Emory PA Students weigh in on Healthcare Reform with Johnathan Serrie on Fox News

First year Emory University Physician Assistant students Colin McDonald and Class president Elizabeth Murray both spent a hectic Thursday 7/30 running from class to a makeshift TV studio in the new Medical School building for three live nationally broadcasts with Fox news reporter (and Emory alumnus) Johnathan Serrie

Web links to watch the video:
America’s Future Doctors http://www.foxnews.com/search-results/m/25554433/americas-future-doctors.htm
Doctors of Tomorrow http://www.foxnews.com/search-results/m/25552276/doctors-of-tomorrow.htm

The new class of 54 graduating in 2011 come from 856 applications, 19 states, and 43 colleges and universities. Forty percent of the class speak a language in addition to English (Spanish being most popular). Approximately 22% of the class already hold a graduate degree. The gender mix in this class is 67% female, 33% male. The mean age is 28. For each seat occupied in this class, there were approximately 15 applicants. There are nine PA-MPH dual degree students who spent their first year at Rollins School of Public Health. Emory is ranked #3 in the nation among PA programs by US News and World Report.
Alumni Chris Berry PA-C, MMSc Publishes on Immunizations

Emory Alumni Christopher Barry, PA-C, MMSc, a physician assistant in pediatrics from Morrisville, N.C., has had an article published in a national medical journal on the medical approach to parents who hesitate—or say no outright—to have their children immunized for potentially serious childhood diseases.

Chris’s article appeared in the March 2009 issue of ADVANCE for Physician Assistants, a journal serving the nearly 74,000 physician assistants in practice in the United States. In addition to the print article, titled “Vaccine Hesitancy and Refusal,” Mr. Barry was featured in an interview in the journal’s Webcast for Feb. 26, 2009. The article and Webcast are available at www.advanceweb.com/pa.

In the article and Webcast, Mr. Barry, who practices at Jeffers, Mann and Artman Pediatrics in Raleigh, offers expert advice to his fellow health care providers about counseling parents on the importance—and safety—of having their children vaccinated.

“Vaccines are one of public health’s greatest accomplishments,” Mr. Barry writes in the article, noting that immunizing children has led to a 92% decline in cases of at least 10 vaccine-preventable diseases like measles, mumps and smallpox, and a near-100% reduction in deaths caused by these diseases. “Given the tremendous success of vaccines, what explains the controversy over and negativity toward vaccines today?” he writes.

In the Webcast interview, Mr. Barry explains how parents’ misconceptions about the safety of vaccines stems in part from a number of TV and movie stars who blame vaccines for autism, mercury poisoning and other serious conditions, despite that medical science has unequivocally disproven any links. Mr. Barry offers practical advice for health care providers to counter the influence of these persuasive celebrities.

Mr. Barry earned his undergraduate degree in zoology from Duke University and his physician assistant master’s degree from Emory University in Atlanta. In his nearly nine years of practice, Mr. Barry has served as president of the Society for Physician Assistants in Pediatrics and is currently the American Academy of Physician Assistants liaison to the American Academy of Pediatrics. He resides in Morrisville, N.C., with his wife, Ashley, and daughters Jessica and Leah.


The full 2009 child and adolescent immunization schedules can be obtained at the CDC’s Web site, www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/child-schedule.htm.
By Virginia Joslin PA-C, MPH

As the leadership in Washington struggles with the options for reform of healthcare delivery, health insurance and associated costs, a new model of healthcare delivery is stepping to the forefront as a way to improve health outcomes, improve patient and provider satisfaction, and cut costs.

Despite the advanced medical technology in the United States and the higher cost of healthcare compared to other developed nations, the US healthcare report card of quality of care, health outcomes and patient satisfaction is unsatisfactory. The Institute of Medicine’s 2001 Report, Crossing the Quality Chasm: a New Health System for the 21st Century, made recommendations for a fundamental change to close the quality gap and to redesign of the American health care system. The IOM committee report provided overarching principles for specific direction for policymakers, health care leaders, clinicians, regulators, purchasers, and others, and offered a set of performance expectations for the 21st century health care system, a set of 10 new rules to guide patient-clinician relationships, a suggested organizing framework to better align incentives inherent in payment and accountability with improvement in quality, and key steps to promote evidence-based practice and strengthen clinical information systems.

