

## Description

AAPA is providing a pilot project to establish a Research Scholars program (Scholars), which will fund two researchers in 2023. Each Scholar will receive \$6,000 and complementary registration to AAPA 2024 to present their work at an AAPA conference.

The Scholar will produce high quality research in collaboration with AAPA and will focus on projects that support the removal of barriers to PA practice which can't be done by AAPA due to resource limitations. The Scholar may develop their topic from a list provided by AAPA. AAPA will also consider projects that the Scholar proposes within the proposal.

Scholar will provide AAPA a minimum of 60 hours of their time over 3 to 6 months to determine their project, conduct the analyses, and write up the findings. AAPA can provide analytical support as well as guidance on the research, policy, and communications implications.

The outcomes of the Scholars will include but are not limited to conference presentations, recorded CME webinar, peer reviewed publications, News Central articles, white papers, and/or talking points.

The long-term goals of the Research Scholars program are to

- establish a strong research foundation for advocacy and communication about the PA profession,
- continue to grow the capacity of PAs to engage in research, and
- mentor PAs to then become mentors for other researchers.

The outcomes of the Scholars will include but are not limited to conference presentations, recorded CME webinar, peer reviewed publications, News Central articles, white papers, and/or talking points.

## Submission Deadlines

[Applications must be submitted no later than](#) July 30, 2023, at 11:59 pm PST. Please send all questions to [research@aapa.org](mailto:research@aapa.org) and include Scholars in the subject line. You should have a response within 2 business days.

## Deliverables

Scholars are expected to produce the following within six months of funding.

- Presentation at AAPA conference OR a recorded CME presentation for the Research Scholars series, AND
- Issue brief/white paper OR submission for a peer reviewed publication.

## Additional Information

### Research Scholars

- May work with AAPA to develop the research project if desired.
- Must complete their project within 3 months with an additional 3 months allocated to write up the findings.
- Must provide a brief abstract at the conclusion of their research for dissemination on [aapa.org](http://aapa.org).
- Must acknowledge AAPA and the AAPA Research Scholars Program in all scholarly work resulting from the funded project (e.g., presentations, publications, or posters).

## Timeline

### **Overall**

May 20, 2023	Open the call for proposals
July 30, 2023	Proposal due date
August 2023	Review proposals and select Research Scholars
September 2023	Research Scholar funding is awarded and project begins
March 2024	Initial deliverables are completed

### **Funding**

\$1,500	Upon signed agreement
\$1,500	Upon completed analysis/abstract
\$3,000	Upon completed written report

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## Focus Area

For the pilot year, Research Scholars will investigate PAs' role in increasing patients' access to care.

- **Geography:** How do PAs increase access to care in medically underserved areas such as rural areas and/or areas with clinician shortages?
- **Resources:** How do PAs impact the distance patients travel for health care?
- **Specialization:** How does *not* having PAs available to provide specialist services affect patients?
- **Wait time:** What is PAs' role is patients getting the services they need in a timely manner?

## Study Examples

The following are examples of research studies AAPA has identified to possibly replicate related to the PA profession.

Adamson AS, Suarez EA, McDaniel P, Leiphart PA, Zeitany A, Kirby JS. [Geographic Distribution of Nonphysician Clinicians Who Independently Billed Medicare for Common Dermatologic Services in 2014](#). *JAMA Dermatol*. 2018;154(1):30-36.

doi:10.1001/jamadermatol.2017.5039

**Objective statement:** "To determine "which dermatology-related services are independently billed by nonphysician clinicians (NPCs) treating medicare beneficiaries."

Barnes H, Richards MR, McHugh MD, Martsof G. [Rural And Nonrural Primary Care Physician Practices Increasingly Rely On Nurse Practitioners](#). *Health Aff (Millwood)*.

2018;37(6):908-914. doi:10.1377/hlthaff.2017.1158

**Objective statement:** "... little is known about whether and how NPs have been incorporated into primary care practices in recent years. We analyzed SK&A provider files for 2008–16 to examine the extent to which NPs were working in primary care physician practices in both rural and nonrural settings during that period. This is the first study to leverage these data to capture changes in provider configurations over time."

Cross S, Kelly P. [Access to care based on state nurse practitioner practice regulation: secondary data analysis results in the Medicare population](#). *J Am Assoc Nurse Pract*.

2015;27(1):21-30. doi:10.1002/2327-6924.12191

**Objective statement:** “To examine access to care in the Medicare population based on state nurse practitioner (NP) practice regulation.”

