

EMORY



*Emory University School of Medicine
Physician Assistant Program*

Class of 2020

Graduation Ceremony

December eighteenth, two thousand twenty



EMORY
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM
GRADUATION CEREMONY

THE EIGHTEENTH OF DECEMBER
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY

The Alma Mater

	Order of Exercises	3
IN THE HEART OF DEAR OLD EMORY WHERE THE SUN DOTH SHINE, THAT IS WHERE OUR HEARTS ARE TURNING ‘ROUND OLD EMORY’S SHRINE.	The Order of Exercises	4
WE WILL EVER SING THY PRAISES, SONS AND DAUGHTERS TRUE. HAIL WE NOW OUR ALMA MATER, HAIL THE GOLD AND BLUE!	Recipients of Degrees	5
THO’ THE YEARS AROUND US GATHER, CROWNED WITH LOVE AND CHEER, STILL THE MEMORY OF OLD EMORY GROWS TO US MORE DEAR.	Physician Assistant Oath	6
WE WILL EVER SING THY PRAISES, SONS AND DAUGHTERS TRUE. HAIL WE NOW OUR ALMA MATER, HAIL THE GOLD AND BLUE!	History of the PA Profession The Emory PA Program	7

—J. MARVIN RAST 1918

The Order of Exercises

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

Maha B. Lund, DHSc, PA-C, DFAAPA
Program Director

WELCOME

Theodore M. Johnson II, MD, MPH
Chair, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine

INVOCATION

Reverend Dr. Khalia J. Williams
Assistant Dean of Worship and Music, Candler School of Theology

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER

Taylor B. Hayes, PA-S
Class President

GRADUATION ADDRESS

Camara Phyllis Jones, MD, MPH, PhD
*Senior Fellow, Satcher Health Leadership Institute and
Cardiovascular Research Institute
Adjunct Associate Professor,
Morehouse School of Medicine
Adjunct Professor,
Rollins School of Public Health*

PRESENTING CANDIDATES FOR
MASTER OF MEDICAL SCIENCE

Jodie L. Guest, PhD, MPH
*Associate Program Director
Vice Chair, Department of Epidemiology
Professor, Emory University School of Medicine
and Rollins School of Public Health*

HOODING OF CANDIDATES

Karen A. Newell, MMSc, PA-C, DFAAPA
Assistant Professor

Lissette E. Valdes, MMSc, PA-C
Assistant Professor

PRESENTING CANDIDATES FOR
MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Alex V. Kendall, MS, PA-C
*Associate Program Director
Assistant Professor*

HOODING OF CANDIDATES

Jodie L. Guest, PhD, MPH

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

John William Eley, MD, MPH
*Executive Associate Dean, Medical Education and Student Affairs
Emory University School of Medicine*

RETROSPECTIVE

Niels Carl Sorensen, PA-S

PA PROFESSIONAL OATH

PA Faculty

CLOSING REMARKS

Maha B. Lund, DHSc, PA-C, DFAAPA

BENEDICTION

Reverend Dr. Khalia J. Williams

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM FACULTY

Susana Alfonso, MD, MHCM
Medical Director
Assistant Professor

Jeremy Amayo, MMSc, PA-C
Adjunct Assistant Professor

William H. Bryson, MMSc, PA-C
Assistant Professor

Amber Davis, MMSc, PA-C
Assistant Professor

Catherine Dragon, MMSc, PA-C
Director of Clinical Education
Assistant Professor

Jonie Fawley, MPAS, PA-C
Assistant Professor

Shelly-Ann Fluker, MD
Associate Professor

Antonio Graham, DO
Associate Medical Director
Assistant Professor

Jodie L. Guest, PhD, MPH
Associate Program Director
Vice Chair, Department of Epidemiology
Professor, Emory University
School of Medicine and
Rollins School of Public Health

