

# Nicole M. Schwensow, DMSc, PA-C, DFAAPA

## Director & Program Manager | Doctor of Medical Science | Liaison Healthcare Administration

414.748.1973 | [nicole.schwensow@gmail.com](mailto:nicole.schwensow@gmail.com) | [Linkedin.com/in/nicole-schwensow-20ba00122](https://www.linkedin.com/in/nicole-schwensow-20ba00122) | Tampa, FL 33611

### Professional Summary

An extremely diligent, self-disciplined, and highly committed **Program Director | Doctor of Medical Science | Liaison** with a well-rounded background, educationally and experientially, in multiple facets of **Quality Healthcare Initiatives and Business Health Acumen**. Creative and forward-thinking, highly skilled in project management, program development, and partnership development for the delivery and expansion of workflows that fits organizational needs to improve healthcare outcomes. Ability to analyze for support, strategic objectives, and process improvement.

**Experience and education** demonstrate a broad knowledge of healthcare sector. Approachable and compassionate, determined to improve healthcare for all. Strategic priorities are reviewed with skill and needs are evaluated allowing for solution implementation with an eye toward management of a program that results in the identification, prioritization, and reduction of business and financial risks.

**Understanding multiple facets of the healthcare industry** weaves a tapestry of information grounded in practicality and regulations and one which allows for growth and recognition through extensive team building skills. Creative and innovative solutions are the norm.

**Effectiveness with organizational aptitude** encompassing regulatory compliance, needs, customer, patient, and client engagement with the ability to develop and manage multiple teams, leads to a combination which engenders multiple possibilities of success. **Leadership is a balance of focus, collaboration, and planned impact.**

### Major Accomplishments

- Writing policy, procedure, onboarding manuals for hospitals with CMO/CNO, reviewing/revising hospital privileges for advanced practice providers.
- House of Delegate (HOD) Representative for American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA), and HOD Reference Committee member responsible for reviewing/revising policy for AAPA and PAs across the nation.
- Capstone project "*Physician Associates in Healthcare Leadership in the United States: A Scoping Review*"

### Education

Doctor of Medical Science Leadership Track, A.T. Still University 2024  
Master of Physician Assistant Studies, Marquette University 2004  
Bachelor of Arts Biology | Minors Chemistry & Business Management | Alverno College 1998

### Expertise

- Hospitalist Medicine | Emergency Medicine, Cardiovascular, Trauma | Leadership
- Quality Project, Process & Operational Management
- Teaching / Mentoring
- Public Speaking / Educational Lectures
- Onboarding Curriculum Development
- Organizational Development / Policy and Process Development
- Strategic Collaborations | Problem Solving
- Communication Written | Oral
- Regulatory Compliance
- Operational Planning

### Skills

- Collaboration | Inclusive Cultural Development
- Educator
- Innovator
- Presentation | Supervision | Execution
- Implementation | Evaluation
- Team Building | Mentoring | Leadership Development
- Change Management and Execution
- Research | Analysis | Feedback
- Public Speaking
- Critical Thinking
- Maximizer | Arranger | Responsible

### Certifications | Award

- National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) certified 2016, 2009, & 2004.
- PA Certificate in Palliative and Serious Care Illness December 2022.
- Basic Life Support (BLS) / Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) American Heart Association Provider current through Dec 2025.
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) current through Sept 2026.
- Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Provider current through August 2025.
- Critical Care Ultrasound May 2017.
- Advanced Burn Life Support December 2011.
- Awarded: A.T. Still University DMSc Program Student Leadership.

### Technical Skills

- Skills: Endoscopic vein harvest (EVH), endoscopic radial artery harvest (ERAH), central venous catheter (CVC) placement, thoracentesis, chest tube thoracostomy, surgical first assisting, suturing, splinting
- Microsoft Office: Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint
- Communication: Microsoft Teams | Social Media for PA State constituent organization
- HRIS: Workday, ADP
- Social Media: Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn

**Tampa General Hospital and University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine, Department of Surgery** **August 2025 to Current**Aortic Program Lead and Instructor I

- Inpatient clinical cares for individuals with aortic disease.
- Development of aortic program | creation of policy, program outreach, and quality assurance.
- Collaborate and institute program interface between cardiothoracic surgery and vascular surgery.
- Mapping pathway of patient journey for individuals with aortic disease.

**College of St. Scholastica Doctor of Medical Science Program Duluth, MN** **April 2025 to Current**Adjunct Faculty

- Develop the creation of leadership track courses for DMSc program.
- Facilitate program creation and accreditation.
- Serve as course director for Healthcare Leadership, Change Management & Organizational Development course.
- Serve as course co-director for Ethical & Legal Considerations in Health Administration.

