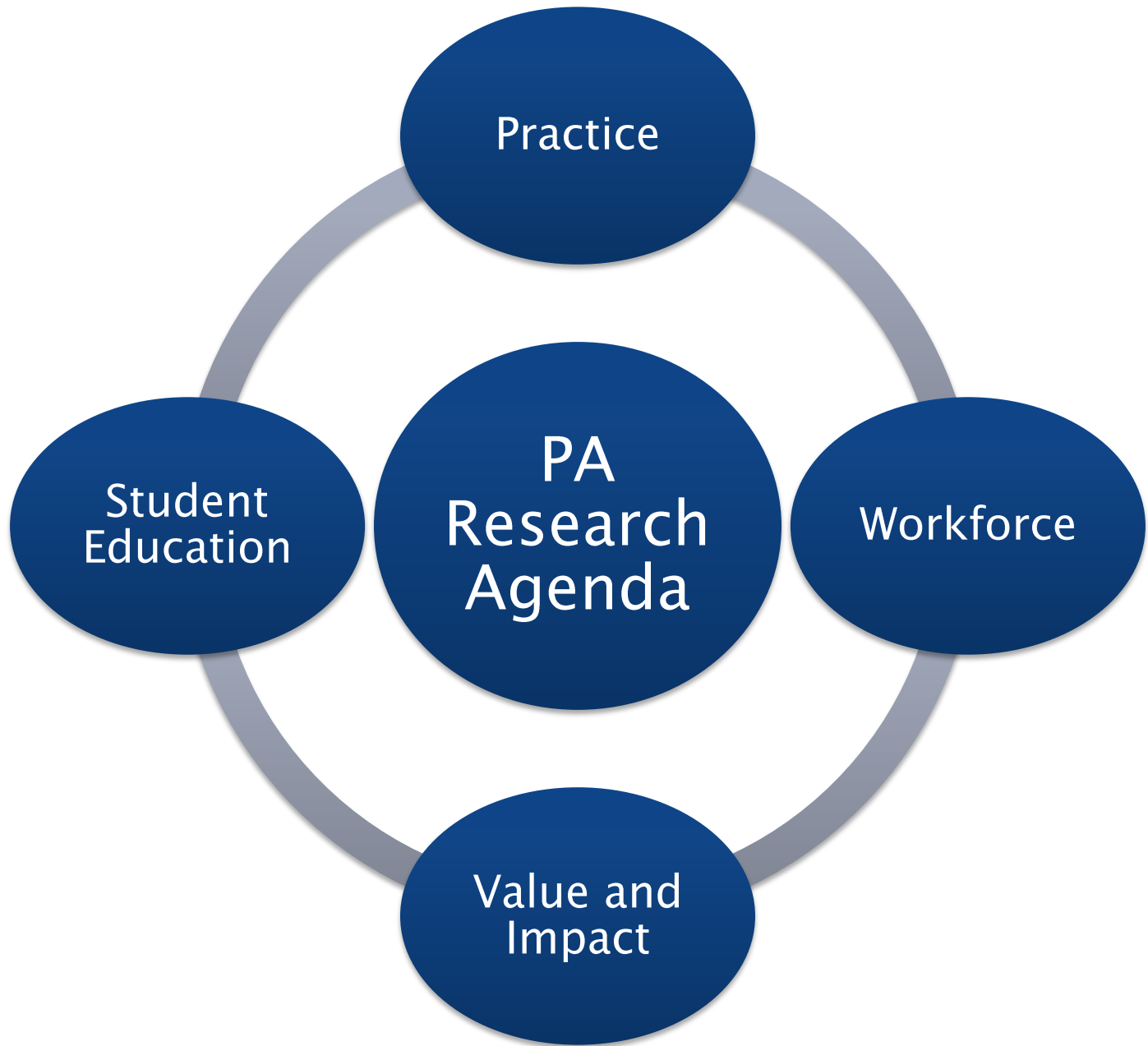# AAPA Research Agenda

July 2013

PA Student Education Research Agenda

Student Education

Cost of education

Regulatory impact on education

Defining quality PA education

PA faculty

Key Research Questions (illustrative)

What is the anticipated cost of a PA education in 5 - 10 years? How might this affect demand to enter the profession?

What is the impact of regulation on PA education?

What factors define the quality of PA education?

What factors influence education quality?

How can faculty best be supported and developed professionally?