"Analyzing health care organizations as complex systems, this report also documents the causes of the quality gap, identifies current practices that impede quality care, and explores how systems approaches can be used to implement change". (www.iom.edu)

Research data confirms that people with a regular primary care provider have better health outcomes and regions with a higher number of primary care physicians/100,000 people have lower mortality rates. Analysis of health related costs burdens suggests that chronic diseases, most of which are related to unhealthy behaviors, emergency room visits for primary care problems, and preventable hospital readmissions shouts to our leadership that a focus on addressing these cost burdens might lower healthcare costs. Patients and primary care providers increasingly express dissatisfaction with the healthcare system. Access to care, decreasing reimbursement, expectations for maintain quality of care when primary care providers have 15 minutes to manage a patient with a chronic disease is becoming more of a challenge. Just who is in charge of this dysfunctional system?

The Value-based Patient Centered Medical Home model of healthcare delivery offers promise to address some of the cost, quality, and patient/provider dissatisfaction challenges. The goal is to provide what the patient needs, where he/she needs it, and when it is needed. The Obama administration is looking at this model of care and moving towards implementation of a Patient-Centered health care delivery system instead of a Physician or business-centered system.

The Joint Principles of the Medical Home model, which includes: 1) the patient’s active, personal, comprehensive, long-term relationship with a PCP, 2) a team approach to care, 3) enhanced access to the PCP team such as more flexible scheduling and communication channels, 4) coordination of care, 5) a secure health information technology infrastructure to include electronic medical records, data sharing with hospitals, EDs, specialists and community providers, and the patient, clinical decision-making support using evidence based guidelines and the ability to monitor health outcomes. The PCP is not a Gatekeeper, but the gateway to appropriate care, and the team serves to facilitate the services needed by the patient in a timely manner.

Healthcare reform will require a solid foundation of primary care. Dr. Marcus Welby of TV fame provided the model for most patients, who want a provider who knows them well, knows their family and the community, will spend the needed time with them and will engage the patient as the key member of the team. Why does a patient have to repeat their past medical and surgical history, family, social, occupational and medication history with every physician they visit? The health information technology of the near future should allow a patient to schedule appointments, request refills, communicate with their PCP and team, learn how to help care for themselves, and view their health record online. If a patient needs their PCP after office hours, they would have access to their provider by phone or in person unless the condition truly warrants a visit to the ER.

The Emory Department of Family and Preventive Medicine and PA Program are taking a lead at Emory to implement the Patient Centered Medical Home model, first for employees and their families. The Emory Medical neighborhood offers an unique opportunity to partner with the CDC, and the Atlanta VA Medical Center to offer this model of care. A Medical Home facility on campus to serve the employee populations of all three entities makes sense. Emory’s wealth of experts in the area of population based research, translational research, and medical and health professionals educational programs provides the opportunity to not only provide patient-centered team-based care, but to study the outcomes (cost, health status, patient and provider satisfaction, conduct practice improvement activities), and teach the future healthcare providers how to provide patient centered health care.

We as PAs should be an integral partner in the transformation of healthcare, whether we are primary care or specialty providers. The network of Physician/PA teams provides an opportunity to facilitate the timely coordination and provision of needed care. As alumni we are members of a potential system of PA to PA communication to carry the patient through the gateway to the system and to the appropriate level of service.

If you would like to know more, there is a wealth of information in both narrative and video clip format available at the Emory Family and Preventive Medicine website: www.fpm.emory.edu. Other valuable resources can be found at www.pcpc.net and http://www.transformed.com/.
Great new T-Shirts from the PA students

1700 Farmworkers cared for in 12 days.

Farmworker Health Project Named as the AAPA Host City Charity

AAPA has announced that the South Georgia Farmworker Health Project will be the host city charity when the AAPA convention comes to Atlanta in 2010. The project broke all records with over 1700 receiving health care run from June 12 - 26, with two 6-day weeks of makeshift mobile clinics. Approximately 80% of the senior class participated in the summer heat reaching 100+ degrees, along with PA faculty, some PA alumni, local providers and some wonderful Family Medicine and Pediatric physicians. See http://www.valdosta.edu/news/releases/migrant_070109/

The project had a $3750 award from PA Foundation in May for a patient education project. T-shirts with instructions for proper hydration tips were printed in Spanish and Creole and handed out to workers.

To read more about the history of the Project, visit the “Community Involvement” page at: www.emorypa.org.

There will be a Fall mini project October 16 –18. For more information, contact Tom Himelick at thimelick@learnlink.emory.edu

Get your Fun Run T-Shirt

2009 Emory Care To Share Fun Run
T-SHIRTS FOR SALE!!! $20
S, M, L, XL
100% of proceeds to support Emory PA Class of 2010
To order, please contact Carter Vann acbrook@emory.edu or 205.936.1736
Shirts will be mailed UPS

Carter Vann
1124 A Scott Blvd
Decatur, GA 30030

Class of 2010 worked hard to plan and conduct the 2009 5K PA Fun Run to benefit Jerusalem House of Atlanta, a homeless shelter for people with HIV/AIDS, the South Georgia FHP, and the Good Samaritan Clinic and raised nearly $12,000.
PA Program News

ReachMD XM160 | What PA’s need to know about genetic testing
June 8, 2009
Andrew Faucett, an assistant professor in the department of human genetics at Emory University School of Medicine and co-director of the genetics module in the Emory PA Program Foundations of Medical Science course. He joins host Lisa D’Andrea Lenell to discuss the importance of genetic medicine in physicians’ daily practice. http://www.reachmd.com/xmsegment.aspx?sid=4548

ReachMD XM160 | A medical library on your hip: How PDAs can help PAs
June 8, 2009 Allan Platt, author of Evidence Based Medicine for PDAs: A Guide for Practice, joined host Lisa D’Andrea Lenell to talk about the latest advances in medical applications on PDAs. They also discuss the best software for medical professionals and where this software is heading in the future. http://www.reachmd.com/xmsegment.aspx?sid=4380

JAAPA May 15 - Allan Platt wrote Put a PDA in your Practice for easy access to medical information. The full text can be seen at http://www.jaapa.com/Put-a-PDA-in-your-practice-for-easy-access-to-current-medical-information/article/136901/

PA Professional E-Connections by Allan Platt http://www.aapa.org/news/publications/pa-professional/?start=1

Terry Mize received the GAPA Humanitarian of the Year Award and is on the SEMPA Board of Directors Academic Affairs Committee of the American College of Emergency Physicians

Dana Sayer-Stanhope has her DFAAPA designation and is on the board of PAEA and on the board of International Forum for Physician Assistant Education

Catherine Wilson-Dragon received the GAPA Teacher of the Year Award

Tom Himelick—Served on the House of Delegates American Academy of Physician Assistants and the Advisory board for Family Health Services of Southwest GA this past year.


Alumni Persharon Mathis Dixon 88A initially worked in inner city Atlanta for a number of years prior to returning to medical school and is now a pediatrician. A recent NBC video covered Persharon’s work providing mobile medical care to victims of hurricane Katrina. She currently works with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Children’s Health Project.

Eric Fogg 96A serves on the Board of Directors as a Director-at-Large for the National Commission for the Certification of Physician Assistants. Additionally, Eric was awarded the Downeast Association of Physician Assistants 2007 Robert J. Lapham Outstanding Service Award. Mike Kramer 97A graduated summer 2009 with PhD in epidemiology. Currently he is research assistant professor in epidemiology at Rollins. Heidi Lim 96A has lived and worked in an exciting array of places from South Georgia to northern Arizona to Alaska. She has made repeated working trips to Antarctica (the South Pole), and was recently featured in The Emory Wire and Advance for Physician Assistants. Tonia Poteat 95A 07PH is a doctoral student in epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health. Tim Pysell 97A works at Emergency Coverage Corporation of TeamHealth as the Director of Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants. Tim hopes to receive his Doctor of Health Administration degree next year. Daynese Santos 88A works and lives in Africa, providing medical care to Peace Corps workers.

