

# OSPA Update

---

## Oregon Society of Physician Assistants

### PORTLAND-AREA PHYSICIAN-PA TEAM RECOGNIZED FOR IMPROVING CARDIOTHORACIC PATIENT EXPERIENCE

Summer 2010  
Volume 2, Issue 2



Photo by Tim LaBarge

AAPA's recent news release honored Dana Gray, PA-C of Portland, Oregon along with his physician partner, Jonathan Hill, MD. Gray and Hill received the American Academy of Physician Assistants 2010 Physician-PA Partnership Award at the organization's 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Physician Assistant Conference in Atlanta in May, 2010. The team has provided quality broad-based trauma and cardiothoracic care to medically underserved populations in the Portland area for more than 15 years.

"It's a great honor to win this award in collaboration with my esteemed colleague, Dr. Hill," said Gray.

---

#### Inside this issue:

Physician/PA Award	1
Whitaker Award	2
Student Activities	2
Code of Conduct	3
Board Officers	3
Dates/Updates	4

---

**"Our working relationship is a true partnership in every sense of the word, from consultations, post-op visits, and even during cardiothoracic surgery, there is always a mutual respect and complete sharing of responsibilities and duties that improve the quality of care for our patients."**

Throughout their partnership, Gray and Hill have split their workload at Emanuel Hospital and Health Center in order to maintain contact with every patient. Hill generally sees consultations, while Gray handles the majority of the postoperative patients. Together the pair forged a rewarding practice in aortic surgery, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation and the use of cardiopulmonary bypass technologies for acute trauma resuscitation.

"Without Dana's years of experience and expertise, we would not be able to accomplish much of what we do on a relatively routine basis", said Hill. "He and I can react and function as a single entity in the most stressful and demanding of situations."

In recognition of their partnership, Gray received the Physician-PA Partnership Award, which honors a physician-PA team that exemplifies the unique relationship of trust, collegiality and mutual respect that is essential to the PA profession and allows for greater medical service to patients. The award is one of five Paragon Awards, made possible with support from Pfizer, Inc., that are presented annually by AAPA to recognize members who have demonstrated distinguished service to patients, the community and the profession. Other awards include Federal Service PA of the Year, Outstanding PA of the Year, PA Service to the Underserved Award and Humanitarian PA of the Year.

AAPA is the only national professional association that represents PAs across all medical and surgical specialties in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the majority of U.S. territories, the armed forces and federal services. Founded in 1963, AAPA works to increase the professional and personal growth of the PA workforce by providing comprehensive support and advocacy for physician assistants so that they may, in turn, provide patients with increased access to quality, cost-effective health care. Learn more at [www.aapa.org](http://www.aapa.org).

# Karen Whitaker Knapp Service Award

The Karen Whitaker Knapp Service Award is given out each year in recognition of physician assistants whose clinical careers reflect a commitment to the rural and medically underserved communities of Oregon.

As Director of the Oregon Office of Rural Health, Ms. Knapp was instrumental in establishing the OHSU Physician Assistant Program and in supporting Physician Assistant practice in the state. For 25 years, she has dedicated her professional life to the advocacy of quality healthcare for all Oregonians.

Her contributions have been numerous and will have a lasting impact on health care delivery in rural Oregon. This award was established in her honor upon her retirement.

Barbara Martin, PA-C received the 2009 award. Barbara works at the Central City Concern's Old Town Clinic in Portland, Oregon. She is "inspired by 'underserved' patients, who may be homeless, alcohol and drug addicted and poor, who live with these factors and make incredible strides in their health."



*Barbara received award from Ted Ruback, Program Director of OHSU, PA Program*

## OHSU Student Activities, Class of 2011

The OHSU Physician Assistant Class of 2011 hosted several fundraising events to benefit Wallace Medical Concern, raising \$2,000 for the local clinic. With two locations in both Gresham and Portland, the Wallace Medical Concern provides neighborhood-based health care services and assistance for Portland's many low-income and uninsured residents.

At OSPA's Spring Medical Update in Portland, students held a raffle with items such as Beavers baseball game tickets, handmade jewelry and a local restaurant gift certificate. With the help of CME attendees, the group was able to bring in \$500 towards their goal. Another \$600 raised at the fall CME conference also benefited Wallace Medical Center.

The following week, the class hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual OHSU Kickball Tournament, a tradition begun by OHSU's PA Class of 2010. The event was a tremendous success, with over 150 people competing on 10 teams representing the PA, dental, medical, nursing, RT, and RA schools to raise an additional \$1000. The Med 11 Team, "Pill Hill Pirates" won the title and PA 11's team, "Kick in the Grass," placed a close second.

On Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, representatives from the Wallace Medical Concern visited the OHSU campus so that the PA class could present their \$2,000 donation.

