

## Isaiah Perez (MAPA MI)

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**From:** Isaiah Perez (MAPA MI)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 4:30 PM  
**To:** Isaiah Perez (MAPA MI)  
**Subject:** RE: MAPA's newsletter is HERE!



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### Newsletter Editor's Corner

Dear MAPA members,

I am thrilled to announce our newsletter is back!

MAPA has successfully transitioned to the management company, Association Acumen, that also manages New York, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Indiana's PA academies (see the article inside)!

This past year we have seen the effects of a prolonged pandemic on PAs, healthcare, and our society; a transition to working from home to zoom meetings and virtual medicine; and PA students graduating and searching for a job amid hiring freezes and market saturation. Amid these challenges, we have seen advancements in PA practice across the country, charity drives and volunteerism, a PA in space, and national recognition of two Michigan PAs.

MAPA will continue to provide support and guidance within the ever-changing landscape of healthcare, and we are looking forward to 2022 MAPA initiatives!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Heather Sutton, MPAS, PA-C MAPA Newsletter Editor-In-Chief



## President's Message

It is a great honor to serve this academy as MAPA president. My year as President-elect sure was an interesting one. This pandemic has left its imprint on all of us. As we embark on yet another surge due to Omicron, many of us are pushed even further than we could have imagined. The PA profession has excelled within this pandemic. Our skillset shone as PAs stepped into a vast variety of roles. We are the only profession trained to jump into any specialty. When the world called, we answered. Wherever patients needed us, we stepped in. PAs from around the state jumped into this scary, vast and unknown practice climate to shine, to make it clear that intelligence prevails, and to ensure that beast called Covid would not defeat us. This came at a cost, many sacrificed more than time, and our personal lives suffered. Heartbreakingly, we lost some of our own along the way, PAs who chose to devote their lives to medicine, left us too soon.

Dr. Michelle Petropoulos DMSc, PA-C, DFAAPA President, Michigan Academy of PAs

One thing is for certain, I am proud to be a PA and impressed by my PA colleagues. We are moving with great momentum as we push the profession forward. As we welcome new schools, we continue to grow in numbers. Numbers that can amplify our proactive efforts to have the optimal PA practice climate here in Michigan. There are almost exactly 7,000 Michigan PAs!

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## MAPA Updates

### [Physician assistants expand roles as laws change, acceptance increases](#)

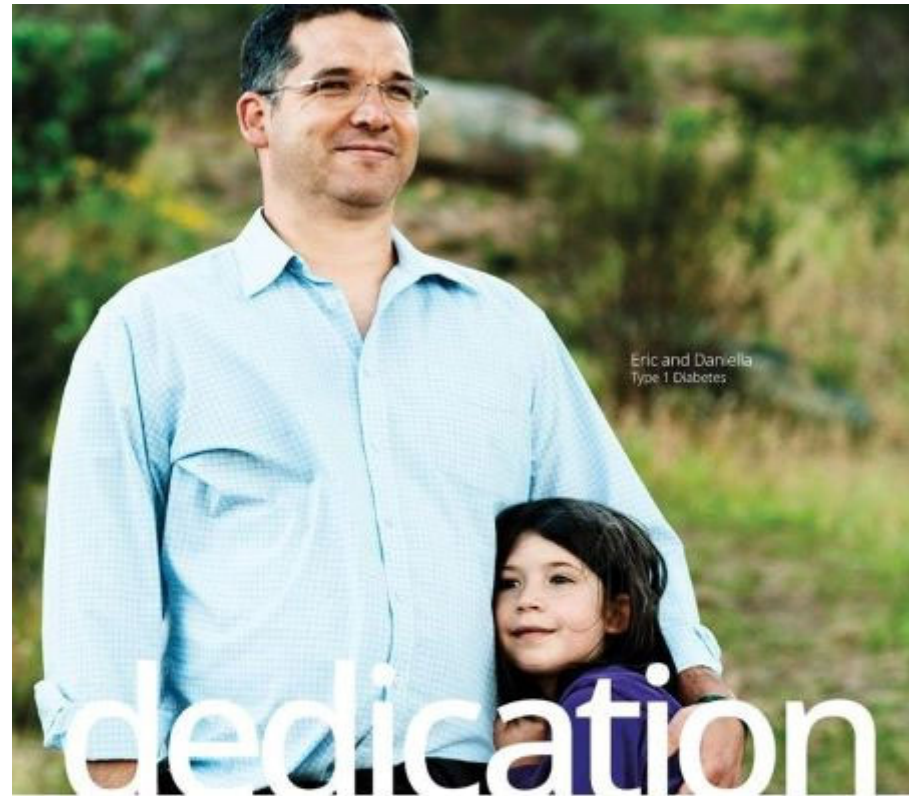
As physician assistants are being accepted more as part of multidisciplinary care teams at hospitals and as trusted providers in medical office settings, they also are opening independent offices, creating more access points for patients and taking on clinical leadership roles within health care organizations.

### [Mental health code changes that add PAs, NPs to designated list of practitioners could ease stressed system](#)

Physician assistants and nurse practitioners have asked the Michigan Legislature to fix a glaring hole in the state mental health code: no mention of PAs, NPs and other advanced practice providers in the list of designated mental health practitioners.

