Dear Program Director,

There are few experiences as fundamental to who I am as a leader as those which occurred when I was a young PA, fired up and determined to help put our profession on the map. In fact, that’s when I first became a leader. I met PA leaders that amazed and inspired me, clearly changing my life. People like Bill Stanhope, Clara Vanderbilt and Carl Fasser. I attended the 1975 PA Conference in St. Louis as a senior student because my class collected money to send both me and our class President to represent us. Forwarding many decades, healthcare and our profession have changed exponentially since I was a PA student, but the important role students play in advancing our profession and quality patient care has not. I believe – and I know you do too – that we have an obligation to ensure our students have the resources they need, both in and out of the classroom, to thrive as healthcare leaders. AAPA’s annual conference offers a unique opportunity for the future leaders of our great profession to learn, collaborate and be inspired.

AAPA 2020 will be held May 16 -20, in Nashville, TN. With a network of more than 7,000 attendees, a wide variety of medical education, policy discussions and hands-on learning opportunities designed to engage students, AAPA 2020 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;
* 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 2020 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 2020 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 2020. I promise the conference will inspire and they will walk away with what they have learned.

Sincerely,



David E. Mittman, PA, DFAAPA

AAPA President and Chair of the Board