## Pacific University Student Activities, Class of 2011

The PUPA class of 2011 ended the Didactic Year in May and are now scattered across the country as far away as Hawaii as they begin the Clinical Year.

In June, two students were sent to the national conference as a result of multiple fundraisers and hard work. The students participated in the House of Delegates as well as the Assembly of Representatives.

The class not only welcomed the incoming class of 2012 but also the arrival of a new member of the program's clinical team, Torry Cobb PA-C. Students from all three classes continue to volunteer two evenings a week at the Essential Health Clinic in Hillsboro. The Classes of 2010, 2011 and 2012 will reconvene on campus in August for one week to celebrate 2010 graduation, 2011 Professional Practices Seminar and 2012 White Coat Ceremony.

## CLINICIANS WORK TOGETHER TO URGE INSURERS TO ADOPT NEW CODE OF CONDUCT

A Harris Interactive poll late in 2009 asked the public which industries were "generally honest and trustworthy." Seven percent of respondents named health insurance companies, only slightly more than named oil companies and tobacco companies. Perhaps this could be improved by insurers agreeing to a code of conduct.

In May, the American Medical Association (AMA) released its [Health Insurer Code of Conduct Principles](#) and called on all U.S. health insurance companies to adopt consistent corporate practices that will bring transparency and accountability to the multibillion-dollar health insurance industry. In June, support for the Code of Conduct ballooned to include endorsements from 68 state and medical specialty societies nationwide, including the Oregon Medical Association.

The Code outlines steps health plans must take to be credible in the eyes of physicians and patients. There is a petition to encourage adoption of this Code, located at [www.insurepatientaccess.org](http://www.insurepatientaccess.org). The Code asks insurers to be held accountable regarding questionable insurance practices such as medication switching, denial of claims and implementing egregious prior authorization mechanisms.

The code of contains [10 clear principles](#) critical to an efficient, patient-centered health care system. The principles shine light on health insurer practices that influence the health care of patients, including cancellation of coverage, medical services spending, access to care, fair contracting and patient confidentiality, medical necessity, benefit management, administrative simplification, physician profiling, corporate integrity and claims processing.

Please see the website [www.insurepatientaccess.org](http://www.insurepatientaccess.org) for more information. You can sign the petition there as well.

## OSPA Board Members

### Welcome the OSPA officers for 2010-2011

Barbara Martin, PA-C, President and OPCA Liaison (bemfk77@yahoo.com)

Stephanie Granvall, PA-C, President Elect (stephanie@advancedspecialtycare.com)

Scott Beyer, PA-C, Treasurer and Governmental Affairs (spbeyer@comcast.net)

Nicole O'Neill, PA-C, Secretary (nicole@advancedspecialtycare.com)

Ian Hartman, PA-C, Director at Large, Membership Committee Chair (hart2388@pacificu.edu)

David Greene, PA-C, Director at Large (dgreene@hemoncassoc.com)

Kate Grace, PA-C, Past President (klg452004@yahoo.com)

Gina Jones, PA-C, HOD Delegate (ginajonespac@gmail.com)

Cora Haze, PA-C, HOD Delegate (docchaze@aol.com)

Kenneth Ingram, PA-C, HOD Delegate (ingramk@ohsu.edu)

***There are multiple opportunities to serve as a committee chair or committee member (CME, Diversity, Elections/Nominations, Governmental Affairs, Newsletter). Consider giving some time to your professional society.***

---

**Oregon Society of  
Physician Assistants**

PO Box 2794  
Hillsboro, OR 97123  
**Phone:** 503.650.5864  
**Fax:** 503.747.2825  
**E-mail:** [ospa@oregonpa.org](mailto:ospa@oregonpa.org)



We're on the Web!  
[www.oregonpa.org](http://www.oregonpa.org)

---

## Important Dates / Membership / Updates

**Oregon Medical Association  
PA Section Meeting  
September 23, 2010**

**October 6-12, 2010  
National Physician Assistant  
Week**

**October 8-10, 2010  
Central Coast Medical Update  
Best Western Agate Beach  
Newport, OR**

**Board/Advisory Council Meeting  
at Fall Conference**

**PA Lobby Day  
February 24, 2011**

The 2010 Membership drive continues. There are 1093 PAs in Oregon.

Currently there are 373 registered members. The breakdown is:

8	Affiliate Members
2	Associate Members
127	Fellow Members
10	1 <sup>st</sup> Year in Oregon
9	Out of State or Military
103	PA & Supervising Physician
107	Students
7	Unemployed or Retired

**Join today!**

### **OSPA Web Site**

The OSPA web site is being revamped to improve communication and will offer new features like on-line membership and event registrations. OSPA will keep you informed with updates. Watch for the new site!

### **PAC Donations**

You can support your PA profession with a contribution to the Oregon PA Political Action Committee. Donations help to fund some of the important activities that need to be undertaken by your organization and support issues that affect PAs in Oregon.