Register [HERE](#) for Crain's FREE access to these great PA articles!

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**Michigan PAs Stand Out!**

Julia Swafford and Sarah Scantamburlo were recently nominated by their peers and recognized by POCN, a national network organization, for their dedication in their field of medicine.

MAPA salutes Julia and Sarah, along with all of the other PAs!



Sarah Scantamburlo, MSW, MS, PA-C  
Psychiatry



Julia Swafford, PA-C  
Rheumatology

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## The State of Mental Healthcare for PAs in Michigan

By Mike White

Over the past decade MAPA has made tremendous strides in advancing the role of PAs in healthcare in the state of Michigan. Since achieving full practice authority in 2017, PAs in Michigan practice in one of the best environments in the nation:

1. You can own the practice that you work in.
2. No restrictive ratios limit how many PAs a physician can hire
3. PAs are independent prescribers with their own controlled substance license.
4. Co-Signatures are NOT required for Michigan PAs.
5. PAs are able to practice autonomously without an onsite or electronic supervisor within a practice agreement.
6. Participating physicians with PAs on their team incur no malpractice liability for patients they are not consulted on. There is no malpractice liability for the physician with whom you are in a practice agreement if the physician has not seen or been consulted for that patient's care.

As we look to the future, there are still barriers that MAPA needs to overcome. Many PAs are concerned about the Nurse Practitioner independence legislation currently before the legislature; MAPA is diligently monitoring the progress of this bill—It is paramount that PAs understand that as this process evolves, PAs in Michigan are in a position of strength having already achieved full practice authority.

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## **A New Grad's Guide to Entering Professional Practice**

**By Julia Burkhardt MS PA-C**

The current job market can make it a trying time to be entering professional practice as a new graduate of a Physician Assistant (PA) program. This article is meant to provide some clarity about the steps that it is imperative for you as a new grad to take while trying to gain your first position as a certified PA. Additionally, it will provide you with some hints to help get your resume past the initial step of being reviewed by the



Human Resources professional at your desired employer and into the hands of those who actually make the hiring decision.

**You graduated, now what?**



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## What is Professional Responsibility?

By Jeff Cornell PA-C

Professional responsibility is a vague term and can mean many different things to many different people. I think every PA school should have a class focused on our professional responsibilities of PAs after graduation. In short, we as professionals should support our profession in a manner that ensures that the profession is in better shape when we leave it, than when we started practicing. So, what do we need to do to make sure the PA profession is stronger when we retire than when we started?



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## Legislative Updates



Thanks to the support from MAPA members, 2021 has been a very successful year for Michigan PA advocates. Together, we have achieved many advancements for the PA profession in Michigan. Michigan continues to be the best state for PAs to practice!

The end of the year marks the halfway point for the legislative session so many of the introduced bills impacting PAs have not yet made it to the Governor's desk. With your help, 2022 will signal important practice improvements for Michigan PAs. In order for our bills to advance, PAs will need to



meet with legislators in order to show them why making these changes is important to our patients and their constituents; and to the health of all Michiganders. MAPA is organizing a 'Capital Summit' on March 23rd in Lansing. The morning will be visiting legislators and then we have several CME talks in the afternoon followed by a reception in the evening for the Lansing Legislators. So Join us on Wednesday, March 23rd in Lansing for MAPA's 2022 Michigan Capital Summit; registration will be open soon.

[Read More](#)

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## Reimbursement Update

The Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants (MAPA) supports Michigan PA reimbursement by having a long-standing Reimbursement committee dedicated to tackling issues that affect the patient care PAs of Michigan provide. Other state chapters do not provide this support. We are fortunate to have developed a working relationship with Michigan commercial, medicare advantage and medicaid payers who provide reimbursement for services provided by PAs.

We are working to ensure your patient care is reimbursed by Michigan payers like Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBS), Blue Care Network, Priority Health, McLaren Health Plan, Physician Health Plan (PHP) and others BUT we need your help.

[Read More](#)

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## Connecting in the community: PAs team up, give back during annual community outreach project

**By Daniel Ellman and Kristin Cox, PA-C**

At Michigan Medicine, more than 350 physician assistants have made it their mission to give back — aiming to improve the lives of those around them. “We do that in the clinic, hospital, emergency department and operating room settings every day as we deliver patientcentered care,” said Marc Moote, Chief PA at Michigan Medicine, the academic medical center at the University of Michigan. “But for the past decade, we’ve aimed to make an even bigger impact outside our organization as well.”

With that in mind, the PAs have made it an annual tradition to participate in a community outreach project during National PA Week. For the initial 10 years, the PAs partnered with Habitat for Humanity in these efforts. The group raised money and renovated homes, helping low-income buyers become homeowners.



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## MAPA's Educational Corner



## Fall CME Conference Update

Thank you to those that attended our MAPA Fall CME Conference at the Grand Traverse Resort! This was our first year having a hybrid event, which included 350 attendees in person and over 150 attendees joined us virtually.

