

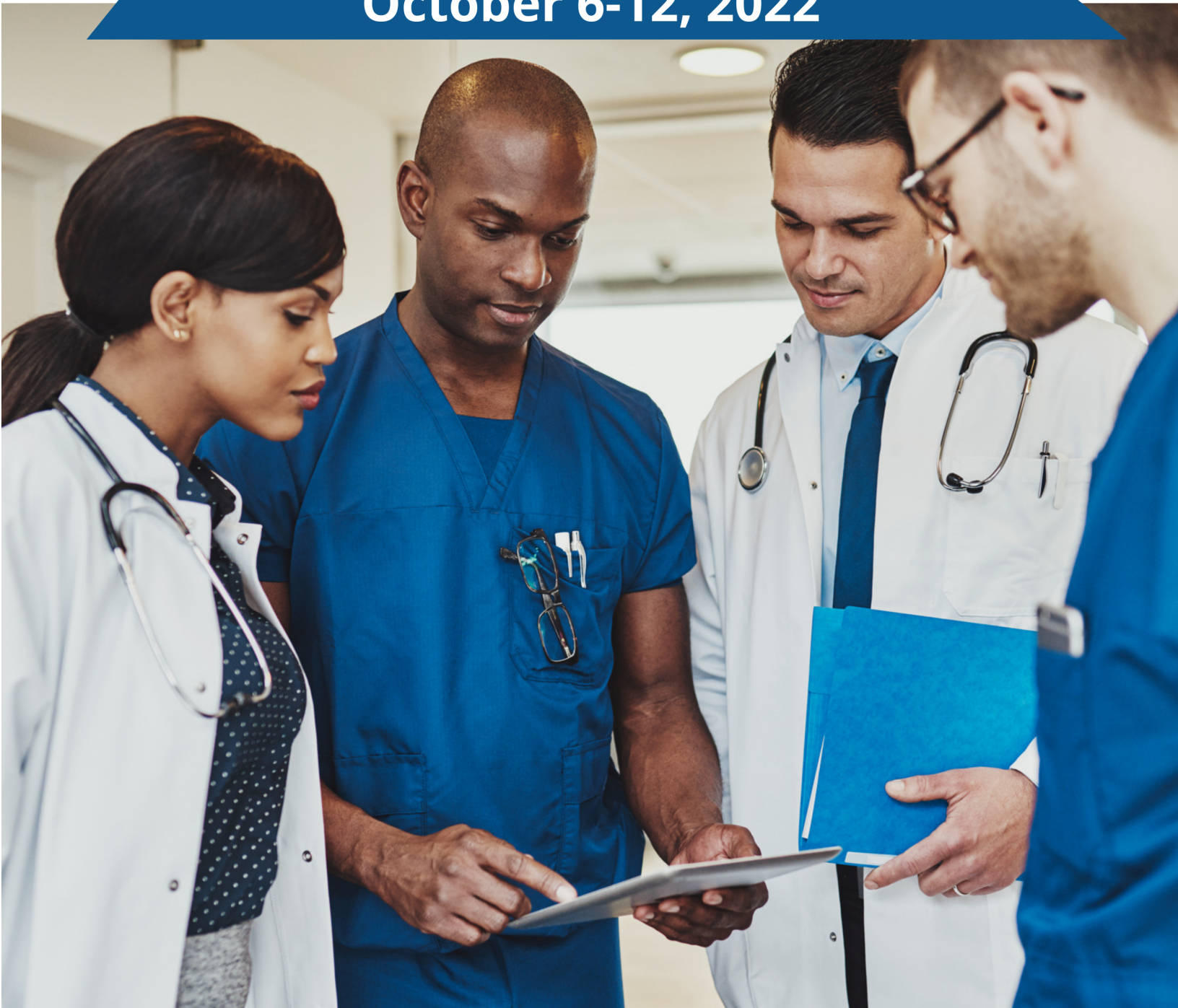
UCI Health

Advanced Practice Providers Program

ADVANCED PRACTICE NEWS

National PA Week

October 6-12, 2022



2022 | ISSUE 9

Advanced Practice News

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OUR VISION STATEMENT

The UCI Health Advanced Practice Providers Program aims to be a leader in **patient-centered care, research, and “top of the license practice.”** We believe that when APPs are used to their fullest potential, the entire healthcare system benefits.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS

VASCO DEON KIDD, DHSC, MPH, MS, PA-C



Welcome to the ninth edition newsletter commemorating National PA Week, which is from October 6th-12th. In this edition, I'm excited to share a couple of recent updates from the office of advanced practice (OAP). First, I worked in close collaboration with the advanced practice council (APC) to strengthen and standardize our new

employee onboarding process for NPs and PAs. The goal of the new orientation checklist is to improve role transition and retention of career staff. All school of medicine departments have received a copy of the new APP orientation checklist, which is available upon request. Second, as many of you know, APP ambulatory top-of-license practice standards have been deployed successfully across most clinical departments. While there is still room for improvement, it's clear that we've made enormous strides together. This is underscored by the results of the 2022 engagement survey, which indicated most APPs are working at top-of-license. Thirdly, we are in the process of finalizing our CME accredited virtual grand rounds web-based educational series. Next year's topics were selected based on participant feedback and evolving clinic practice. If you have any ideas for grand rounds or are interested in giving a presentation on a clinical topic, public health initiative, or legislative update, please reach out to me or a member of the grand round's subcommittee for further details.

Also, I would like to take a moment to celebrate National PA Week. The PA profession has been around for over five decades and PAs are well-respected members of the healthcare community. PAs work in all medical specialties and assist in surgery. More than 185,000 PAs have been certified by the NCCPA since 1975. According to the US News and World Report Best job rankings, the PA profession is ranked #2 in best healthcare jobs and #3 in 100 best jobs. Please take a moment and celebrate with our outstanding UCI PA colleagues.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS

VASCO DEON KIDD, DHSC, MPH, MS, PA-C

In closing, I would like to express my FULL appreciation for all of your hard work and determination over the last several months in helping us to continue to meet our mission and strategic priorities. It is a privilege to be a part of an exceptional team of APPs who provide safe and holistic patient-centered care to our patients and their families. Stay safe and healthy.

Best regards,

Vasco Deon Kidd

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN APP: PA

Hector M. Gonzalez, SR PA-C

1) Tell us about your journey to becoming a PA.

While attending California State University of Long Beach I attended a career information session on campus and one of the panelists was a Physician Assistant. I was very intrigued by what the Physician Assistant had to say regarding the profession, especially the multiple areas where PAs practice. I decided to take a job in the hospital as a phlebotomist, which led to an opportunity in cardiac research. This exposure gave me the reassurance that I needed to pursue a career path as a physician assistant. I had the opportunity to work with both a cardiologist and cardiothoracic surgeons and fell in love with cardiac surgery.



I graduated from California State University of Long Beach with a double major, BA in Biology and BS in Physiology with a minor in Chemistry. I attended the University of Charles R. Drew in Los Angeles, graduated in 2000 and landed a job in Cardiothoracic Surgery in Los Angeles where I once rotated as a student. In 2020, I was recruited by Dr. Jack Sun to help him build the cardiac surgical practice here at UCI.

2) Tell us about your day to day on the job.

We have APPs with different roles and responsibilities (e.g. surgical and floor PA's). The surgical PA is responsible for surgeries for that day if assigned, assists with overseeing patients in the ICU with the CVICU team and management of patients in telemetry. Additionally, the surgical PA writes notes, removes chest tubes, temporary pacing wires, and Intra-aortic balloon pumps. The surgical PA is involved in ECMO cannulation at the bedside. Also seeing patients in the clinic (post-op follow-ups) and calling patients back if they have questions. The floor PA's responsibility is to manage the patients in telemetry and see the patients in post op clinic. They are also responsible for discharge planning and arranging transfer of patients to Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF), Long-term acute care hospital (LTAC) or Acute Rehabilitation unit (ARU).