Many of the Emory PA Program alumni are PA Faculty/Educators. These include: Perri Morgan 87A, Nancy Lee 89A, Mary Warner 91A, Dave Brisette 94A, Rita Rienzo 94A, Cynthia Earl 94A, Wilton Kennedy 93A, Diane Dixon Abercrombie 97A, Julie Kenna 85?A, Bob Philpot 94A, John Burns 97A, Ami Robinson 99A, Lisa Nelson 99A, and Patricia Kelly 01. There are several Emory grads serving as faculty in PA educational programs in Africa and the UK.
New Faculty-Betsy Rothschild PA-C,MMSc

Betsy is a 1997 Emory PA Program graduate. Before becoming a PA at Emory she used her bachelor's degree in History (from Davidson College) in useful ways such as teaching history, working in admissions, directing student activities and being a barista! Her many interests include: hiking, pottery, bird watching...and learning to navigate Atlanta traffic again! After practicing 5 years in rural family medicine in the mountains of Virginia, she joined Duke PA Program faculty in 2002 as the Teaching Fellow and became full-time clinical coordinator in 2003. Betsy was involved in PAEA: as the South Eastern Consortium Chair 2004 – 2007 and she taught the clinical coordinator workshop: 2008 – 09. Betsy is looking forward to being back at as the Associate Program Director. She will be in the Student Health clinic one day a week where the Program’s medical Director Theresa Berry, MD is in practice.

“ What my Emory PA degree has done for me: instilled in me a desire to help others, get involved in the community and to be a lifelong learner. What my Emory PA degree has not done: it did not supply me with the needed skills to assemble my new gas grill in the suggested 45 minutes on the package directions. Instead it took me 3 hours and 23 minutes from box to flame, with only 2 small parts left over!”

Emer PA Alumni on Facebook

The Emory PA Program now has a Facebook page to share with your class alumni. Many classes have their own face book page for networking and sharing.

The www.EmoryPA.org website has an Alumni only section with current job postings and other features. To enter this section your username is all lowercase: emorygrad! Password is all lowercase: proudtobe

The Class of 2010 Rap

The energetic and creative class of 2010 had time to create a rap video about first year PA school titled “Know” The video is on Youtube at www.youtube.com search for Emory PA Rap or the direct link is http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aX7ime2b0N0

The lyrics to follow along for verse one are :

Chorus: Mayfield is the Queen (queen) Bates is the word (the word) The whole class Is sufferin' from GERD

We hit the flo’ (we hit the flo’) Sippin’ Pepto So much to know know know know know

PA and MDs Can both diagnose disease We skip residency And work together as a team

2 years instead of four So we need to cram much more So much to know know know know know

Verse 1 I ain’t never seen a class like ICM all these lectures makes my mind spin Emory PA criculum don’t think I can handle all this medicine

So technical, complex, ya know this physical exam no joke. Hold up wait a minute. I don’t know what I just say now?

Do I think I just say a smile-frown? Did I see a pan-optic go round? You’re typhin your notes I’m writin mine down. Jesse got naked now he’s getting clowned.

But the cardiac PA was smiling got an exam comin up and I’m wildin crammin and crammin. how much can I pile in? Barely passin you know that’s my style. cause you know that
Benefits and Scholarships

**SkyScape PDA books:** 25% discount on Skyscape PDA books are available at the EmoryPA book portal at http://www.skyscape.com/EmoryPA

**Board Review Discounts:** of $75 off the live review in September or $50 off the DVD version for home study.

**Scholarships:** In 2008, there were five $5000 Veteran’s, one $3,000 Underrepresented Minority, one $3,000 Humanitarian, and one $3,000 Rural student scholarships awarded. The Friends of the PA Program is a project that provides emergency financial assistance to any student with unexpected bills due medical bills for their children or for additional assistance for child care to allow the student parent to join weekend and evening study groups.