**Inpatient Physician Associates, Grand Island, NE** **May 2023-August 2025**Hospitalist Medicine Physician Assistant Inpatient | Full time

- Served on Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee.
- Manage adult inpatient medical cares for all levels of care | general medical to intensive care unit.
- Admissions and new consults.
- Performs medical cares from general medicine to ICU patients.
- Respond to rapid responses and code blue alerts.
- Serves as PA student preceptor.
- Charged with writing hospital policy for Staph Aureus bacteremia with pharmacist team. Works with administration to create new hospital initiatives.

**Bryan Health, Grand Island, NE** **February 2024-August 2025**Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant (PRN)

- Serves as PRN emergency medicine physician assistant for patients of all ages and acuity levels.
- Execute ER procedures.
- Serve as PA student preceptor.

**Twin Rivers Urgent Care, Grand Island, NE** **October 2021- August 2025**Urgent Care Physician Assistant (PRN)

- Serves as PRN urgent care physician assistant for patients of all ages at a free-standing urgent care.
- Service all acuity levels.
- Arrange ambulance transfer to the ER for indicated patients.

**Phelps Memorial Health Center, Holdrege, NE** **December 2022-August 2025**Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant (PRN)

- Serves as PRN critical access emergency medicine physician assistant with overnight hospitalist coverage for inpatients.
- Executes ER procedures.
- Serve as PA and medical student preceptor.
- Perform admittance to inpatient or transfer patients to a higher level of care.
- Coordinate cross-cover for hospitalized patients (as a hospitalist PA) and coordinate cares with attending physician.
- Complete pre-op H+P for surgical patients.

**Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services | PA Licensure Committee** **2021-September 2025**Chairperson

Jan 1, 2023-2025

Vice Chairperson

December 1, 2021-December 31, 2022

- Makes/d recommendations regarding physician assistants to the Nebraska Board of Medicine and Surgery.

**Mary Lanning Hospital, Hastings, NE** **October 2021-April 2023**Hospitalist Medicine Physician Assistant

- Served as Antimicrobial stewardship committee member.
- Performed adult inpatient medical care from general medical to intensive care unit, new consults, and ER admissions.
- Respond to rapid response needs and code blue alerts.
- Served as PA student preceptor.
- Executed onboarding/orientation of new team members | PAs and APRNs.
- Recruited by C-suite members for additional administrative contract work to include creation of an orientation/onboarding handbook for APPs across all disciplines and updating hospital privileges for PAs and NPs in all areas of medicine.
- Executed Lead position for reviewing/revising PA and NP hospital privileges for all medical specialties by collaborating with each department chief. Revisions were submitted to Medical Executive Committee with an executive summary.
- Lead PA for hospitalist team which included onboarding new PAs and NPs and creation of a 12-week onboarding plan specific to the hospitalist team complete with mid-orientation and end-of-orientation assessments.

**Surgical Precision Staffing LLC, Nebraska and Kansas****February 2019-December 2022**Cardiothoracic Surgery Physician Assistant | Independent Contractor

- Locum tenens provider for inpatient, outpatient, and operating room patient care for cardiothoracic surgery patients in cardiothoracic surgery for hospitals in Kansas and Nebraska.
- Trained and onboarded new CT Surgery employees.
- Collaborated with CMO and CNO to create a multidisciplinary cardiac surgery boot camp for nurses, CNAs, PT/OT, cardiac rehabilitation nurses, pre-anesthesia team, pharmacists, and dietitian.
- Recorded cardiac surgery boot camp program to be used as a training tool for future employees.
- Performed review of cardiothoracic program for service line improvement and improved patient outcomes.
- Assessed processes from clinic to pre-anesthesia, from OR through inpatient care, and to cardiac rehabilitation for process improvement.
- Onboarded/trained new DNP cardiothoracic team member.
- Trained surgical assistants how to perform endoscopic vein harvest.

**Midwest Emergency Department Services, Grand Island, NE****July 2020-August 2021**Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant

- Performed as an emergency medicine physician assistant.
- Served as preceptor for medical residents.
- Performed ER procedures.
- Accommodated surge patient care for up to 8 additional patients in an onsite (but out of ER) temporary COVID isolation area for ER patients.

**McCone County Health Center Critical Access Hospital, Circle, MT****March 2020-June 2020**Hospitalist, Emergency Medicine, and Primary Care Physician Assistant | Temporary

- Performed as a physician assistant for emergency medicine, primary care, swing bed/hospitalist, and nursing home patient duties.
- Collaborated w/ administration to review/revise policy and procedure manuals for ER, primary care clinic, swing bed, & nursing home.
- Wrote policy/procedure to establish rural health clinic.
- Performed ER procedures.

**SCL Physicians, Billings, MT****October 2019-February 2020**Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery Physician Assistant

- Served as a CT surgery and vascular surgery physician assistant for inpatient, outpatient, and operating room for patients in cardiovascular surgery.