DesRoches CM, Gaudet J, Perloff J, Donelan K, Iezzoni LI, Buerhaus P. [Using Medicare data to assess nurse practitioner-provided care.](#) *Nurs Outlook.* 2013;61(6):400-407.

doi:10.1016/j.outlook.2013.05.005

**Objective statement:** “This study examines the geographic distribution and county characteristics of NPs billing Medicare, compares the types and quantities of primary care services provided to Medicare beneficiaries by NPs and primary care physicians, and analyzes the characteristics of beneficiaries receiving primary care from each type of clinician.”

Holmes LR, Waltman N. [Increased access to nurse practitioner care in rural Nebraska after removal of required integrated practice agreement.](#) *J Am Assoc Nurse Pract.*

2019;31(5):288-292. doi:10.1097/JXX.000000000000153

**Objective statement:** “This report describes changes in access to primary health care in rural and underserved areas of Nebraska after removal of the IPA barrier to practice.”

Kuo YF, Chen NW, Baillargeon J, Raji MA, Goodwin JS. [Potentially Preventable Hospitalizations in Medicare Patients With Diabetes: A Comparison of Primary Care Provided by Nurse Practitioners Versus Physicians.](#) *Med Care.* 2015;53(9):776-783.

doi:10.1097/MLR.0000000000000406

**Objective statement:** “In the present study, we compared the rates of potentially preventable hospitalizations in older diabetic patients who received primary care from NPs only versus those who received care from primary care physicians only.”

Neff DF, Yoon SH, Steiner RL, et al. [The impact of nurse practitioner regulations on population access to care.](#) *Nurs Outlook.* 2018;66(4):379-385.

doi:10.1016/j.outlook.2018.03.001

**Objective statement:** “The objectives of this study were to examine the association between three levels of NP state practice regulation (independent, minimum restrictive, and most restrictive) and the proportion of the population with a greater than 30-min travel time to a primary care provider using geocoding.”

Oliver GM, Pennington L, Revelle S, Rantz M. [Impact of nurse practitioners on health outcomes of Medicare and Medicaid patients](#). *Nurs Outlook*. 2014;62(6):440-447. doi:10.1016/j.outlook.2014.07.004

**Objective statement:** “We examined for a statistically significant relationship between the level of advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) practice (full, reduced, or restricted) allowed and results of recent nationwide, state level analyses of Medicare or Medicare-Medicaid beneficiaries of potentially avoidable hospitalizations, readmission rates after inpatient rehabilitation, and nursing home resident hospitalizations and then compared them with state health outcome rankings.”

Owens RA, Zwilling JG. [The nurse practitioner workforce: One rural state's experience of comparing state data with national trends](#). *J Am Assoc Nurse Pract*. 2019;32(10):668-675. doi:10.1097/JXX.0000000000000315

**Objective statement:** “The purpose of this investigation was to describe North Dakota’s (NDs) NP workforce and compare this with national data.”

Russell KW, Mone MC, Serpico VJ, et al. [Optimal utilization of a breast care advanced practice clinician](#). *Am J Surg*. 2014;208(6):1054-1059. doi:10.1016/j.amjsurg.2014.09.007

**Objective statement:** “The objective of this study was to evaluate changes in revenue, patient and provider satisfaction, and overall efficiency secondary to initiating an independent APC breast clinic.”

Spetz J, Skillman SM, Andrilla CHA. [Nurse Practitioner Autonomy and Satisfaction in Rural Settings](#). *Med Care Res Rev*. 2017;74(2):227-235. doi:10.1177/1077558716629584

**Objective statement:** “This article compares the characteristics of NPs who provide primary care in rural versus urban areas (including employment, practice, and satisfaction) in order to examine differences in NP practice that can be used to assess the factors that may maintain NP supply in rural regions.”

## Required Materials

**Personal Statement** in narrative format which includes the following elements:

- Education and practice background,
- Area(s) of research interest and/or brief description of proposed project,
- Areas of strength and weakness,
- Statement addressing availability to complete the program, and

- Reasons you should be selected.

**CV** which must be complete.

### Optional Materials

If you have a project you wish to propose, please include the following elements:

- **Research question(s) and/or problem statement.** Include a succinct research question or problem statement.
- **Background.** Include a brief background for the project and a review of the literature.
- **Analytic plan.** Include details regarding the data being used as well as specific quantitative and/or qualitative data analysis plan, and how the plans relate to the research question(s).
- **Impact statement.** Include what new knowledge will be generated and the significance of the research questions to AAPA's priorities and the PA profession.
- **References.** AMA style.

### Evaluation Criteria

The Review Committee will evaluate each application along the following criteria:

- Readiness to serve as a Research Scholar.
- Availability of AAPA staff to support desired topic within the timeframe.
- Compelling areas of research interest.

**Preference will go to projects whose outcomes will best support the removal of barriers to PA practice.**

### Questions

Please send all questions to [research@aapa.org](mailto:research@aapa.org) and include Scholar in the subject line.

You should have a response within 2 business days.