Dear Members,

As I begin my role as president of Physician Assistants for Global Health it is important to acknowledge the incredible dedication and hard work that our former president Olivia Bockoff, PA-C has put in over the last two years. Olivia dedicates an amazing amount of her free time to PAGH on top of her very busy work schedule as a trauma surgery PA at Jersey City Hospital and as an emergency medicine PA at both Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and Mountainside Hospital. Under her presidency (and through the hard work of the our volunteer board members) PAGH has achieved non-profit status, gained its own vote in the AAPA House of Delegates, grown its membership to over 100 members, and has began to expand the benefits for our members. Olivia’s time and passion for both global health as well as PAGH have helped ensure that we can continue to exist as a resource for both PAs and PA students.

There still remains much to be done to help PAGH grow and it begins with our members. During the AAPA conference in Toronto hundreds of PAs and PA students came by our booth in the exhibition hall and the overwhelming majority commented on how glad they were that PAGH existed. Without a doubt the role

Continued on Page 3

Almost four thousand physician assistants descended upon Toronto, Canada to attend Impact 2012 and PAGH was there to witness it all. This conference was a fruitful one with an expansion of our organization’s power in the AAPA House of Delegates, networking with hundreds of PAs who had yet to hear of PAGH, and a successful annual business meeting which included a scholarship award to one of the student members of PAGH, Emily Pilachowski. And of course there were CME events which focused on medical knowledge for PAs about to work internationally as well as those which reviewed the PA role in the international health care arena. Among the many

Continued on Page 2
great lectures, Cyril Thomas, a PAGH member presented a well-received lecture, “PAs Internationally - Avoiding Faux PAs That Can Ruin Your International Work”.

PAGH Exhibit Hall Booth & Annual PAGH Business Meeting
This year the layout of the exhibition hall was slightly different, placing many of the constituent organizations (COs) in the same area. Since PAGH is a caucus of AAPA we were in this group. This proved to be an improvement as many PAs and PA students were able to zero in on a CO that represented their interests and the PAGH booth was a popular stopping point. We continued to spread the word about PAGH, our mission, and the need for both members and volunteers to help us grow. Many conference attendees were shocked that they had never heard of us and over 20 people signed up at the conference itself to become part of PAGH. In addition PAGH had many Canadian and Dutch PAs stop by our booth, all expressing interest in ensuring PAs continue to be a vital force in international medical teams worldwide.

Our annual business meeting was well attended and began with an incredibly informative lecture on refugees given by PAGH Secretary Brittany Collins and PAGH Student Representative Jenny Kluznik. This was followed with the scholarship presentation to Emily Pilachowski, our 2012 Student Scholarship recipient. Ms. Pilachowski was joined by her enthusiastic faculty representative Joseph Zaweski, the current Academic Coordinator for the Arcadia University PA Program. The meeting also included an introduction to PAGH for those that were new to our organization as well as the presentation of our board members. The official meeting ended with the transition of the presidency from our outstanding president Olivia Bockoff who has successfully led PAGH for the last two years to our current president, Jacob Hauptman. The rest of the evening included a lively discussion on improving PAGH and growing our organization so that we can offer more services to our members.

PAGH in the HOD and the PAGH Poster
This year the AAPA House of Delegates voted to approve an individual vote for all active Caucuses which means that PAGH will have a vote next year when the HOD meets in Washington D.C. That means next year PAGH will be looking to our members to help us decide on how to vote on some key resolutions. PAGH also presented a poster at the 21st Annual Clinical and Professional Poster Session entitled “Physician Assistant Interest in Work in Medically Underserved Areas Abroad or in the United States”. This presentation sparked interest in the conference attendees and led to many discussions with our PAGH representatives, Olivia Bockoff and Jenny Kluznik.
What an exciting year it has been for PAGH!! After a huge accomplishment obtaining 501C3 status, the excitement continues to the AAPA House of Delegates where we obtained our own seat! Yes, YOU, as members of PAGH now have a direct voice in the House of Delegates.

Let’s back up and see how we got here. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the structure within the AAPA, Physician Assistants for Global Health is considered a caucus which falls under the umbrella of constituent organizations. Until this year, all caucuses had one seat in the House of Delegates under the Caucus Congress. The congress consisted of a diverse group including the caucus of Veteran PAs, Fellowship of Christian PAs, PAs for Global Health, the African caucus, PAs for Latino Health, LGBT and others.

