



Todd A. Pickard, MMSc, PA-C, DFAAPA
Second Vice Speaker

Todd Pickard is serving his third term on the Board of Directors, building on his more than 15 years of service in the House of Delegates representing the Association of PAs in Oncology and the Texas Academy of PAs. He has also served as the president and on leadership boards of both constituency organizations.

Specializing in Oncology, Pickard has spent two decades fighting cancer at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. Joining the MD Anderson team as a PA in the Department of Urology, Pickard has served in other roles including clinical cancer prevention, head and neck medical oncology, lymphoma and administrative leadership. He currently serves as the director of PA Practice, while continuing to practice in the urology department.

Inquisitive by nature, Pickard has spent a lifetime asking questions and seeking answers. As the PA always asking “how” or “why”, he was often tasked with finding answers when none existed or solutions when the answers weren’t good enough. Pickard’s reputation as a problem solver goes well beyond his work at MD Anderson, and extends to his work as a policy maker, legislative advocate and mentor. Often reflecting on the challenges he’s faced as a PA and administrator, Pickard enjoys being a resource for others and seeing his colleagues empowered.

His leadership journey began through volunteering to solve operational issues early in his career as a clinical PA. When Texas approved prescriptive authority for PAs, he volunteered to help design the implementation process for his institution. As a result of these experiences, he was given the opportunity to create, and then interview for, the first PA Administrative position in the newly designated Office of PA Programs at MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Advocacy for PAs has lead him to other opportunities to serve. Pickard was the Legislative Chair for the Texas Academy of PAs. During his tenure he strengthened the inclusion of PA trainees and Pre-PA students in legislative activity. One of his accomplishments was the elimination of PA supervision limits in Texas.

A passion for oncology practice and increasing the recognition of PAs for their clinical roles in the care of patients with cancer, led Pickard to help create and then serve as the AAPA/APAO Medical Liaison to the American Society of Clinical Oncology, where he worked with others to secure a stronger voice for PA in Oncology.

Pickard earned his BA in biology from The University of Texas, Austin and his Master of Medical Science from Emory University School of Medicine. A believer of life-long learning, he has also acquired a graduate certificate in health care management from Rice University, and completed MD Anderson certificate programs in administrative leadership and clinical safety and effectiveness. He has earned the designation of AAPA Distinguished Fellow.