

UCI Health

Advanced Practice Providers Program

ADVANCED PRACTICE NEWS



2023 | ISSUE 12

Advanced Practice News

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- **Taras Pylypiv, MS, PA-C**

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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 12th edition newsletter to commemorate National PA week, which is from October 6th-12, 2023.

PAs are trained as generalists in the medical model, which complements physician training. PAs have been practicing healthcare for over 50 years with significant integration across all specialties. Although not required for entry-level practice, over 5,000+ PAs have completed a postgraduate residency/fellowship training program.

Recently, the National Commission of Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) certified it's 200,000th PA in the nation. PAs are involved in over 540 million patient visits/year. At UCI, we have 36 PAs practicing across multiple service lines and some are involved in clinical precepting and quality improvement projects. Overall, the PA profession is ranked as the #2 top healthcare job in the nation. Please join me in acknowledging and celebrating National PA Week.

In closing, I sincerely thank you ALL for your hard work, dedication, commitment, and sacrifice in helping us meet our tripartite mission of discover, teach, and heal. One of the most important lessons learned from the pandemic is that when we work together, we achieve greatness despite unprecedented challenges. Your collective partnership and engagement are invaluable. Thank you for your compassion and vigilance in keeping our patients healthy and our communities safe.

Best regards,

Vasco Deon Kidd

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Director of Advanced Practice Providers (UCI Health)
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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN APP: PA

Christina Liljestrom, PA-C

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

My journey to becoming a PA is a little bit different than most as I was a “career changer”. After attending college on the East Coast I worked in Finance in New York. When I moved to California, I then worked for a medical device company as an analyst, but also volunteered in the pediatric unit at UCI. After my twin boys were born, I decided I wanted to go back to school so I could practice medicine. I went to Chapman for PA school and completed my elective rotation in Dermatology at UCI. After graduation, I started in the Department of Dermatology here at UCI and love that I have a job where I am always learning.

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

When I get into clinic, I check my messages, pathology reports, labs, and call patients with results. Then I start my clinic where I see patients with various medical dermatology needs: skin cancer screenings, eczema, psoriasis, acne, and rashes to name a few. I really enjoy the range of patients I get to see from age 12 to patients in their 90’s. I enjoy the hands-on aspects of my job as I perform procedures such as biopsies and intralesional injections. My days are busy in clinic but I am lucky to have amazing medical assistants/LVN’s that help make my days run more smoothly.



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

The most rewarding part of my job is helping improve the lives of my patients by diagnosing skin cancers. I also enjoy providing preventative skin cancer treatments and education about their skin conditions. When my patients return with improvements in their condition and therefore have a better quality of life, I feel fulfilled. In Dermatology, most of my patients come in at least yearly, so I also enjoy getting to know them beyond their skin.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN APP: PA

Christina Liljestrom, PA-C

4. What advice would you give an aspiring PA?

Be authentic, follow your passion, and never give up.

5. What is one fun fact that most people do not know about you?

My fun fact is that I am a mom to two sets of twins! I have fraternal boys and identical girls.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN APP: PA

Taras Pylypiv, PA-C

1. Tell us about your path to become a PA.

I started my career in medicine early on as an X-ray technologist, later transitioning to CT imaging which has always fascinated me. As a result, I was exposed to many different areas of medicine, especially Orthopaedics first hand. I always knew I would like a career in medicine and continued to pursue my degree in Biology and Chemistry. Sometime during that period, I became friends with one of the PAs who worked in the same hospital. He opened up my mind to the PA profession and along with my wife was a major driving force to enroll in PA School. After an amazing few years at Stony Brook University, I graduated in 2014 and have had the best time working as a PA.



Always knowing I wanted to work in Orthopaedic surgery, I started my journey at Bridgeport Hospital Yale New Haven and 3 years later joined UCI where I have now been working with our great Orthopaedic Trauma surgeons for over 5 years.

