


Research 101




The Importance of Research to Advance the PA Profession

Sean Kolhoff, PhD
Senior Research Analyst
American Academy of PAs

1

Faculty and Disclosure Statement

Sean Kolhoff, PhD



Sean is the Senior Research Analyst at AAPA. As a member of AAPA's research team, he approaches the benefits of research for advancing the PA profession from a unique perspective.


Sean received his Ph.D. from Wayne State University in 2021. He has a great deal of experience as a research methodologist and development innovative approaches to tackling research questions with various types of data. Formerly, Sean was the Director of Forensics at Ferris State University and has developed curriculum designed to help people communicate their research findings for almost a decade.

Sean Kolhoff: No relevant disclosures

2

Faculty and Disclosure Statement

Carson Walker, JD



Carson Walker is a Director of State Advocacy and Outreach for the American Academy of PAs. He has been with the Academy for more than 10 years and currently works with the state chapters in the northeast region to remove barriers to PA practice. He is also the staff lead for issues related to license portability, including the PA Licensure Compact. Carson received his undergraduate degree from the University of Delaware and his juris doctor from Catholic University's Columbus School of Law.

Carson Walker: No relevant disclosures

3

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the session, you should be able to:

- Identify why research is important to the PA profession
- Discuss why PAs should get involved in research
- Evaluate opportunities for PAs to get involved in research

American Academy of PAs. All rights reserved. These materials may not be reproduced without the express written permission of AAPA.

4

AAPA
American Academy of PAs

The Importance of Research to PAs

5

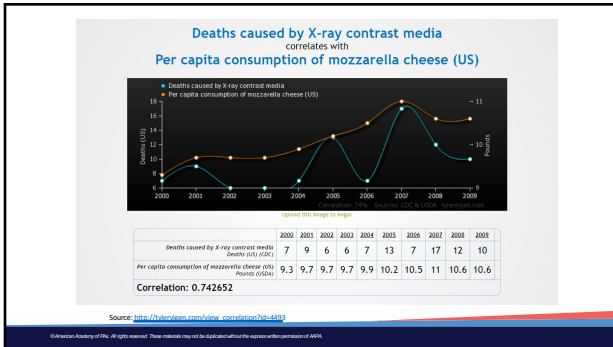
Importance of Research

By better understanding research PAs can...

- ➡ Improve clinically
- ➡ Gain trust
- ➡ Build credibility
- ➡ Expand opportunities
- ➡ Maximize talent
- ➡ Be leaders
- ➡ Make an Impact on the PA profession!

American Academy of PAs. All rights reserved. These materials may not be reproduced without the express written permission of AAPA.

6



7

Research Strengthens the Profession by:

- ➔ Demonstrating the value of the profession
- ➔ Helping practitioners evaluate evidence-based approaches to patient care

8

AAPA
American Academy of PAs

Why Should PAs get Involved in Research?

9

Research drives improvements in patient outcomes and medical advancements

Identify an issue of clinical relevance stemming from practice experience

“Without the aid of statistics nothing like real medicine is possible.”

~Pierre Charles Alexandre Louis
(19th century French physician)

10

PA's need to represent themselves
The best the people to show the value of PA's are PA's.

But getting into research can be intimidating!
However, it doesn't have to be!

Discovery
What is known?

Integration
What do the findings mean?

Application
How can knowledge be applied in the real-world/clinical setting?

Teaching
How can knowledge be shared?

11

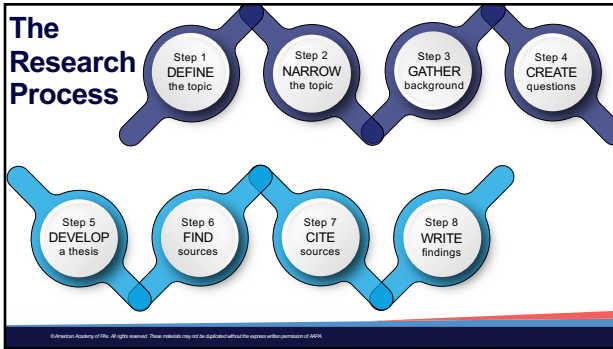
Case Study

Alex, a PA practicing in a rural clinic, has anecdotally identified that some of their patients seem more open to receiving a seasonal influenza vaccination than others. After evaluating the annual CDC guidance on influenza vaccination rates and seeing reports of different levels of vaccination among age cohorts, Alex decides they want investigate this issue further.

What could Alex do to:

1. Identify how their community feels about seasonal influenza vaccination
2. Develop a better understanding of influenza ACIP vaccine recommendations
3. Get more people in the community vaccinated against the flu

12



13



14

Opportunities for Research

<p>Grow Your Knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Seek out learning opportunities 	<p>Collaborate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find a mentor or be a mentor Join an established team
<p>Get Engaged</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities for QI Find employers who value research Participate in research 	<p>Disseminate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present work at conferences Write your results

American Academy of PAs. All rights reserved. These materials may not be reproduced without the express written permission of AAPA.

15

AAPA Resources for Research

<p>Grow Your Knowledge</p> <p>Take CME. Research CME is available at no cost Read <i>JAAPA</i></p> <p>Get Engaged</p> <p>Read <i>JAAPA</i>, ePosters for QI projects as inspiration Seek funding from AAPA Participate in research (AAPA surveys & PA Observations)</p>	<p>Collaborate</p> <p>Find a mentor through AAPA Mentor Match Talk about research on AAPA Huddle communities</p> <p>Disseminate</p> <p>Submit to <i>JAAPA</i> Present at AAPA Conferences Write for News Central</p>
---	--

16

Research and Advocacy

- Passion and persistence alone can only take you so far.
- Stories are powerful.
- Stories backed up by data and research are infinitely more powerful.
- Research should be found throughout a state's advocacy efforts.

17

Research Advancing Advocacy

Where to use research in your advocacy (hint: everywhere):

- Lobby Day
 - Fact Sheets/One Pagers
 - Talking Points
- Grass Roots
- Testimony
 - Written
 - Oral
 - Varies by Committee
- Oral Testimony
- Presentations to Stakeholders/Potential Stakeholders

18

Advocacy Advancing Research

- Listen to regulators and legislators.
- If there's a gap or an opening, fill it.
- Communicate the need – work with AAPA

© American Academy of PA, All rights reserved. These materials may not be reproduced without the express written permission of AAPA.

19

Research Combatting “Research”

- Dispelling myths
- Quality, depth, and breadth
- One rogue PA

© American Academy of PA, All rights reserved. These materials may not be reproduced without the express written permission of AAPA.

20

Research in Action - Examples

- Maine 2020:
 - Multi-year Process
 - Multiple
- New York 2022:
 - Budget Process
 - Mad Scramble
 - New Request Daily
 - Work Not Done



© American Academy of PA, All rights reserved. These materials may not be reproduced without the express written permission of AAPA.

21



Additional Talks

- Using Secondary Clinical Data for Understanding Patient Conditions
- The Importance of Developing a Personal Research Agenda
- The Importance of the National PA Research Agenda
- How to Write a Strong Conference Proposal
- How to Become a Peer Reviewer

© American Academy of PAs. All rights reserved. These materials may not be reproduced without the express written permission of AAPA.

22

For additional information

Contact us at
research@aapa.org
skolhoff@aapa.org
cwalker@aapa.org

Learn more at
aapa.org/research

© American Academy of PAs. All rights reserved. These materials may not be reproduced without the express written permission of AAPA.

23