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN APP: PA

Hector M. Gonzalez, SR PA-C

3) What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Working with my team that I put together. Allow me to introduce you to Jocelyn Choy who is a surgical PA and came to us with 3.5 years of experience in CT surgery and is currently being trained in radial artery harvesting. Second, I would like to introduce Rachel Wang who is a floor PA. Rachel came to us with 3 years of experience in the management of patients in the ICU (transplant patients) and some previous cardiology exposure. Rachel has done an amazing job on the floor and helps reduce re-admission rates among our patients. A patient recently commented on her care saying, "Rachel Wang is an excellent physician assistant". She always takes time to answer questions and explains things very clearly. She is professional yet friendly, which makes it easy to talk to her. She is genuinely caring".

4) What advice would you give an aspiring PA?

Always take your time with your patients because that is something we are known for and listen to their needs. Network with PA students and graduate PAs for guidance. Lastly, reach out to your PA school of interest and schedule an appointment with a counselor to review your records.

5) What does PA Week mean to you?

It reminds me of our founding father Eugene A Stead Jr, MD and how grateful I am for giving me a career path that I love and has allowed me to give back to the community in a healing way. I am also grateful for the OR team we work with and the RNs in the CVICU and telemetry. I am most grateful for the CVICU NPs/Attending for working so closely with my team on ICU patient care.

6) What is one fun fact that most people don't know about you?

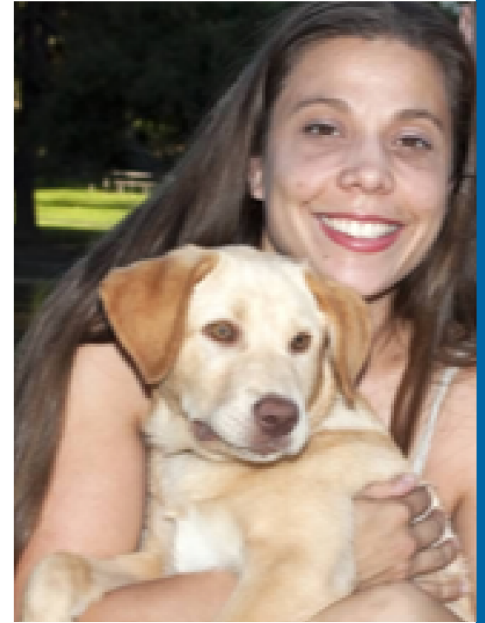
One fun fact is that I enjoy Salsa dancing, I used to frequent Sevilla in Long Beach and The Conga Room in LA Live.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN APP: PA

KIMBERLY BURTON, SR PA-C

1) Tell us about your journey to become a PA.

I was raised near Yosemite and graduated with honors from high school. During my early adult years, I would help my grandfather apply creams to his psoriatic lesions and leg wounds caused by venous insufficiency. I attended Concordia University also known as “Christ College” and received an athletic church scholarship for cross country and track. While participating in sports, I was also taking a full load of classes (16 to 18 units) a semester. During undergraduate studies, I was interested in becoming a physician until my biology professor, Dr. Ebel who had a daughter employed as a PA in dermatology spoke to me about this career path. At that time, I had already taken the MCAT and GRE.



However, with just 2 weeks shy of the application deadline, I decided to apply to two physician assistant programs. Three months later, I received a call from the University of Southern California (USC) for an interview and was later accepted into their terminal master’s degree PA program. I was the youngest student in the program and was very excited to start my journey as a PA student. Being in the classroom for 12 hours a day along with taking tests biweekly was no easy task. After graduation, applying for PA employment was not easy due to economic conditions and employers typically wanted experienced PAs. For every job, there are 100 NOs and 1 Yes as my father kept telling me during this period.

After passing the PA board, I worked in urgent care and family medicine for a while and later transitioned into Liver Transplant at St Vincent Hospital. But later I found that God had a different plan for my career. I learned of an opportunity in Burn and applied for the position. I interviewed with Dr. Cinat and later that day I received an official offer to join the team.

2) Tell us about your day to day on the job.

I get to assist in surgeries which includes dressing changes and excisions/debridement. During OR I assist with skin grafting, xenografting, or applying skin substitutes. This past year, I broadened my scope by learning how to do pinch grafting in the outpatient clinic which assists with chronic wound closures. Additionally, I enjoy participating in the interdisciplinary rounding including being a SOAR coordinator, which allows me the ability to pair patients with former burn patients who provide psychosocial support. As part of my volunteer services, my dogs provide patients with Pet therapy especially at survivor events.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN APP: PA

KIMBERLY BURTON, SR PA-C

3) What is the most rewarding part of your job?