The congress would meet each year before the HOD and discuss the resolutions. Each caucus could suggest to pull any resolution and offer their commentary; which the representative would take into the HOD. If any caucus objected to a resolution, the representative was asked not to support the resolution. Given such a diverse group, discussions were often heated and many resolutions pulled. Although many caucuses agree that the opportunity to discuss resolutions and gain a greater understanding and perspective before the HOD session was beneficial, in the end they were frustrated that so many people fell under one vote on the floor. Some caucuses had more members than state organizations, which each had a vote and felt that they were not fairly representing their interest group within the AAPA.

In the fall of 2011, a group of caucus leaders, including Olivia Bockoff- immediate past president of PAGH were asked to participate in a task force to re-evaluate the structure and representation of a caucus. The end result became resolution A-01, which passed in the 2012 House of Delegates. Beginning in 2013, PAGH will be proud to represent your voice to the AAPA.

Continued from Page 1

PAGH fills is a crucial one however it is one that we cannot continue to fill without help. We are a volunteer-based organization and without the volunteer power PAGH cannot continue to improve and evolve.

During the next year I challenge each of our members to contribute their time to PAGH and help make this organization the best it can be. It can be as simple as recruiting one of your colleagues to join PAGH or you can dive all the way in by volunteering your time as a board member of PAGH. I’m positive that with your help Physician Assistants for Global Health can become a major force in promoting physician assistants worldwide.

Sincerely,
Jacob Hauptman, PA-C
President PAGH/Nexus Editor
House calls are not just a thing of the past. This is just one of the things I learned from my month in the Puerto Plata province of the Dominican Republic (DR) this spring during my global health clinical rotation. It rained daily the first week as we walked in the muddy dirt streets on the way to the villages to see patients, and I vividly remember some of the sights that we passed. A dead dog on the side of the road one morning, half-naked children playing in the mud, a woman walking with a massive bowl of peanuts balanced precariously on her head, and as always, children asking for pesos. I remember thinking as I walked how very different it was practicing medicine in this rural country, as compared to what I had been doing in my other rotations in the US.

The home visits were conducted with patients in the Chronic Care Program of Health Horizons International (HHI), a US-based non-profit organization that works towards providing access to sustainable, quality health care in impoverished communities of the DR. Two of my classmates and I were welcomed onto their mixed team of American and Dominican staff. They have developed a unique model that provides continuous health care to the communities that they serve with the combined approach of a community health workers program, regular US medical staffed service trips, and various public health research and development projects.

HHI is based in Montellano, a town on the northern coast of the island that was built up around a once thriving sugarcane refinery. The refinery’s closing has created a large unemployment rate that has led to poverty for many, most obviously seen in an area on the outskirts of the town, called Pancho Mateo. Pancho Mateo was initially a barracks, or batey, that was constructed in the early 1900s to house the Haitian migrant workers and their families. It has now developed into an overcrowded community of an estimated 2,000 poverty stricken Dominicans and Haitians that suffer frequently from infectious diseases including dengue fever, intestinal parasites, and a recent cholera outbreak. There is also a high prevalence of chronic conditions in this community, as well as in the three rural villages that HHI serves in the mountainous inland. Such conditions as diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, asthma, and epilepsy are difficult to treat in these areas with scarce access to medical care. HHI recognized the need for these conditions to be managed with a continuity of care that was not previously available.

Working towards this effort, HHI has trained more than thirty locals to be community health workers, or cooperadores, in their communities and provide basic primary care and patient education. One of my roles was to assist the cooperadores with the home visits. I also participated in field screenings in these communities for unrecognized patients with hypertension and diabetes, so that they could be identified before the medical service trip (MST) the following week. HHI sponsors MSTs three times a year, each involving a week-long series of primary health care field clinics. At these clinics we examined and treated all of the current patients and over a hundred other people with acute or emergent issues.
Other tasks involved coordinating appointments with the specialists, accompanying patients to the appointments, following up with the patients after the MST, and communicating the results with the providers that had gone back to the US. We were kept busy, but I always felt that for as much as we were doing, I always wanted to be doing even more, for the need was great and it was ever more personal the more that I grew to understand it.