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

The best part of my job and specialty has always been the ability to split my time between the clinic and the operating room. In the clinic, I am able to see a whole gamut of patients ranging from severe polytrauma to very basic non-operative injuries, oftentimes needing injections, wound care, antibiotics, and other medication management. In the operating room, I am able to work as a first assist in various Orthopaedic Trauma surgeries. From an educational standpoint, working in a Level 1 trauma center with a residency program you never stop learning or seeing something new. Our weekly conferences provide great ongoing educational insights. On a daily basis, I always enjoy interacting with our Orthopaedic team including attendings, residents, nurses, x-ray and Orthopaedic technologists with various personalities and backgrounds that continue to make my job extremely fulfilling.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN APP: PA

Taras Pylypiv, PA-C

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

In my prior job as a hospital-based PA, I treated and followed patients in the acute care setting. Once the patients were discharged from the hospital, I never saw them again. Currently, at UCI I am able to see the continuity of care as patients' progress through the years. It gives me a great amount of joy and contentment to see their progress and life-changing outcomes.

4) What advice would you give an aspiring PA?

Good work ethic, be responsible, take care of yourself to avoid burnout, have a hobby, and love what you do. Most importantly, humility goes a long way.

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

During my teenage years, I was fascinated with being a DJ to the point of having a nickname and playing music sets at local friend events. Still love electronic house music.

SPOTLIGHT ON APP ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FALL 2023



The purpose of this section is to recognize any achievements of the APP workforce during the Fall of 2023. 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.

Mariah Montgomery, PA-C

Congratulations to Mariah Montgomery for being selected as the Advanced Practice PA of the Year. During 2023 Advanced Practice voting period, Mariah was nominated and selected as the Advanced Practice PA of the Year. Congratulations to Mariah Montgomery on this monumental accomplishment.



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

- **Kidd, VD** (2023), has been reappointed to the Physician Assistant Board by Governor Newsom.
<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2023/07/28/governor-newsom-announces-appointments-7-28-23/>
- **Kidd VD**, Amin A, Bhatia N, Healey D, Fisher C, Rafiq M, E Gallegos MJA, Munoz K. Optimal Use of Advanced Practice Providers at an Academic Medical Center: A First-Year Retrospective Review. *Cureus*. 2023 Jan 31;15(1):e34475. doi: 10.7759/cureus.34475. PMID: 36733574; PMCID: PMC9889205.
Free article link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9889205/>
- **Kidd VD**, Hammonds J. The Perceived Impact of the New Medicare Rules for Split/Shared Visits: A Survey of Advanced Practice Administrators. *Cureus*. 2023 Jun 22;15(6):e40815. doi: 10.7759/cureus.40815. PMID: 37363121; PMCID: PMC10287091.
Free article link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10287091/>

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- **Kidd VD.** Exploring Motivations and Barriers To Accreditation Adoption Among Physician Assistant and Nurse Practitioner Emergency Medicine and Orthopedic Surgery Residency and Fellowship Programs. *Cureus*. 2023 Mar 21;15(3):e36490. doi: 10.7759/cureus.36490. PMID: 36960231; PMCID: PMC10030192.
Free article link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10030192/>

Nilu Patel, CRNA

- Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiologists (FAANA). A FAANA recipient is the most accomplished leader in Nurse Anesthesiology. Fellows of the AANA are recognized in their field for being outstanding practitioners, educators, researchers, and advocates.
- Founding Chair - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEI) for the California Association of Nurse Anesthetists (CANA).

Chi Nguyen, NP

Recently selected to serve as a secretary for the Wellness Committee for the Department of Anesthesiology. This committee aims:

- To ensure the timely scheduling of faculty, residents, CRNA's, and NP's.
- To ensure the equitable scheduling of faculty, residents, CRNA's, and NP's.
- To ensure timely communication for requests of faculty, residents, CRNA's, and NP's.
- To identify and propose solutions for enhancing the scheduling process for all departmental team members.

New APP Hires

We are pleased to welcome new advanced practice providers to our team in FY2024

Department of Anesthesiology

Lauren Del Rio, CRNA
Marshall Howse, CRNA

Department of Emergency Medicine

Diana Doan-Nguyen, NP

Department of Surgery

Erika Hiller, PA-C

