

Commission on Continuing Professional Development and Education

Background: The Commission on Professional Development and Education was created to assist AAPA in matters related to educational content planning, health systems leadership development, conflict of interest policies related to CME, certification changes and member engagement, as requested by the Board of Directors.

It is one of four advisory commissions created by the AAPA Board of Directors. The high-level and strategy-oriented work of the commissions is designed to support the AAPA's position as a thought-leader in the industry. The specific charge of the commission for any fiscal year (FY) is dependent on the direction of the Board of Directors based on the AAPA Strategic Plan, policy direction from the House of Delegates and the current industry environment.

Scope of Work: For FY 2016 (July 1, 2015- June 30, 2016), the Board is asking the commission to focus its work on advising AAPA on an updated strategy for professional development and education.

AAPA professional development and educational opportunities for PAs have been evolving away from traditional expert-driven didactic methods towards more learner-centered methods following the recommendations of the 2010 Institute of Medicine report *Redesigning Continuing Education in the Health Professions*.

In order to help accelerate this change, the Board has developed the following specific charges for the Commission on Continuing Professional Development and Education across three distinct areas: education strategy, annual conference content, and AAPA policy review.

AAPA's CPD and Education Strategy

- The commission will advise education staff on elements of AAPA's overall education program and strategy. This includes making recommendations regarding the mix of specialty vs. primary care focused content produced, clinical vs. nonclinical topics covered, and traditional vs. innovative learning methods employed across AAPA's educational offerings.
- As organizational public health priorities are established by the Commission on the Health of the Public, the commission will make recommendations regarding the integration of those topics into the overall CPD program.
- The commission will collaborate with other commissions, organizations and staff, as needed, to ensure complimentary cross-organization strategy, research and planning processes.

Annual Conference

- Working with staff, the commission will support decision making regarding the mix of educational content for the annual conference and help to develop/recruit sessions. This process should take into account the AAPA Strategic Plan, AAPA's national QI initiatives, optimal models of PA practice, the use of innovative educational methods, ways to provide enhanced learning opportunities, the integration of PI-CME and self-assessment, and the development of new skills sets needed by faculty as they transition from didactic lecturers who deliver content to facilitators of learning.
- Commission members will identify, read, and help staff apply learning from documents and articles about trends in adult professional learning and innovative instructional design.

- The commission will participate in conference proposal grading, review comments provided by the Conference Proposal Graders, curate the CME content, and finalize the conference program.
- Working with staff, the commission will develop strategies to engage conference attendees before, during and after the annual conference to promote continuous learning and reinforce content. This will include recommendations for “repackaging” educational content to extend its impact beyond conference attendees.

5-Year Policy Review

- The commission will review and provide comments on AAPA policies assigned to it by the House of Delegates as part of the five year policy review process and will develop policy recommendations to put forward in the House, as appropriate.

In addition, commission members will participate in conference proposal grading, review comments provided by the Conference Proposal Graders, and finalize the conference program. They must also be willing to identify and read documents and articles about trends in adult professional learning and innovative instructional design.

Description of Volunteer Opportunity: Five to seven volunteers will be selected for the Commission on Continuing Professional Development and Education, the majority of which must be PAs and at least one of which will be a student or within the first three years of practice (“early career”). Commission members who are PAs must be fellow or student members of the Academy. Non-members from other fields may participate in the commission either on an on-going or ad-hoc basis, so long as they do not constitute a majority of the commission members.

Due to the need for appointments to correspond with the AAPA conference cycle, the CPDE members are appointed for a 14-month term (May 1- June 30) which allows for a transition to occur surrounding the conference. Commission members may be reappointed for an additional two-year term. Terms are staggered, so that approximately half of the commission will be up for reappointment each year.

The commission will also include one member of the Board of Directors and one subject matter expert from the AAPA staff. Board and staff appointees will fully participate in the substance of the commission’s work and will be afforded all rights of the group, with the exception that neither will be allowed to serve as chair and the staff member will not have voting privileges.

Leadership: A commission chair will be appointed each year by the AAPA President for a single 14-month term, and may be reappointed for a second term. The chair must be an AAPA member.

Time Commitment: A total annual commitment is estimated at 50 hours. Commission members will do most of their work electronically (online) and through conference calls. One in-person meeting is expected in the fall. All commission members are expected to attend the AAPA Annual Meeting.

Qualifications: We seek a demographically and geographically diverse group of volunteers with experience in a variety of specialty areas and practice settings, experiences in professional development and continuing medical education, and demonstrated interest and experience in innovative learning. Ideal candidates will meet the following qualifications:

- Forward looking
- Familiar with a variety of educational methods, including the traditional conference model
- Experience in professional development and continuing medical education
- Demonstrated interest and experience in innovative learning

- Passionate about the professional commitment to lifelong learning

How to Apply: A call for applications is issued in the late winter/early spring to appoint commission members for the next term. Information and application procedures will be available online at www.aapa.org/volunteer.