As a member of the burn team, I am provided the privilege of following patients from their admission to their recovery in the clinic setting. For pediatric patients this can mean observing them grow up and learning how to navigate life outside of the hospital. During the Burn Survivor events, I participate and love seeing outpatients in the outside world. For the Holiday survivor event, I am one of the elves who assist /c Santa (Dr. Lane). For chronic wounds I love being able to see all of the hard work that the patients and I do to see their wounds close.

4) What advice would you give an aspiring PA?

My advice is this, when life gets hard and looks down on you, look deep inside yourself and know you are here for a reason, and you have a purpose. "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass; it's about learning how to dance in the rain". Additionally, take every opportunity that you can during your training to build up your skill sets. Be humble and treat everyone how you want to be treated, which is what my grandmother use to say.

5) What does PA Week mean to you?

PA Week means I get to be celebrated by the hospital team. It's a celebration of how I acquired this position.

6) What is one fun fact that most people don't know about you?

When not at work, I'm at home with my puppies Abby and Lilly watching Disney movies and I help to take care of other peoples' dogs. Also, I race walk and train for competitions.

SPOTLIGHT ON APP ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FALL 2022



The purpose of this section is to recognize any achievements of the APP workforce during the Spring of 2022. Future newsletters will continue to highlight APP awards, research publications, book chapters, poster presentations, and leadership nominations in your professional associations or at UCI Health. We firmly believe in giving spotlight to our amazing and dedicated APP workforce.

Richard Bruce, SR PA-C

Congratulations to Richard Bruce for being selected as the Advanced Practice PA of the Year. During 2022 Advanced Practice voting period Richard was nominated and selected as the Advanced Practice PA of the Year. Congratulations to Richard on this monumental accomplishment.



Vasco Deon Kidd, DHSc, MPH, MS, PA-C. | Associate Clinical Professor

- **Kidd VD**, (October 03, 2022) *An Evaluation of the Postgraduate Physician Assistant/Associate and Nurse Practitioner Orthopedic Surgery Fellowship and Residency Websites in the United States*. *Cureus* 14(10): e29875. doi:10.7759/cureus.29875
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- **Kidd VD**, Spisak JM, Vanderlinden S, Kayingo G. *A survey of implicit bias training in physician assistant and nurse practitioner postgraduate fellowship/residency programs* *BMC Med Educ.* 2022;22(1):598. Published 2022 Aug 3. doi:10.1186/s12909-022-03664-5
Free access: <https://rdcu.be/cSZ9f>
- **Kidd VD**, Liu JH, Reamer-Yu A, Wang JH, Deng M. *The development of a visual dashboard report to assess physician assistant and nurse practitioner financial and clinical productivity.* *BMC Health Serv Res.* 2022;22(1):882. Published 2022 Jul 8. doi:10.1186/s12913-022-08216-7, Free access: <https://rdcu.be/cRh18>

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Jonathan McIntyre, PhD(c), CRNA, APRN

- **Jonathan McIntyre**, PhD, CRNA received a mini-grant from the Center for Organizational Research at UCI to support his PhD dissertation research in the Sue and Bill Gross School of Nursing. He was also appointed as a member of the board of editors of the peer-reviewed journal Clinical Nursing Research.

Katie Tran, Nurse Practitioner, Advance HF/MCS

- **Katie Tran**, Nurse Practitioner Advance HF/MCS, Katie recently graduated from a Post Master Certificate in Acute Care Nursing from University of Texas, Austin (UTA) in December 2021 and became Board certified with ANCC as a AGACNP-BC in February 2022. She is also a Board certified FNP and has another Post Master in Nursing Education since 2016. She was recently invited to be in Faculty panel to review/interview the next Cardiology fellowship program (class of 2026) which will start in September.



New APPs FY 2022

We are pleased to welcome the new advanced practice providers to our team in FY2022.

Anesthesiology & Perioperative Care

- Laura Dillon, CRNA
- Jeffrey Murray, CRNA

DOM Gastroenterology

- Rachna Shah, PA-C

Orthopaedic Surgery

- Emmeline Oros, PA-C

