AAPA Research Agenda

July 2013
PA Research Agenda

- Practice
- Student Education
- Workforce
- Value and Impact
### PA Student Education Research Agenda

#### Student Education

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<th>Cost of education</th>
<th>Regulatory impact on education</th>
<th>Defining quality PA education</th>
<th>PA faculty</th>
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#### 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
### 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

#### 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 Impact”

**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