Alexander V. Kendall, MS, PA-C
Associate Program Director
Assistant Professor

Maha B. Lund, DHSc, PA-C, DFAAPA
Program Director
Associate Professor

Karen A. Newell, MMSc, PA-C, DFAAPA
Assistant Professor

Allan Platt, MMSc, PA-C, DFAAPA
Director of Admissions
Assistant Professor

Martha Sikes, MS, RPH, PA-C
Assistant Professor

Veketa Smith, MMSc, PA-C, MPH
Assistant Professor

Lisette E. Valdes, MMSc, PA-C
Assistant Professor

RECIPIENTS OF DEGREES

MASTER OF MEDICAL SCIENCE

Emily Marie Akley
Berenice Arias
Kathryn Nichole Authier
Brittany Lee Darling Bays
Megan Vaughn Belanger
Brent Legrand Bowler
Liza Paige Chapman
Krizia Chinchilla Cartin
Helena Mengshi Dai
Alison DeMarco
Lindsey Beth Dixon
Allysja Jhordana Duncan
Amanda May Dunn
Jenna Leigh Earls
Grace Helen Frankel
Tamara Shanise Gilchrist
Giovanna Magdalena Golem
Jamie Young Hamblin
Sruthi Hariprasad
Taylor Bauer Hayes
Catherine Mary Richardson Hodsdon
Abigail Huerta
William Jackson
Abigail Katherine Johnson
Lacey Annette King
Daniel Kliner
Elizabeth LaBella
Sarah Beth Maichel
Brittany Tearo Moon
Trenton Kahlil Moore
Rachael Leigh Morffi
Emily Christine Murrow
Taylor Burke Nagel
Haley Nicole Newman
Amanda Lee Panepento
Heather Lynn Perona
Luis Rafael Pluguez
Carlyn Parker Poindexter

Gary Steven Prebeck
Brett Daniel Puckett
Adam Ellis Ridley
Jared Kenneth Robinson
Carmen Elena Roth
Julie Elizabeth Smith
Niels Carl Sorensen
Tyler Alexander Southern
Marjorie Victoria Taylor
Pooja Unjiya
Leslie Christina Walker
Nathan Scott Wehtje
Kathryn Michelle Wells
Ryan Thomas Winter

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Emily Marie Akley
Helena Mengshi Dai
Taylor Bauer Hayes
Amanda Lee Panepento
Jared Kenneth Robinson

THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROFESSIONAL OATH

I PLEDGE TO PERFORM THE FOLLOWING DUTIES WITH HONESTY AND DEDICATION:

I will hold as my primary responsibility the health, safety, welfare, and dignity of all human beings.

I will uphold the tenets of patient autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence, and justice.

I will recognize and promote the value of diversity.

I will treat equally all persons who seek my care.

I will hold in confidence the information shared in the course of practicing medicine.

I will assess my personal capabilities and limitations, striving always to improve my medical practice.

I will actively seek to expand my knowledge and skills, keeping abreast of advances in medicine.

I will work with other members of the health care team to provide compassionate and effective care of patients.

I will use my knowledge and experience to contribute to an improved community.

I will respect my professional relationship with the physician.

I will share and expand knowledge within the profession.

These duties are pledged with sincerity and upon my honor.

HISTORY OF THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROFESSION

IN THE MID-1960S, PHYSICIANS AND EDUCATORS RECOGNIZED THERE WAS A SHORTAGE OF primary care physicians. In response, the PA profession was created to improve and expand healthcare. To help address this issue, Eugene A. Stead Jr., MD created the first class of Physician Assistants in 1965 at Duke University Medical Center. He selected four Navy corpsmen who had received considerable medical training during their military service. Dr. Stead based the curriculum of the PA program on his knowledge of the fast track training of physicians during World War II. The first PA class graduated from the Duke University Physician Assistant program on October 6, 1967.

The PA concept was adopted and gained federal acceptance and backing as early as the 1970s as a creative solution to the physician shortage. The medical community helped support the new profession and spurred the setting of accreditation standards, establishment of a standardized national certification examination, and development of continuing medical education requirements.

THE EMORY UNIVERSITY PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

THE EMORY UNIVERSITY PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM EVOLVED FROM THE PIONEERING Cardiology Medical Specialty Associate Program at Grady Memorial Hospital in 1967 under the direction of Dr. J. Willis Hurst. Dr. Hurst was a close friend of Dr. Eugene A. Stead Jr., who is considered the founder of the PA profession. Early in 1971 the Division of Allied Health Professions of the Emory University School of Medicine initiated the Emory Physician Associate Program, a name it retained until 1990. Beginning in 1973, graduates received a Bachelor of Medical Science degree. In 1981 this Division was dissolved and the program moved to the Department of Community Health in the Division of Primary Care. With the advent of a Department of Family and Preventive Medicine in 1995, the program became the Physician Assistant Division within this newly formed department. Graduates have been awarded the Master of Medical Science (MMSc) degree since 1990. In collaboration with the Rollins School of Public Health, a dual MMSc/MPH degree was first awarded in 2009.

The Emory University Physician Assistant Program has a long, proud history as one of the premier programs in the country, ranking in the top 5 for the past 15 years. In addition to didactic and clinical obligations, the program is particularly proud of the strong heritage of community engaged learning that drives its students. Each year Emory PA students take that commitment to South Georgia to care for migrant farm workers from various countries, who harvest many of the crops found in our grocery stores. In addition, Emory PA students and faculty provide care for the uninsured, homeless, or those in need in urban Atlanta clinics. They also assist with community builds for Habitat for Humanity. The program emphasizes evidence-based primary care and preventive medicine, as well as the provision of health care to the medically underserved. The program promotes team-based care, patient advocacy, and the delivery of primary health care for all patients. Graduates are prepared to practice clinically in a wide variety of primary care and specialty settings, engage in life-long learning, assume leadership roles, and support research.

