants*.
- The largest attendance to date at an Annual PA Conference, occurs during the 33rd Annual PA Conference in Las Vegas, NV with a total attendance of more than 10,500.

2005

Number of accredited PA programs	135
Number of PA students	10,000
Number of PA graduates	66,500
Number of clinically practicing PA graduates	55,061
Number of staff	88
Number of AAPA members	39,981
Number of PA prescribing states	47, plus DC and Guam

Data as of January

- The U.S. Virgin Islands passes legislation allowing PAs to be licensed to practice.
- Eugene A. Stead Jr., MD, a founder of the PA profession, dies at age 96 at his home in North Carolina.
- Robin Hunter Buskey is first PA elected to the Federation of State Medical Boards.
- PA-like training programs in the United Kingdom begin educating students to become “new breed of provider” in Great Britain.
- The Association of Physician Assistant Programs’ (APAP) membership approves formal change in the name of their organization to the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) during their annual meeting.

2006

Number of accredited PA programs	136
Number of PA students	10,000
Number of PA graduates	70,612
Number of clinically practicing PA graduates	58,665
Number of staff	85
Number of AAPA members	39,351
Number of PA prescribing states	48, plus DC and Guam

Data as of January

- The State of Ohio passes legislation allowing PAs to prescribe. Forty-nine states, the District of Columbia, and Guam all allow PAs to prescribe.
- The first Adventures in Lobbying Program is held.
- Scotland, following England's lead, begins new pilot program of placing American PAs in family practice settings.
- PAEA moves to their new headquarters located at 300 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA.
- The Eugene A. Stead Jr. Award of Achievement is established as the most prestigious award offered by the AAPA.
- Michael Milner, a PA with the Public Health Service, becomes the first PA promoted to the rank of rear admiral.
- PAEA holds their first annual meeting outside the United States in Quebec City, Canada.

2007

Number of accredited PA programs	135
Number of PA students	11,985
Number of PA graduates	75,260
Number of clinically practicing PA graduates	63,609
Number of staff	79
Number of AAPA members	40,192
Number of PA prescribing states	48, plus DC and Guam

Data as of January

- The State of Indiana passes legislation allowing PAs to prescribe. ALL 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam now allow PAs to prescribe.
- The first Constituent Organization Resource Exchange Program (CORE) is held in February.
- The Society for the Preservation of Physician Assistant History, Inc. becomes a supporting organization of the AAPA.
- AAPA enters into a contract with Fleishman-Hillard Inc. for the purpose of conducting public awareness research.
- Steve Crane, Executive Vice President/CEO, leaves AAPA August 31, 2007. William F. Leinweber, is hired as the executive vice president and chief executive officer to replace him.
- AAPA establishes the Distinguished Fellow Program to recognize members who have distinguished themselves among their colleagues, as well as in their communities, by their service to the PA profession, their commitment to advancing health care for all people, and their exemplary personal and professional development.
- AAPA establishes a new medical liaison relationship with the American Geriatrics Society and the American Society of Plastic Surgeons.
- AAPA appoints representatives to the National Medical Association, the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, and the AMA Committee to End Health Care Disparities.
- AAPA, PAEA, NCCPA, and ARC-PA joined representatives from the National Human Genome Research Institute, and other genomics experts to define how PAs could introduce genomics in patient care.

2008

Number of accredited PA programs	139
Number of PA students	11,820
Number of PA graduates	75,239
Number of clinically practicing PA graduates	68,124
Number of staff	77
Number of AAPA members	41,285
Number of PA prescribing states	All 50 states, plus DC and Guam

Data as of January

- Karen Bass, PA-C, elected to the office of speaker of the California State Assembly, becoming the first physician assistant to hold that political position.
- New Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer, Bill Leinweber, joins AAPA staff February 25, 2008.
- AAPA and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health create a partnership to decrease racial and ethnic health disparities through an early childhood health literacy program – March 17, 2008.
- ARC-PA awards initial accreditation to its first two postgraduate PA programs – the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center PA Postgraduate Program in Oncology (Houston), and the Johns Hopkins Hospital Postgraduate Surgical Residency for PAs (Baltimore)
- AAPA, PAEA, NCCPA, ARC-PA agree to conduct a visioning project for the PA profession.
- Money magazine, U.S. News and World Report, and Kiplinger’s rank the PA as one of the best careers to have in a recession.
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics identifies the PA profession as one of 30 occupations expected to grow fastest over the next decade.
- AAPA established PAs for a Healthy America: Vote 2008 to represent the importance of the advocacy of health care issues by PAs during the 2008 presidential election.
- The AAPA begins working with Congress to establish a Director of PA Services within the office of the Under Secretary of Veteran Affairs for Health at the Veterans Health Administration.
- AAPA holds a strategic planning summit with over 100 delegates representing all stakeholder groups of the physician assistant profession. The goal of the summit is to develop strategic objectives and a new strategic plan for the AAPA.

2009

Number of accredited PA programs	142
Number of PA students	12,000
Number of PA graduates	79,706
Number of clinically practicing PA graduates	73,893
Number of staff	79
Number of AAPA members	43,640
Number of PA prescribing states	All 50 states, plus DC and Guam

Data as of January

- AAPA Board of Directors approves new Strategic Plan for the AAPA.
- *AAPA News* first published in 1980, ceases publication with the April 30, 2009 issue.
- The premiere issue of *PA Professional*, a monthly publication and an official publication of the AAPA, is released June 2009.
- AAPA’s new branding initiative is released with new logo and new tag line “Connecting PAs, Transform Care”
- AAPA’s new Web site is launched May 8, part of the new branding initiative.
- E. Harvey Estes, MD, is awarded the first Eugene A. Stead Jr. Award of Achievement by AAPA.
- Charles G. Huntington, AAPA President 1983-84, passes away at age 60.

2010

Number of accredited PA programs	148
Number of PA students	13,136
Number of PA graduates	86,857
Number of staff	78
Number of AAPA members	43,511
Number of PA prescribing states	All 50 states, plus DC and Guam

Data as of January