

1982-“I was fresh out of PA school (SUNY Downstate) and months into my first job at NYU Medical Center when I had the opportunity to attend my first AAPA meeting. Before the week was over I committed to chairing the Public Relations Committee, which was in its infancy. This required storing the huge AAPA exhibit in my basement, dragging it to FedEx to ship to conferences and then tackling the intricate assembly of the exhibit. Then came actually manning the booth and interacting with the attendees, the majority of which were pathologists. Back then I was not particularly outgoing, but I quickly got over my fear and was proud to speak of our profession.

In the beginning the number one question was, ‘What is a pathologists’ assistant?’, and was often asked in a hostile tone. It didn’t take long until the questions evolved to, ‘How do I get one?’, often said in a hopeful tone. I take great pleasure in seeing the incredible growth and maturity of our profession. All the hard work of the early days has certainly paid off. We dreamed of one day being nationally recognized and I am happy to say when I tell people I am a pathologists’ assistant to this day the profession is a well-recognized and respected one.”



Anne Walsh-Feeks



Denver, 1989

1976-1993

The AAPA forges new relationships with major stakeholders in the medical community during these years, including the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), the American Medical Association (AMA), the American Society of Allied Health Professionals (ASAHP), the Intersociety Pathology Council (IPC), the Association of Pathology Chairmen (APC), the College of American Pathologists (CAP), the International Academy of Pathology (IAP) and the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS).



Chicago 2004

The Association of Pathologists’ Assistant Training Programs (APATP) incorporated in 1983. One of their first outreach efforts was to present an exhibit booth at the annual ASCP/CAP meeting in October of 1983 in St. Louis. The booth displayed five focal points: a projection screen with a continual loop of AAPA statistics; a table containing current curricula from the four operational training programs; reprints of four articles about pathologists’ assistants; a protocol for PA Professional Responsibilities and the “Minimal Essentials” document drafted by the APATP. Also displayed were the sponsors of the booth (AAPA and APATP), photographs depicting the “training of pathologists’ assistants” from the Duke University Training Program and a poster explaining how pathologists’ assistants can help pathologists. Manning the booth were Dr. Wolfgang Mergner, Program Director at the University of Maryland, Dr. Kenneth Broda, Associate Director of the Duke University program and Robert A. Neri, President, AAPA.

Neri R.A.: The Training of Pathologists’ Assistants Exhibit at the Fall ASCP/CAP Meeting, October 1983. AAPA Newsletter, Vol. X NO. 4 p2, December 1983.



Orlando, 1991



St. Louis 1996



Phoenix, 2003



AAPA Booth at USCAP 2019

LOOKING FORWARD

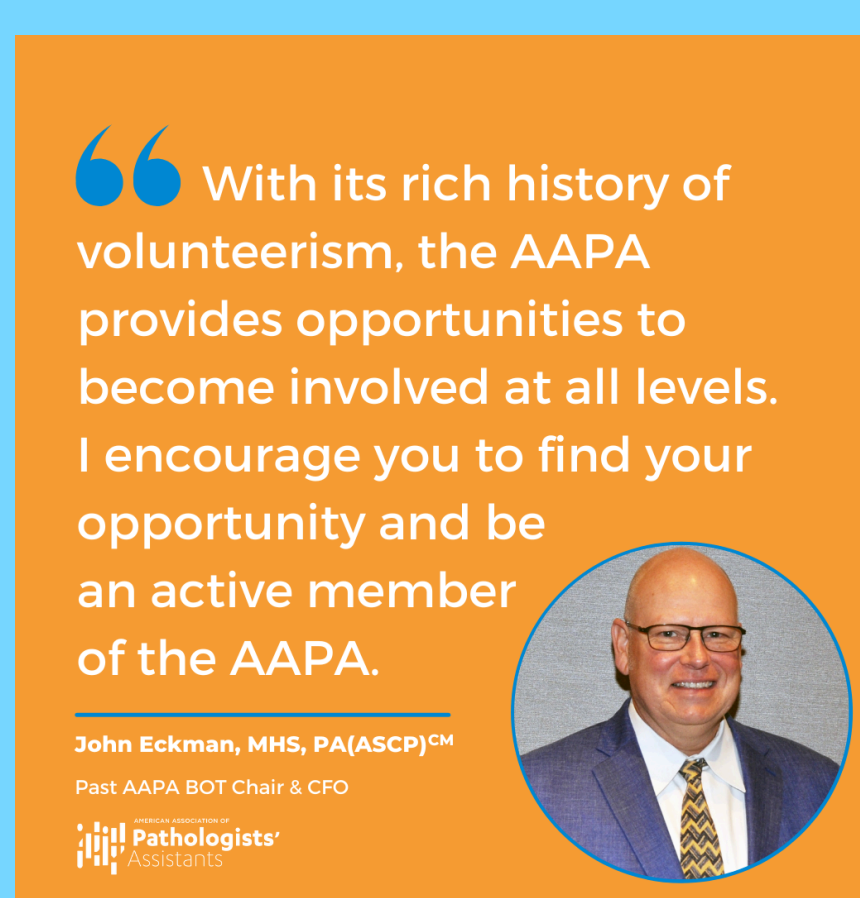
The goal of our updated brand is more than a fresh look – it’s a campaign to draw in various target audiences from prospective PA students to pathologists and administrators to other medical specialties and organizations through our social media sites, exhibitor booth, promotional materials, and occasional print advertisements.