**Alverno College, Milwaukee, WI****June 2018-September 2019**Founding Physician Assistant Program Director

- Created a physician assistant program.
- Instituted curriculum design | creating syllabi and assessment measures.
- Established a 5-year budget including design/supply for a gross anatomy lab.
- Created job descriptions/assessments/ particulars for hiring of medical director, faculty, clinical coordinator, and administrative assistant.
- Served as supervisor for medical director, faculty, clinical coordinator, and administrative assistant.
- Established procedures for recruiting clinical preceptors, preparation for accreditation assessment, and created didactic and clinical student handbooks.

**Infinity Healthcare, Milwaukee, WI****September 2018-July 2019 & August 2009-June 2016**Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant | full-time and PRN

- Performed as an emergency medicine physician assistant caring for patients of all ages.
- Served as PA student preceptor.
- Performed ER procedures.

**Kaiser Permanente, Denver, CO****March 2015-September 2018**Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant PRN

- Performed as an emergency medicine physician assistant caring for patients of all ages.
- Fulfilled position of Instructor for multidisciplinary interprofessional splinting lab.
- Executed ER procedures.

**Denver Health and Hospital Authority, Denver, CO****January 2017-May 2018**Surgical Trauma Intensive Care Physician Assistant

- Served as a surgical trauma intensive care physician assistant.
- Executed bedside surgical procedures including central line and arterial line placement, chest tube thoracostomy, thoracentesis, PEG tube placement, percutaneous tracheostomy, bronchoscopy.
- CITI trained and enrolled patients in appropriate clinical studies.
- Served as Co-President of Advanced Practice Provider Council.

**SCL Physicians, Denver, CO****August 2014-December 2016**Cardiothoracic Surgery Physician Assistant

- Served as CT surgery physician assistant for inpatient, outpatient, and operating room for patients in cardiovascular surgery.
- Executed tasks as surgical first assist including EVH and ERAH. PA student preceptor.
- Participated in Hospital-wide nursing education for CT surgery.
- Established an Advance Practice Provider Council.
- Revised hospital privileges for PAs, NPs, CRNAs, midwives.

**Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin Community Physicians Milwaukee, WI****June 2004-August 2014**Cardiothoracic Surgery Physician Assistant | Lead PA | West Suburban Cardiothoracic Surgery.

- Performed duties as CT surgery physician assistant for inpatient, outpatient, and operating room care in cardiovascular surgery.
- Served as Lead PA. Surgical first assist, EVH, ERAH. PA and NP student preceptor.
- Participated in hospital wide nursing education for CT surgery.

**Infectious Disease Specialists of Southeast Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI****July 2007-February 2010**Infectious Diseases Physician Assistant

- Inpatient and outpatient infectious diseases physician assistant.

**University of Nebraska Medical Center Physician Assistant Program****2021-2026****Carroll University Physician Assistant Program****2012-2016****Marquette University Physician Assistant Program****2006-2009**Adjunct faculty and guest lecturer for PA programs.**Marquette University Physician Assistant Program****Carroll University Physician Assistant Program****University of Colorado Physician Assistant Program****College of Saint Mary Physician Assistant Program****University of Nebraska Medical Center Physician Assistant Program**Clinical Preceptor for PA Students**Volunteering**

- Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants (NAPA) | Continuing Medical Education Committee member August 2020-August 2021. | Communications Committee member August 2021-present. | House of Delegates Representative July 2021-June 2026. | Title Change Investigation Committee Chair, October 2022-June 2025 | President Elect, July 2023-June 2024. | President, July 2024 to June 2025. Past President, July 2025 to June 2026.
- American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA) • AAPA 2020-2021 | CME Lecture Proposal Grader for Commission on Continuing Professional Development and Education. | Reference committee member, House of Delegates, May 2023-2025.
- Wisconsin Academy of Physician Assistants (WAPA) | Continuing Medical Education Committee member June 2018-October 2019. | Communications Committee member March 2019-October 2019.
- Colorado Academy of Physician Assistants (CAPA) | Director at Large and Public Affairs Committee member 2015-2017. | Re-elected and Public Affairs Committee Chair 2017-June 2018.
- National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) PA National Recertification Exam (PANRE) PANRE 1 Core Focus Group 2016. | PANRE 2 Core Focus Group 2017 | Material Development Committee 2018.
- Advanced Practice Provider Council | Founding member Advance Practice Provider Council at St. Joseph Hospital, Denver June 2015-December 2016 | Co-Chair Advanced Practice Provider Council at Denver Health, April 2017-June 2018.

