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Newsflash

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Spring 2017

Welcome to our first edition

Dr Natalie King
Head of KSS School of Physician Associates

It is with the greatest pleasure that we welcome you to the first edition of our School newsletter since the official

launch of the KSS School of Physician Associates in August. The launch marked the arrival of education and support for the PA profession in Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

We hope our newsletter will provide you with an update on the activities of the school, the regional university programmes and the work of PAs within our region. We want the newsletter to reflect the diverse and dynamic nature of the profession in this area and we welcome comments, ideas and contributions. Please contact us at kss.schoolofpas@nhs.net

The school, which is based at East Surrey Hospital in Redhill, is a partnership between Health Education England and Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (SASH). It is the first of its kind and provides ongoing support to physician associate students at local universities and qualified physician associates. The school also supports employers and supervisors in the region and hopes to develop a network of physician associates and supervisors to ensure that we create, attract and retain the best talent in this field.

"I am passionate about the valued role that Physician Associates can make by offering a flexible and continuous workforce in a modern NHS" *Natalie King, Head of KSS School of Physician Associates and Consultant at SASH*

"I am delighted to see this important development.... It demonstrates the commitment from Health Education England to promoting and supporting multi-professional healthcare education and training, leading to better patient care" *Professor Graeme Dewhurst, