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Diary Dates

Steering Groups – 19 July, 24 October

PA National Exam
SBA: 31 August, Liverpool, London and Aberdeen
OSCE: 6&7 September, London

FPARCP PA Conference, 18&19 September London

FPARCP Student Conference, TBA

IAPAE 10th Annual Conference
21-24 September Kentucky

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Next issue:

Winter 2017/18

Welcome from our Head of School

Dr Natalie King, Consultant in Acute and Geriatric Medicine at SASH, and Head of KSS School of PAs, welcomes you to the second issue of our newsletter

It has been a busy few months for the school helping the hospitals in our region prepare for hosting PA students from our partner universities. We are currently in the process of visiting all acute and mental health trusts within Kent, Surrey and Sussex to ensure the educational and clinical supervisors, and the wider multi-disciplinary team, understand the role, the course format and how best to supervise students.

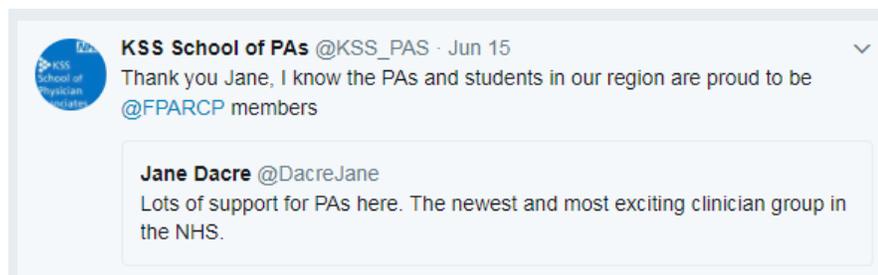
During these meetings we have also taken the opportunity to talk about the role of *qualified* PAs to help ensure good employment opportunities for these students once they qualify, and have offered our support to make sure job planning boosts development and retention of the PA workforce over time.

So far we are encouraged by the welcome received from trusts and for their enthusiasm – there is real excitement out there about PAs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate our University partners on providing an excellent first year to the KSS students. Given the infancy of the programmes, this is no mean feat.

In March, KSS School Lead PA, Michelle Chapman and I were delighted to be invited to the flagship Royal College of Physicians conference in Manchester where we talked about introducing PAs into clinical teams. In April, a number of KSS PAs with roles in education attended the PA Educators Conference at Anglia Ruskin University. The theme was ‘Simulation in PA Education’. And in June we held our annual PA CPD day at East Surrey Hospital. Read more on all of this here in the newsletter.

As always, we encourage our readers to contribute their news and views. Do get in touch by contacting the school at kss.schoolofpas@nhs.net and following us on twitter @KSS_PAS



Tips on Supervising a Physician Associate Student

Advice to supervisors of PA students from our experienced team

The Kent Surrey and Sussex PA students are now either in or due to start their secondary care placements.

The KSS School team have been visiting the acute and mental health trusts within the region to help support the clinical supervisors and the students to make the transition to hospital placements. As a result the team have gained a greater insight into what makes a great placement both from student and supervisor perspectives.

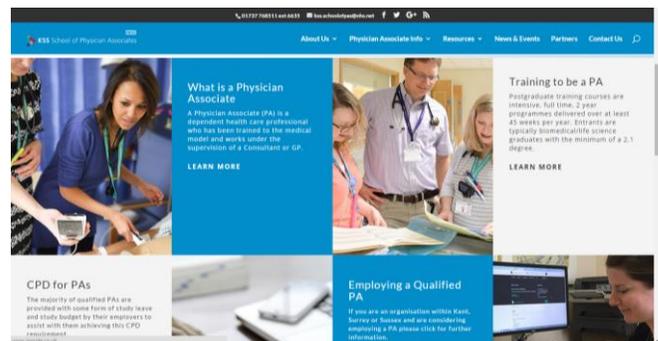
Here are our guidelines:

1. Plan ahead for the student's arrival. Brief the clinical teams about PAs and PA students and ensure that the role is clear and the scope of practice understood.
2. Read the University's supervisor's handbook and details of the course and curriculum to better understand the student's learning objectives.
3. Organise a brief orientation for students as some may not have worked in a ward or clinical environment before, including access to IT systems to help them work with the clinical team.
4. Try to ensure lots of patient time to take histories, examine patients and perform the key clinical skills in the workplace.
5. For experiential learning opportunities we suggest the student follows a patient through the hospital journey rather having a whole sessions of specialist activity.
6. Buddy a PA student to one of the junior doctors; a great opportunity for a Workplace Based Assessment!
7. Although the consultant will not directly supervise every day, make sure there is plenty of contact time between student and consultant to ensure they achieve appropriate development during placement.