**Major Accomplishments**

- Writing policy, procedure, onboarding manuals for hospitals with CMO/CNO, reviewing/revising hospital privileges for advanced practice providers.
- Serving as House of Delegates (HOD) Representative for American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA), and HOD Reference Committee member responsible for reviewing/revising policy for AAPA and PAs across the nation.
- Capstone project and poster titled: "Physician Associates Roles in Healthcare Leadership in the United States: A Scoping Review."
- Capstone implementation project: "The Need for Proportionate Representation for Physician Associates on Medical Executive Committees: An Implementation Manuscript."
- Published Articles : Happily, provided upon Request.
- Public Speaking : Happily, provided on Request.

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### Speaking Engagements

- “Physician Associates Roles in Healthcare Leadership in the United States.” • South Dakota Academy of PAs CME conference March 2025 • Nebraska Academy of PAs Spring CME conference April 2025.
- “Point of Care Ultrasound” Nebraska Academy of PAs CME conference. November 2022.
- “Hypertensive Urgency and Emergency.” College of Saint Mary Physician Assistant Program. June 2021.
- “Cardiac Chest Pain.” University of Nebraska Medical Center Physician Assistant Program. Spring 2021.
- “Blunt Cerebrovascular Injury.” • Wisconsin Academy of PAs, The Great Midwestern Medical Conference. Fall 2020. • Trauma Grand Rounds, CHI Health Continuing Education. May 2021. • Massachusetts Academy of PAs Fall Conference October 2021.
- “Pediatric Head Trauma.” Wisconsin Academy of PAs, The Great Midwestern Medical Conference. Fall 2020.
- “Hand Trauma Essentials.” • Wisconsin Academy of PAs, The Great Midwestern Medical Conference. Fall 2020. • American Academy of Physician Associates CME Conference, Indianapolis, IN, May 2022.
- “Telemedicine and Telehealth for PAs: What You Need to Know.” • Massachusetts Academy of PAs CME Conference, October 2020. • American Association of Surgical Physician Assistants Spring Webinar Series. April 2020.
- “Cardiac Surgery Boot Camp” with workshop. University of Kansas St. Francis Campus. September – October 2019.
- “Be an Effective Clinical Preceptor.” • Engaging Community in Education and Research Conference by Colorado Area Health Education Center. September 2018. • American Academy of Physician Associates CME Conference, New Orleans, LA. May 2018. • Colorado Academy of PAs PA Professional Day, September 2017.
- “Student Corner” panel discussion with PA students and “Splinting Workshop.” Colorado Academy of PAs Winter CME Conference, February 2018.
- “Aortic Stenosis for Primary Care.” • Colorado Academy of PAs Winter CME Conference, February 2017. • Wisconsin Academy of PAs Fall CME Conference, October 2016.
- “Infectious Disease Update: A Tularemia and Plague Refresher.” Colorado Academy of PAs Winter CME Conference, February 2016.
- “Sepsis Update.” Wisconsin Academy of PAs Fall CME Conference, October 2017.
- “Common Dental Emergencies.” Wisconsin Academy of PAs Spring CME Conference, March 2015.
- “Post-Operative Complications.” Wisconsin Academy of PAs Spring CME Conference, April 2014. “Cardiac Surgery and Post-Operative Care.” • St. Joseph Hospital Critical Care Nursing Education Day. February 2016. • Waukesha Memorial Hospital – Heart Care Unit nursing education April 2013.
- Splinting Lab. St. Joseph Hospital, Emergency Department. February and October 2017. February, June, and September 2018.
- “Heart Surgery: Post-Operative Management for the ICU Nurse.” Three-hour collaborative lecture. Waukesha Memorial Hospital, ICU nursing education October 2013.

### Publications and Poster Presentations:

1. Nowak DM, Ackland-Berglund CE, Lo HP, Schwensow NM, Pritchard Jr., KA, Guice KS, Oldham KT. Pulmonary microvascular endothelial cells express less inducible nitric oxide synthase in response to endotoxemia than pulmonary artery endothelial cells in vivo. The FASEB Journal. 2001;15:A855.
2. Ackland-Berglund CE, Schwensow NM, Lo HP, Pritchard KA, Guice KS, Oldham KT: Human lung microvascular endothelial cells express less inducible nitric oxide synthase than aortic endothelial cells. (poster) Presented at the American Heart Association Scientific Conference on Interactions of Blood and the Pulmonary Circulation, Lost Valley Ranch, CO, September 8, 2000.
3. Nowak DM, Ackland-Berglund CE, Schwensow N, Witte K, Pritchard KA, Guice KS, Oldham KT: Differential neutrophil transmigration across endothelial cell monolayers derived from different vascular beds. Presentation at the Twenty-fourth Annual Conference on Shock, Marco Island, FL, June 2001.
4. Schwensow NM. Brief overview of assessment and prognostication tools for palliative care oncology patients. Lynchburg JMS. 2026;2,1,4. doi:10.63932/3067-7106.1068