Dear Program Director,

I believe that one of the greatest strengths of PA education is the value programs place on supplementing their student’s classroom education. Experiences and opportunities beyond the classroom reinforce the importance of broad perspectives and being actively engaged in continuous learning. In this vein, I urge you to encourage your students’ participation in AAPA 2019.

As a healthcare-system administrator, I know that employers are looking for more than just a strong academic record. Employers are eager to hire PAs who demonstrate they can keep pace with the latest developments in medicine and technology, understand the changing legislative and regulatory healthcare environment, and take an active role in the evolution of patient care. I know that one of my most important roles as a clinical professor, PA mentor and AAPA President is to instill in my students the value of life-long learning that is critical to life-long success.

AAPA 2019 will be held May 18 -22, in Denver, Colorado. With a network of more than 8,000 attendees, a wide variety of medical education, policy discussions and hands-on learning opportunities designed to engage students, AAPA 2019 delivers the content, experiences and opportunities that support your students’ success.

While AAPA’s National Medical Challenge Bowl is a hallmark of the student experience, the conference offers much more. Students will:

* Have access to hundreds of educational sessions, featuring the latest innovations in medicine from thought-leaders in the medical field;
* Get hands-on experience with point-of-care ultrasound in the *Yes, I Scan* workshop and competition;
* Establish valuable employer connections at the AAPA Career Fair;
* Present their research projects and view those of their peers at the ePoster Session;
* Connect with practicing PAs, clinical preceptors and mentors;
* Participate in the student Assembly of Representatives (AOR), providing an opportunity to better understand the active role student leaders play in AAPA;
* Attend the House of Delegates (HOD) to learn how the policy impacting PA practice is determined.

While I understand that every program has varying resources to help support travel and participation, there are three things that you can do to help your students.

1. Share the dates of AAPA 2019 with your students now and encourage them to register to attend.
2. Consider the conference dates when planning your Spring academic calendar.
3. Provide financial aid to AAPA student members in your program and/or encourage fundraising activities.

You can find more information about AAPA 2019 at [www.aapaconference.org](https://www.aapa.org/conference/). The AAPA Student and PA Program membership team is available to answer any questions at PAPrograms@aapa.org.

We appreciate the guidance and support you provide to PAs-in-training and look forward to seeing you and your students at AAPA 2019.

Sincerely,



Jonathan E. Sobel, DMSc, MBA, PA-C, DFAAPA, FAPACVS

AAPA President and Chair of the Board