One of the most difficult parts of the experience was the provider and staff meeting at the beach at the end of the MST. For the patients that were found to have severe disease states that needed additional testing or imaging, or additional medication, surgery or other specialist care, we had to triage their cases and decide if HHI could provide them with further assistance. In the US, triaging means sorting out which patients need treatment now versus waiting. In the DR, triaging meant sorting out which patients got treatment at all and that was a difficult process to be a part of.

Besides the medical system of the DR, I learned about the people, culture, and way of life in this country. We grew accustomed to speaking Spanish daily, hand washing our clothes, traveling on motos up into the mountains and riding on the guaguas to the cities. We grew close to the patients, the cooperadores, and especially to the HHI staff. Even the things that once seemed strange became commonplace to me by the end of the month, such as the cows grazing on the side of the road, the cockroaches in the buildings, sleeping under mosquito nets, falling asleep to the sounds of the dogs barking in the streets, and waking to the crows of the roosters.

The one thing that I couldn’t get used to was seeing firsthand the social and economic disparity for the undocumented Haitian immigrants that are without rights in the DR. For them there are even greater obstacles to employment, education, and healthcare. Nothing could have prepared me for the feelings that I had watching over a Haitian patient who had no one to care for her in the hospital or working alongside a Haitian cooperadore that I had grown close to and respected, knowing that he was not considered an equal among the Dominicans.

This global health rotation has expanded my perspective on health care in other countries and has given me a deeper understanding of the significant disparities that exist in many aspects of life for underserved populations around the world. Therefore, I believe that this experience will contribute to my cultural competency as a PA. It has also fueled my desire to work in primary care in an underserved area and to continue to travel, hopefully making it back to the DR again someday. A common answer to almost any question in the DR is “Si Dios quiere”, which means “If God wants it to be”. While I still do not truly understand how people will not answer for themselves and can just leave it up to God as to what will happen, I do know that the future is uncertain for us all. And no matter where I end up, I hope to take this experience with me to help each of the patients that I encounter in my future career “si Dios quiere”.

Continued from Page 4
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome To Our New and Returning Fellow Members!
  Ken Cetin
  Cindy Reynolds
  Mary Springston
  Chris LeBouthillier
  Eileen Hansbury
  Jonathan Green
  Debra Spain
  Laura Delaney
  Laura Kirk
  April Frowner
  Tammy Webb
  Grace Landel
  Bhavna Gvalani
  Jill Christie
  Susanne Reich
  Rachel Markey
  Brooke Hoesterey
  MacKenzie Bohlen

Welcome To Our New Student Members!
  Jessica Morales
  Jessica Rein
  Emily Winter
  Mumbi Ngugi
  W. Garrett Reynolds
  Amanda Niemann
  Michelle De Santis
  Kailie Senecsko

PAGH Has A New Public Relations Chair
PAGH welcomes Lea Dunn, a PA who works in Oceanside, California as our new Public Relations Chair! She works in occupational health and has volunteered abroad during the cholera epidemic in Haiti. She will be speaking on this at our upcoming conference in October.

PAGH Has A New Student Representative
PAGH welcomes Emily Pilachowski, a dual masters student at Arcadia University as our new Student Representative! She has been a member for 3 years and has contributed to the Nexus in the past. Emily will be completing a 2 month rotation abroad in Thailand in 2013.

PAGH Has A New Fundraising Chair
PAGH welcomes Olivia Bockoff, our Immediate Past President as our new Fundraising Chair! Olivia has devoted many hours of her time to PAGH and will continue to do so to help ensure that PAGH continues to be a resource for PAs and PA students who are interested in Global Health.
Please Don’t Forget To Renew!!!

PAGH needs to your continued support to grow! If your membership is about to expire, please go to www.pasforglobalhealth.us to renew now!

2012 International AIDS Conference
www.aids2012.org
July 22 - July 27, 2012 in Washington, DC

New PAGH Research

PAGH is conducting new research and is looking for PAs who have practiced internationally for 6 months or more to please email us at pasforglobalhealth@gmail.com if interested in participating.

Apply for the 2012 PAGH Fellow Grant

Apply by August 1st, 2012 for the $500 fellow grant which is intended to support members working in underserved areas. You must be a current PAGH member to apply.

Interested In Practicing In Canada?
http://capa-acam.ca/en/

The 2012 Physician Assistant Entry to practice certification examination (PA Cert Exam) will take place on 11 October 2012.