**Donation:** Donations are needed for the scholarship fund of your choice or for the community service projects of your choice. The South Georgia Farmworker Health Project or the Good Samaritan Health Clinic.

**Contact** Virginia Joslin PA-C, MPH at 404-727-4500 or email vjoslin@learnlink.emory.edu to discuss donation questions.

---

Order/Donation Registration form

Please circle

Name:__________________________  — Live Board Review Conference 9/29/09  
   — Emory Alumni or Military  $450

Address________________________
   — Home Board Review Study DVD  
   — Emory Alumni or Military  $300
   — Circle: Mac or PC/Windows

City/ST /Zip:____________________
   — Total Payment
   — Donation for __________________________

Payment
Visa/MC #:______________________ Exp Date (mm/YY)__________

Daytime Phone:__________________

Email:__________________________ Signature _______________________

Fax credit card orders to 404-727-7836
Mail Checks and Money orders to

---

Emory University
Physician Assistant Program

1462 Clifton Road NE
Suite 280
Atlanta, GA 30322
Emory University
Physician Assistant Program

1462 Clifton Road NE
Suite 280
Atlanta, GA 30322

Phone: 404-727-7825
Fax: 404-727-7836
E-mail: aplatt@emory.edu
Web: www.EmoryPA.org

Alumni and Friends—Let us know where you are and what you are doing. We want to publish your stories and let you know of some great benefits—aplatt@emory.edu

Educating the Best PAs in the world with a mission to the underserved

Faculty and Staff
Virginia Joslin, PA-C, MPH
Dana Sayre-Stanhope EdD, PA-C
Betsy Rothschild, PA-C MMSc
Terry Mize, PA-C MMSc
Marquitha Mayfield PA-C, MEd.
Karen Newell, PA-C MMSc,
Catherine Wilson Dragon, PA-C MMSc,
Liz Valdez, PA-C MMSc
Allan Platt, PA-C, MMSc
Bill Bryson, PA-C MMSc
Tom Himelick, PA-C, MMSc
Barbara Jones,
Kaye Johnson
Tabitha Butler
Pat Woodard
Fran Willis
Division Director
Program Director
Associate Program Director
Director of Admissions
Academic Coordinator
Academic Coordinator
Director of Clinical Coordinators
Clinical Coordinator
Advanced Didactic Coordinator
Advanced Didactic Coordinator
Director of Community Projects
Office Manager
Associate Director of Admissions
Academic Administrative Assistant
Clinical Administrative Assistant
Administrative Assistant

PA Board Review— at home on the GO, or in Atlanta

Live in Atlanta— Come to Atlanta for the 19th annual Board Review Conference Sept 29 – Oct 3, 2009 at the Holiday Inn Decatur Conference Center, just minutes from restaurants, MARTA and Emory. Rooms are being offered for $99 per night. This year will feature new talks on test taking skills and we are applying for 35 hours Category 1 CME. Come join in with 200 of your colleagues to hear the latest highlights in primary care.

Registration includes a published syllabus, DVD with the 2009 conference video and MP-3 audio, full lunches and breaks. The price is $475 for all 35 hours. There is a $75 discount for Emory alumni and active military See www.EmoryPA.org and go to the live Board Review page for all the details.

DVD-Version—New this year is the PDA video version of the 2009 conference filmed live and placed in an interactive format for easy review. This includes 30 hours of Category 1 CME.

Requirements—Mac or Windows XP - Vista PC with DVD player. Requires the free Internet Explorer, Windows media player and Adobe reader Mac Safari or Firefox, browser. There are video files for iPhone, iTouch and several other PDAs

The DVD version plays in computer DVD players and contains all the video and MP3 audio files for use on an iPod or other digital music player.

The price is $350. There is a $50 discount for Emory alumni and active military. Call for student or