*Our new theme, It Pays to Know, is inspired by the vision behind the Grossing Guidelines that, as certified pathologists’ assistants, we are subject matter experts in gross pathology and that we represent the professional standard for quality patient care in pathology. Our message is that, as a patient relying on a diagnosis, as a person pursuing a career in pathology, as a pathologist, surgeon or oncologist, and as an employer or hospital administrator, **it pays to know the value of a certified pathologists’ assistant.***

These changes are made in the spirit of the core values of the AAPA: Quality Patient Care, Education, Advocacy, and Collaboration. As we work to promote our profession and the value of certified pathologists’ assistants, know that our new look and updated brand are created to expand our reach and support our profession as it continues to grow and evolve.

John Eckman, MHS, PA(ASCP)CM
Board of Trustees Chair

AAPA Member News, October 27, 2020



Scan to learn more about the MarComm Committee

2022 Board of Trustees Appointed Adjuncts



Robert Cottrell
NAACLS



Heather Gaburo
AJCC



Mary Mattes
APATP



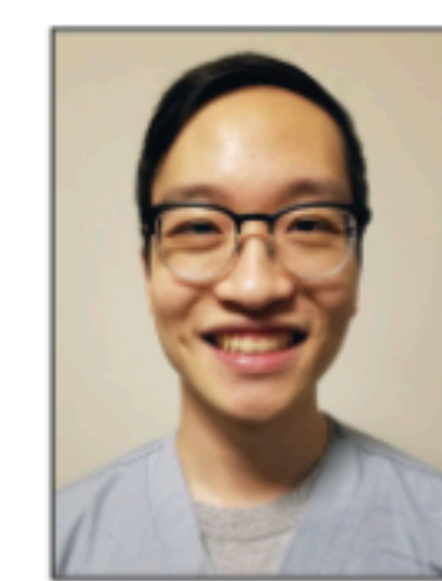
Erika Paulsen
CoC



Thomas Reilly
Historian



Michael Sovocool
ASCP BOC



Ian Sue-Chue-Lam
Canadian CAP-ACP
PA Section

The BOT Adjuncts establish contact and foster collaborative relationships with related professional groups, corporations and organizations that have similar core values, with an emphasis of providing quality patient care. The Adjuncts act as liaisons between the AAPA and other pathology organizations, maintaining relationships and outreach efforts.

All the hard work on relationships brings strength to the AAPA voice.

2010-2020 has seen the AAPA continue to interact with professional organizations such as the CAP, ASCP, ACS, and others, becoming a member organization of both the Commission on Cancer and the American Joint Committee on Cancer, further solidifying its standing as a viable health care profession.



Rachel Chan representing the AAPA at USCAP in Los Angeles, 2022

The primary objective of the Marketing & Communications (MarComm) Committee is to establish and maintain good relations with all professional organizations, manufacturing representatives, corporations, academic institutions, individuals, students, and members. The committee is responsible for the promotion of the Pathologists’ Assistant profession, recruitment of new members as a representative of the Association, and as an adjunct to the training programs.