8. Try to schedule the start, mid-point and end of placement reviews at the beginning of the placement. This helps both supervisor and student.
9. Allow opportunities for the student to attend relevant teaching activities but remember the focus of the placement is on clinical exposure.
10. Try not to compare PA students to medical students. Although many of the clinical objectives are the same, the PAs' learning requirements differ and they are not training to be doctors.

Dedicated website for PAs in Kent, Surrey & Sussex

The KSS School of PAs launches its new website to showcase a wealth of information, advice and guidance relevant to PAs, their training providers and employers in the area.



The site features information on the role of PAs, how to train, recruitment and supervision, and information on the profession's current regulation status. It will be updated regularly with news and events of importance to PAs – both trainees and those already qualified – and we welcome contributions from all with an interest in the profession.

Please visit the site at www.kssschooolofpas.org and let us have your feedback.

News from Surrey University

Dr Jia Doulton, PA Programme Lead, University of Surrey

The first cohort of twenty-one PA students at the University of Surrey have brought a wide range of background experience to their case-based learning and there is no doubt that these rich and varied experiences will enhance their future careers as PAs.



Left to right, top to bottom: Abdi Ulusow, Ike Obi, Shireen Majeed, Kirsty Asante, Pahim Miah, Rhianna Warren, Ben Hurtley
2nd row: Hamed Qadiri, Emily Kalik, Purvi Shah, Antara Hayman, Sam Voller, Zoe Cooke
3rd row: Frankie Ridley-Fink, Miriam Ncube, Victoria Conrath
Bottom row: Lilly Gurung, Krishni Manorajan, Ella Cox, Sarah Mee

Miriam has brought her personal experience of being a mum of four which has helped make the study of paediatrics more real. Frankie has worked as a GP receptionist as well as experiencing care provision in acute medicine, physiotherapy and a nursing home.

Victoria adds a global perspective with her previous role as contributor to Millennium Development Goals in sub-Saharan Africa. She also enriched our gynaecology and sexual health case with her experience as a health care assistant in sexual health at Charing Cross which included HIV and FGM clinics as well as regular visits to Wormwood Scrubs prison.

Victoria said *"The course is intense but very rewarding and enjoyable. I love challenging myself and have learned a huge amount in a relatively short space of time. I am really looking forward to putting theory into practice and having the opportunity to interact with patients during our clinical placements next year"*.

Krishni is our group expert on diagnostic tests, having worked in the pathology lab at St George's. Sam has used his degree in pharmaceutical science to work as a respiratory specialist medical sales representative as well as holding posts in a locked psychiatric ward and a hyper acute stroke ward. The two latter roles had a focus on rehabilitation.

We are also fortunate to have PA Ashleigh Hodges as part of our teaching team. Ashleigh also examines regularly on the PA national exam. Roz Clegg and Moni Choudhury are also members of the team. They lead teaching in clinical anatomy and clinical skills and are both employed PAs at East Surrey Hospital. Dr Jia Doulton (Programme Lead) greatly benefits from the experience of her PA colleagues in setting the appropriate level of expectation for the rapid progress these students must make on this two year course.

Students from CCCU and BSMS

enjoying classes in casting and splinting!



CCCU Left to right:

Maria Dik
Ambika Limbu
Daniella Moss
Rachel Walker
Iryna Slobodyan
Prathibha Kamblu
Maxine Lartey
Helen Fogg
Juliana Egbu
Humphrey Nyambe

BSMS

Tasnia Ali
Harriet Lewis
Dan Clarke
Roshani Ghale
Katie Morgan-Jones
Tom Turner
Andy Leckie
Charlotte Thompson

Royal College of Physicians Annual Conference 2017

PA Educators Conference 2017

KSS School Lead PA, Michelle Chapman



The KSS School of PAs was pleased to attend the recent RCP Annual Conference, Medicine, in Manchester on 16 and 17 March.

Members of the team took part in the Faculty of Physician Associates' networking session entitled 'Physician Associates and Physicians – Working together' along with Q&A sessions which generated significant interest in both the PA role and profession.

Dr Natalie King and Dan Woosey (Senior PA at SASH) also presented 'Physician Associates: Shaping the Future of the Medical Workforce' which focused on introducing PAs into clinical teams and included tips on supervision, employment and retention of PAs. Dan Woosey spoke about how his career has developed over the last five years in both personal development terms and scope of practice.

Jeannie Watkins, President of the Faculty of Physician Associates, presented on the regulation of PAs ahead of the intended government consultation and Dr Johnny Boyland, Clinical Fellow at the RCP discussed how Physician Associates might help to ease the workforce crisis facing the NHS.



All sessions were well received and the Q&A sessions were voted third and fourth most popular of the conference.



The KSS School of PAs team were also filmed for RCP TV and the videos will be available to share soon.

A group of Physician Associates from the KSS region involved in teaching on PA courses, simulation and leadership, were supported by the KSS School of PAs to attend the Annual PA Educators Conference held this April at Anglia Ruskin University in Chelmsford, Essex. The Conference was an excellent 2 days, teaching those that will inspire and educate the PAs of the future. The Conference theme was "embrace simulation to enhance PA education".