2012 Family Medicine Global Health Workshop

September 6- 8, 2012 at the Marriott Minneapolis City Center in Minneapolis, MN.

International Training Courses Available

Oregon Health and Sciences University: Portland, Oregon: Check website for schedule.
http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/continuing-education/global-health-center/gh-education/ptgh.cfm

Institute for International Medicine; Kansas City, Missouri: Exploring Medical Missions Conference
http://inmed.us/exploring_medicalmissions_conference.asp
Volunteer Opportunities

Health Education And Relief Through Teaching (HEARTT)
www.hearttfoundation.org
Ongoing volunteer work in Liberia.

The Tandana Foundation
www.tandanafoundation.org
Otavalo, Ecuador: October 6th - October 14th, 2012
Mali: January, 2013

Mountain Medics International
www.mountainmedics.org
Pisco Earthquake Recovery: Ongoing
Peru (Near Machu Picchu): August 17th - August 29th, 2012

Project CURE
www.projectcure.org
Tepa, Ghana: September 22nd - October 8th, 2012
El Crucero, Nicaragua: October 13th - October 28th, 2012

International Medical Relief
www.internationalmedicalrelief.org
Kenya: August 2nd - August 12th, 2012
Haiti: September 1st - September 9th, 2012

Timmy Global Health
www.timmyglobalhealth.org
Monte Cristi, Dominican Republic: August 11th-August 19th, 2012
Quetzaltenango, Guatemala: August 18th - August 25th, 2012

Flying Doctors of America
www.fdoamerica.org
Cusco, Peru: October 6th - October 13th, 2012
Cambodia: October 19th - October 27th, 2012
Volunteer Opportunities Continued

Kenya Relief  
www.kenyarelief.org
Frequent missions to Kenya. Contact organization for more information/trips.

Palmetto Medical Initiative  
www.palmettomedical.org
Masindi, Uganda: December 7th - 17th, 2012

Health Horizon International  
www.hhidr.org
Dominican Republic: September 1st - September 8th, 2012 & January 5th - January 12th, 2013

Project Hope  
www.projecthope.org
Peru: June 16th - July 28th, 2012  
West and Central Africa: August 3rd - September 21st, 2012

Peacework Medical Projects  
www.peaceworkmedical.com
Nacaome, Honduras: January 2013

Amazon Promise  
www.amazonpromise.org

July 14th - August 11th, 2012: Medical Student Internship - Two weeks in Iquitos, two weeks in the jungle villages of the Yarapa, lower Ucayali, and the lower Maranon Rivers.


October 6th - October 27th, 2012: Medical Professionals and Students, 1, 2, or 3 weeks in Iquitos as well as villages of the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve.
Volunteer Organizations

If you are aware of any trips or organizations that are looking for PA volunteers, please contact our president, Olivia at obockoff@gmail.com. Please Note: it is not our desire to promote specific organizations only to connect PAs with opportunities and encourage professional philanthropy. This information is not an endorsement of these organizations.

**Nunoa Project**- two trips a year to Peru. [www.nunoaproyect.org](http://www.nunoaproyect.org)

**Panama Global Connections**- schedules trips as volunteers become available. [www.panamaglobalconnections.com](http://www.panamaglobalconnections.com)

**Heart to Heart International**- weekly trips to Hait and Guatemala. [www.hearttoheart.org](http://www.hearttoheart.org)

**Amazon Promise**- Medical trips to portions of the Amazon Basin. [www.amazonpromise.org](http://www.amazonpromise.org)

**Peacework Medical Projects** - [www.peaceworkmedical.com](http://www.peaceworkmedical.com)

**Project Hope** - land based and ship-based care to regions around the world. [www.projecthope.org](http://www.projecthope.org)

**Health Horizon International** - [www.hhidr.org](http://www.hhidr.org)

**Palmetto Medical Initiative**- [www.palmettomedical.org](http://www.palmettomedical.org)

**The Carolina Honduras Health Foundation** - Limón, Honduras. Active clinic, frequent need for medical volunteers. [www.carolinahonduras.org](http://www.carolinahonduras.org)

**Community Coalition For Haiti**- need for medical professionals for 1-2 week trips to staff a primary clinic in Jacmel, Haiti. [www.cchaiti.org](http://www.cchaiti.org)