AAPA Research Projects Past, Panned or Underway

Partnership with Graham Center to investigate the role of student debt on choice of specialty (PAEA-RFP)

AAPA Annual Survey data analysis Coordination and collaboration with PAEA

Possible Future Research Topics (In collaboration with PAEA)

Assessment of the impact of regulation on PA education, defining and benchmarking quality of PA education, PA faculty development needs

Potential data sources
- Review of extant PA research
- Student survey data (PAEA, AAPA)
- Regulatory information and decisions
- PA Program data (PAEA)
- Other facilitated research opportunities

PA Role and Practice Research Agenda

Practice

- Variety of healthcare settings and procedures
- Job satisfaction
- Medical team roles and dynamics
- Role expansion, (quality improvement, leadership, and nonclinical roles)
- Legislative and systems–based influences on effective practice
- Learning continuum

Key research questions

What kinds of care are PAs delivering? In what types of settings are PAs delivering health care?

How do medical teams involving doctors, PAs, and other health care professionals develop? What are the dynamics of these teams?

Are PAs satisfied with their jobs and with their roles in delivering care? What factors influence whether PAs and physicians are satisfied with PA roles and contribution to delivering care?

How are PA roles expanding? What types of leadership roles are PAs taking on? What types of nonclinical roles are PAs engaged in?
What are the systems-level factors that influence PA practice? What is the role of quality improvement in reducing practice gaps?

AAPA Research Projects Panned or Underway

Learning Labs with additional data collection efforts at each site
Research Data Reports
Relevant summaries of extant research on PAs
Environmental Scan

Possible Future Research Topics
Continued analysis of procedures conducted by specialty, job satisfaction study with PAs and physicians, preparing PAs for success in leadership positions, impact of legislation on PA practice

Potential data sources
- AAPA Annual Survey data
- Learning Lab results
- Individual study-level data collections
- Review of existing PA research

PA Workforce Research Agenda

Workforce

- Composition
- Diversity
- Specialization
- Flexibility
- Workforce projections
- Role of national and state practice barriers

Key research questions

What does the current PA workforce in the U.S. look like? How has the workforce changed over time?

What will the workforce look like in the future – will there be a sufficient supply of PAs to meet demand? What factors drive demand?

Where are PAs working: in what types of healthcare settings? Are PAs working in the areas where they are most needed (e.g., rural, MUAs)?

How many PAs are working in specialty areas versus primary care? What are the trends over time?

How often do PAs switch specialties? What are the most common specialty changes that PAs make, and at what stage of their careers?

AAPA Research Projects
Past, Planned or Underway

Research data reports
Environmental Scan
Workforce projection project
Summary of extant research on PAs

Possible Future Research
Predicting specialty choice and change, methods for enhancing PA diversity, the relationship between practice barriers and PA roles, job satisfaction, and intent to continue in their career

Potential data sources
- AAPA data
- National and state databases
- Projection models using multiple data sources
- AHRQ and HRSA national data
- Review of existing PA research

PA Value and Impact Research Agenda

Value and Impact

Healthcare quality

Patient satisfaction comprehension of condition, perception of partnership with healthcare providers.

Access to care

Timeliness of care

Cost effectiveness

Public awareness and perception

Key research questions (illustrative)

How do PAs contribute to the quality of healthcare?

How do PAs help address access to care issues?

Timeliness of care?

What is the impact of PAs on the cost effectiveness of healthcare?

How does PA utilization affect medical practice liability?

Defining "Value and

Process quality: immediate care–related outcomes such as to standard protocols, communication, continuity of patient engagement & activation, charting and billing accuracy, of service, impact on teammates' delivery of care *(illustrative)*

Outcome quality: medical including risk adjusted mortality rates, readmission rates, rates of adverse complications, medical rates, **patient satisfaction** and perceptions, productivity

Access to care and timeliness refers to availability of health when it is needed
Cost effectiveness refers to maintenance of low cost or reduction in cost to deliver care
Public awareness and refers to public opinion, those of federal and state

AAPA Research Projects Past., Planned, or Underway

Learning Labs with additional data collection efforts at each site
Relevant summaries of extant outcomes research on PAs
Studies using existing data sets
Environmental Scan

Possible Future Research Projects

Multiple studies to assess the outcomes and impact of PA practice on healthcare quality, cost effectiveness, access to care, and other important outcomes

Potential data sources

- Review of existing PA research
- HCAHPS – national hospital consumer assessment of healthcare providers
- SOPS – national survey of patient safety culture; in hospitals, nursing homes, medical offices
- NAMCS/NHAMCS – national ambulatory medical care survey (or hospital ambulatory medical care)
- National Practitioner Data Bank
- CMS databases; FSMB databases