**Distinguished Fellow of AAPA News Release**

**Instructions for Using This News Release**

Your Distinguished Fellow recognition is an accomplishment of which to be proud and worth sharing with your community or professional organization. Your local newspaper likely has a column where they list recent achievements by people in the community, and they might be interested in an announcement about your Distinguish Fellow recognition.

Be sure to add specific information where noted to individualize the announcement. Here are some suggestions for where to submit copies:

* Your employer’s newsletter and hospital newsletter. If you work for a PA program or large institution, contact your public relations office for advice and share a copy of the release with the staff.
* Local newspapers: Submit it to the health reporter, career writer and features editor at the daily papers; submit it to the editor of weekly newspapers. Include the web editor or online contact person on the distribution list.
* Radio stations: Submit the release to the public service director. The public service director is responsible for public information shows or community health programs and might consider you a source for future interviews.
* Local organizations: Public affairs directors of civic, business, professional, religious, and health organizations that you belong to.
* Your PA constituent organization.
* Your Alma Mater’s alumni publication office.

If you need assistance, contact AAPA’s Communications Department at 703 836 2272, or email *communications@aapa.org.*

**SAMPLE NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

[DATE]

**Contact:** [Include your own contact information]

[NAME OF PA] Receives National Recognition as

AAPA Distinguished Fellow

***Honored for***

***Going “Above and Beyond” In Service to Community and the Profession***

(Alexandria, VA) – [NAME OF RECIPIENT] from [STATE/COMMUNITY] has been recognized as a Distinguished Fellow of AAPA. [S/HE] practices [NAME OF MEDICAL SUB-SPECIALTY] at [PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT] and has been a PA for [NUMBER OF YEARS]. [S/HE] practices medicine at [NAME OF PRACTICE OR HOSPITAL].

[NAME OF RECIPIENT] earned this national recognition due to [HIS/HER] outstanding contributions to patient care and the profession during [HIS/HER] years as a PA. [S/HE] also demonstrated significant dedication and involvement in the community of [TOWN/COMMUNITY].

[INCLUDE DETAILS OF PAST SERVICE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS.]

Previously, [NAME] served as (INSERT TITLE/SPECIALTY) at [NAME OF PRACTICE OR HOSPITAL]. [S/HE] is a graduate of [NAME OF PA PROGRAM] and [UNIVERSITY]. [INSERT ANY OTHER BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL.]

The Distinguished Fellow program was established by AAPA in 2007 in order to recognize the exceptional contributions of PAs to the profession through professional achievement, leadership, professional interaction, learning and community service. Distinguished Fellows of AAPA, represent only two percent of the entire AAPA membership.

PAs are nationally certified and state-licensed to practice medicine in every setting and specialty. They diagnose and treat patients, order and interpret tests, assist in surgery and perform medical procedures, make rounds in hospitals and nursing homes and prescribe medications. A PA's role may also include patient education and research. PAs are educated at the graduate level through rigorous programs modeled on the medical school curriculum and are viewed as a solution to increasing access to healthcare for the increasing number of patients entering the system.

*AAPA is the national organization that advocates for all PAs and provides tools to improve PA practice and patient care. Founded in 1968, AAPA represents a profession of approximately 140,000 certified PAs across all medical and surgical specialties in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. territories and the uniformed services. Visit www.aapa.org to learn more.*

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