For those that registered for the conference, login to your MAPA membership profile to view sessions and enduring lectures [HERE](#). If you attended the conference in person, you have access to 41.5 CME credits. If you attended virtually, you have access to 31.5 CME credits.

Session evaluations and CME Certificates available [HERE](#). Conference survey link [HERE](#).

Didn't register for the on-demand content from the conference yet? Deadline is December 31st to register and claim credit with AAPA!

**Register Now below!**



**SAVE THE DATE**



**2022 MAPA FALL CME CONFERENCE**  
**OCTOBER 5-8 GRAND RAPIDS**  
**AMWAY GRAND PLAZA**

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### **Michigan PA Students Pay it Forward!**

All of the Michigan PA Programs and even the Oakland University Pre-PA Program brought in over \$3,500 in gift cards and a remarkable amount of personal care items that Big Brothers and Big Sisters will use throughout the year as they reach out to and mentor youth between 6 and 18 in their communities.





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& Metabolism

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## MAPA's Student Section

**Are you a PA advocacy rockstar?**

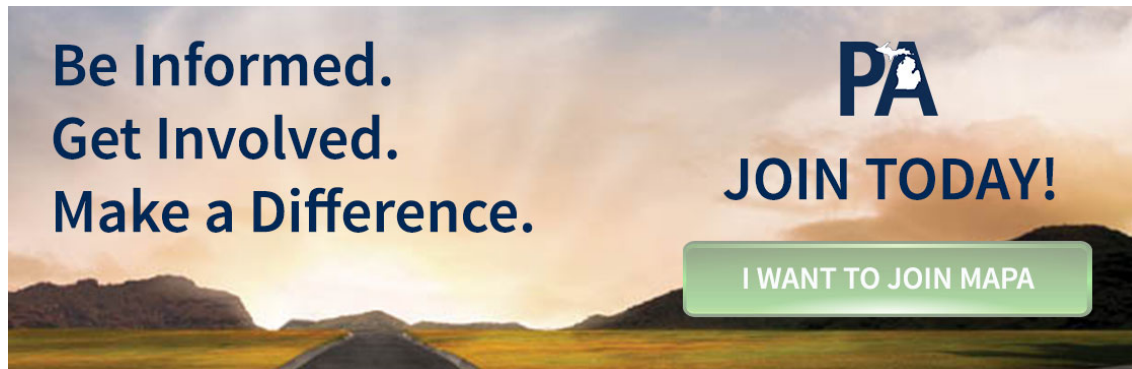
Michigan Academy of PAs (MAPA) would like to invite current PA students to enter an essay contest for an opportunity to advocate for our profession during the upcoming Michigan Capital Summit in Lansing on March 23rd. We are looking for PA students who are passionate about PA advocacy and legislative endeavors.

The MAPA Capital Summit is an opportunity to network with PA advocacy veterans and become actively involved in the legislative advocacy process that makes Michigan one of the best states for PAs to practice medicine nationwide. Selected PA students will attend as an integral part of the MAPA advocacy team. They will be given the opportunity to meet with state Senators and Representatives in the morning, attend continuing medical education presentations regarding policy and practice issues in the afternoon, and then finish out the day with the MAPA leadership reception honoring legislators in the evening. If this sounds like you please submit an essay to be considered.

More details

[Here](#)





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### MAPA's Executive Director

MAPA Executive Director Thadd Gormas has served Michigan PAs since 2017. He came from the Michigan Senate as a Chief of Staff where he was instrumental in drafting Michigan PA law changes since 2008. A 20-year veteran in Michigan's healthcare industry and public affairs, Thadd is known as a trusted source by healthcare thought leaders throughout Michigan.



Please reach out to discuss PA practice management, reimbursement, laws and regulations or other MAPA questions to [Gormas@MichiganPA.org](mailto:Gormas@MichiganPA.org) or call 517-898-4836.

Read More

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[Association Acumen](#) is excited to begin a relationship, effective August 1<sup>st</sup>, with all of you to assist MAPA’s board of directors in the execution of its mission and vision. Association Acumen is an award-winning, accredited full-service association management company headquartered in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, providing staff support for state, national, and international professional associations.

Michelle Haider, Association Director with MAPA, is excited to be an extension of the Executive Director and resource for innovative CME offerings, how and what is communicated, educational delivery, and member engagement.

Read More  
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Did you know you can find other MAPA members on our website? Our website has a search box to find every MAPA member and documents.

Login  
Here

Interested in joining a MAPA committee? Learn how to get involved with our communications, CME, membership, reimbursement, legislative, and public affairs committee's.

Click  
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Check out MAPA's calendar of events! More information on our board and committee meetings, events, and conferences.

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Hannah  
Obesity

## Because we know she's trying her best...

Managing weight isn't easy. Did you know that after losing weight, the body actually fights to put the lost pounds back on? Care that respects the person, with lifestyle changes, medicines or even surgery, is important for long-term weight management and health. Not everyone gets that. That's why we believe in joining advocates to reduce weight bias, empowering people with obesity and expanding access to support, long-term treatment and care. Together, we're changing how the world sees, prevents and treats obesity.

For more information on all that we're doing, visit [www.novonordisk-us.com](http://www.novonordisk-us.com)



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