**Flying Samaritans Mexico**- looking for volunteers year-round for Baja California, Mexico. [www.flyingsamaritans.net](http://www.flyingsamaritans.net)

**Health Volunteers Overseas**- looking for volunteers to train and educate local health care providers around the world. [www.hvousa.org](http://www.hvousa.org)

**Timmy Global Health**- looking for volunteers year-round. [www.timmyglobalhealth.org](http://www.timmyglobalhealth.org)

**Hospitals of Hope**- Year-Round Clinic work opportunities in Bolivia, Haiti, and Liberia. [www.hospitalsofhope.org](http://www.hospitalsofhope.org)

**Mountain Medics International**- clinic in Cordillera Huayhuash, Peru. [www.mountainmedics.org](http://www.mountainmedics.org)

**Christian Medical and Dental Assistance** - looking for mission volunteers. [www.cmda.org](http://www.cmda.org)
Volunteer Organizations Continued

**Benjamin Wellness Center** - Opportunities in Gatamaiyu, Kenya. [www.benjaminwellness.org](http://www.benjaminwellness.org)

**Exploration Logistics** - Places PAs worldwide to serve as medical support for various expeditions. Positions include oil rigs and other industrial projects, etc. [www.elgfze.com](http://www.elgfze.com)

**Medical Missions Response** - Trips to North Africa, Middle East, South Asia, East Asia. [www.mmronline.org](http://www.mmronline.org)

**HealtheChildren** - Trips to Ecuador and Haiti. Contact: jensorooni@gmail.com [www.healthechildren.us](http://www.healthechildren.us)

**Africa Cancer Care Inc** - International opportunities with an oncology focus. [www.africacancercareinc.org](http://www.africacancercareinc.org)

**NYC Medics, Physicians for Peace, and Mercy Ships** are organizations that are looking for volunteers.

**ICHA Outreach to fight Cardiovascular Disease** - Opportunities in Ghana. [www.ichaonline.org](http://www.ichaonline.org)

**Goabroad.com** - Assists different professions with placement internationally. [www.goabroad.com](http://www.goabroad.com)

**Flying Doctors of America** provides medical assistance and hope to as many of the poor and needy as they are able to reach. Medical & dental teams to wherever the current need is. [www.fdoamerica.org](http://www.fdoamerica.org)

**Lalmba** - works in two locations: on the shores of Lake Victoria in Kenya and in a rain-forest in Ethiopia. Goals are clinical medicine, coupled with public health, and working with local physicians. [www.lalmba.org](http://www.lalmba.org)

**WellShare International** - International and domestic opportunities world wide. [www.wellshareinternational.org](http://www.wellshareinternational.org)

**FIMRC Global Health Volunteer Program** - Opportunities in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Peru, Costa Rica, India, and Uganda. [www.fimrc.org](http://www.fimrc.org)

**Rotations and Courses Internationally** - [www.gorgas.dom.uab.edu](http://www.gorgas.dom.uab.edu) and [www.cugh.org](http://www.cugh.org)

**Operation Smiles** - Providing surgeries around the world. [www.operationsmile.org](http://www.operationsmile.org)

**International Medical Relief** - Currently recruiting for a trip to Pakistan. Also trips to Asia, Africa, South & Central America, Eastern Europe. [www.internationalmedicalrelief.org](http://www.internationalmedicalrelief.org)

Help Nexus Improve!

Your input can make a difference for future issues of Nexus. We welcome suggestions/submissions for future Book Reviews, Spotlights, or other features. And of course any and all comments are welcome. Please direct to Jacob at: hauptmanjacob@yahoo.com.
Physician Assistants for Global Health
~Presents~
2012 Global Health Symposium
October 12th & 13th, 2012
Presented at the DoubleTree Mission Valley
San Diego, California

Conference Fees*
Early Bird (prior to August 1st)
Fellow Members $150
Non-Member $200 (includes PAGH membership)
Student Members $75

*After August 1st Fees increase by $30

Proposed CME Topics
Disaster Response For The PA
HIV Management
Haiti Response
Challenges of Missions Abroad
Haiti Cholera Epidemic
And Much More!

Fellow Members $150
Non-Member $200 (includes PAGH membership)
Student Members $75

*After August 1st Fees increase by $30

Proposed CME Topics
Disaster Response For The PA
HIV Management
Haiti Response
Challenges of Missions Abroad
Haiti Cholera Epidemic
And Much More!