

COMMISSION REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

June 2020

Name of Commission:	Commission on Research and Strategic Initiatives
Commission Chair:	Lucy Kibe, PA-C, DrPH
Commission Members:	Denise Rizzolo, PhD, PA-C Shekitta Acker, PhD(c), PA-C Kenneth Harbert, PA-C Emeritus, PhD, MHA, DFAAPA Kimberly Sapre, MMS, PA-C, EM-CAQ Sunayana Pydah Chopra, PA-S Billy Collins, DHSc, MS, PA-C Daniel Pace, CSO and VP, Education & Research Noel Smith, Senior Director, PA and Industry Research and Analysis

Executive Summary:

The Commission on Research and Strategic Initiatives met monthly via conference call. A significant portion of the commission's time was allocated to policy review assignments and corresponding charges related to the entry-level doctorate and telemedicine, two important and timely issues both for the profession and healthcare more broadly. The commission is proud of the work products it has produced and the contributions it has made to AAPA's knowledge base via comprehensive literature reviews on the entry-level doctorate and telemedicine.

Detailed Progress Report:

Commission Charge	Status
Monitor a variety of reputable sources (i.e., online resources, journals, other publications, etc.) throughout the year, identifying information relevant to the National PA Research Agenda. When relevant, this information is incorporated into AAPA's Bibliography & Resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">RSI has monitored select journals and discussed articles of interest as they relate to other charges.
Support AAPA Research and the FY20 Operating Plan by providing ad hoc feedback on survey development, refining research questions, and evaluating external requests for research support as required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">RSI assisted AAPA Research by refining questions within the August 2019 PA Practice Survey, 2020 student survey and the telemedicine section of the June 2020 PA Practice Survey.
Explore opportunities for collaboration with JAAPA and Journal of Physician Assistant Education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The article "An updated National PA Research Agenda" was published in the March 2020 issue of JAAPA, authored by RSI members Shekitta Acker, Denise Rizzolo and Noel Smith, a culmination of work completed by RSI during the 2018-2019 leadership year.

<p>Conduct a literature review and examine data from AAPA surveys on the current state of virtual health practice by PAs. Share insights with the GRPA Commission to inform the 5-year review of the AAPA Telemedicine Policy Paper.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSI collaborated with the Ad Hoc Task Force on Telemedicine as well as AAPA's SIG PAs in Virtual Medicine and Telemedicine (PAVMT) to conduct a comprehensive review of the literature regarding PAs and telemedicine. The literature review includes key findings and other relevant coding summarized across 89 individual articles. A digestible summary document is in development and will be posted to the AAPA Research section of the website this summer in advance of HOD deliberations.
<p>Conduct a literature review on the impact that transitioning to an entry-level doctorate has had on other health professions (e.g. physical therapists, nurse practitioners, pharmacists) and examine data from AAPA surveys on degrees earned, compensation, student debt and other factors to inform the 5-year policy review of AAPA's opposition to the entry-level doctorate for PAs (HP-3200.1.4)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSI collaborated with the CPD and Education Commission and the C-06 Task Force to conduct a comprehensive review of the literature regarding entry-level doctoral degrees across the health professions. The literature review includes key findings and other relevant coding summarized across 86 individual articles. A digestible summary document is in development and will be posted to the AAPA Research section of the website this summer in advance of HOD deliberations.
<p>Analyze and provide comments on AAPA policies assigned by the House Officers, to include but not limited to five-year policy review, and develop recommendations for consideration by the appropriate body.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSI has submitted proposed amendments to AAPA's position papers on Telemedicine and Scientific Integrity and Public Policy. Additionally, RSI supported the policy work and recommendations of the CPD and Education Commission and C-06 task force regarding entry-level and post-professional doctoral degrees by sharing the findings of a comprehensive literature review to inform their recommendations.
<p>Collaborate with other commissions, organizations and staff, as needed, to ensure cross-organizational strategy, research and planning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSI has collaborated with several groups this year including the ad hoc task force on telemedicine, PAVMT, the commission CPD and Education and the C-06 Task Force.
<p>Support AAPA Research in ongoing assessment of the prevalence and impact of burnout within the profession.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSI had a limited role in supporting AAPA Research's ongoing assessment of the prevalence and impact of burnout within the profession as the lead for this

	important topic was largely taken by the Burnout Task Force.
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Strategic Outcomes and Considerations:

The commission had a successful year with the work of a cohesive team of dedicated individuals. The charges given to the commission were manageable and timely. Monthly meetings were well attended and productive. Daniel Pace and Noel Smith provided tremendous support to the commission.

The commission identified early on in the year that it was best to “divide and conquer”. Therefore, the tasks were assigned to smaller groups, which focused on specific charges and then discussed findings with the larger group for feedback and discussion. Even within the small groups, assigning specific tasks with measurable outcomes was a successful approach.

The only challenge experienced was lack of collaboration with other agencies working on similar agendas. For example, PAEA recently announced a request for applications for some of the work that RSI has already completed. The commission plans to do a better job communicating with other similar organizations to prevent redundancies. On a positive note, the commission seamlessly collaborated with other groups sponsored by AAPA especially SIG PAs in Virtual Medicine and Telemedicine (PAVMT).

The commission looks forward to another year of productive work that will advance the PA profession.