It was a good opportunity to network with others in similar roles elsewhere in the country. For me the most memorable presentation was from Mr Shafi Ahmed, a Consultant Surgeon at Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry about the fascinating virtual future of medical education and training.

There was a gala dinner held at Channels – a beautiful local parkland estate – at which everyone enjoyed a superb meal and the chance to glam up and enjoy themselves with friends and colleagues, old and new.



Left to right:
Moni Choudhury, Michelle Chapman, Roz Clegg, Pam Trangmar, Dan Woosey

KSS School of PAs CPD Event

Both qualified and student PAs from across our region and beyond were welcomed at the annual Physician Associates' Continuous Professional Development day which took place on Friday 2 June at East Surrey Hospital in Redhill, Surrey.



The FPARCP approved Type 1 CPD event focused on the management of chronic diseases and featured a range of talks including COPD Management, Modern Management of Obesity and Diabetes as a UK Epidemic.



During the afternoon attendees had the opportunity to take part in workshops on prescribing, extended medical procedures, and setting up a simulation and debriefing.

The event which organised by KSS School Lead PA Michelle Chapman, was hugely popular and attended by qualified PAs, student PAs and others with an interest in the profession.

New FPA Student Rep for the South of England



We are pleased to congratulate our very own Chris Lyus, currently in his second year at CCCU, who was recently elected as the southern PA student rep. Chris will be a fantastic voice for our student community.

Ward Round Training for PA Students

Essential training in preparation for placements in secondary care

KSS School of PAs is hosting a number of Ward Round Training sessions for PA students in the area. Students from Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU) attended the first session last December and four more events are running this summer for PA students at University of Surrey, Brighton & Sussex Medical School and the second cohort of PA students at CCCU.



Ward rounds are a vital part of hospital medicine and PAs are in a position to play a key role in their delivery. The training session prepares students for that role and is led by Dr Natalie King, Dr Anthony Fung and assisted by many of the SASH qualified PAs.

Each training session lasts for three hours and begins with a presentation on the role that ward round team members play, documentation standards and how ward rounds are structured.

Students are given key tips on how to play a successful role in the rounds, such as the need for preparation, the necessity to identify unwell patients or potential dischargeable patients in advance, and the importance of developing a routine or checklist for each consultation.



The students take part in three simulated ward scenarios in the simulation suite at East Surrey Hospital.

A day in the life of a general surgical physician associate



Sarah Small is a PA in Surgery with Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust appointed in November 2016 and is the first surgical PA at the Trust

As part of the upper GI surgical team I have a varied week with time on the wards, in theatre and in the surgical assessment unit.

Each day starts at 8am at the surgical handover where patients who were seen the previous day are discussed by the team. Following handover comes the ward round, where we will see the patients who came in overnight and any inpatients with the consultant on call. Ward round is often finished by 10.30am and I then work with a junior doctor to perform a variety of jobs which have been prioritised with the help of the senior members of the team. This can involve further examinations, taking bloods, cannulating patients, discussing any consultant requested scans with a radiologist, writing and discussing referrals to other specialties, and reviewing deteriorating patients when required.

Around mid-day I will go to the surgical assessment unit to assist a doctor in training and a registrar who are taking referrals from A&E and GP. The doctors will tell me who needs to be clerked; this involves me taking a history and examining the patient to develop a differential diagnosis and plan for further investigations and immediate treatment. I discuss this with one of the doctors who will review the patients.

On any day a variety of patients are seen; for example a lady admitted through A&E with abdominal pain following a colonoscopy. When I see her she is in visible discomfort and on examination she is generally very tender and has signs of local peritonitis over an area where she had a biopsy. I am concerned that she may have perforated her bowel and discuss her with the doctors who review the patient straight away. The registrar requests an immediate CT scan

Whilst waiting for the results, the registrar asks me to see another patient; a 9 year old who has been admitted by her GP with suspected appendicitis. She is in the paediatric A&E department waiting area with her mother who tells me the pain has been there for 6 days and always in the middle of her daughters tummy, she has not had a temperature and has been eating and drinking. On examination she has a soft, non-tender abdomen and is able to jump up and down. I do not think she has appendicitis. The registrar pops her head in and agrees on review that she is unlikely to have appendicitis. However, as it is her second visit to hospital with this pain and she has not had any blood taken, the registrar thinks that would be a good idea; the patient's mother agrees. In the paediatric A&E they cannulate her and I take her blood.

It is nearing the end of my working day; the doctors are going through the on call list of patients and any results. The CT scan is back. The images suggest a bowel perforation but her bloods tests results are not yet available. As she is clinically stable, she will be reviewed by the on call consultant when all results are back as she may need to have surgery. I will find out what happened to her tomorrow during ward round.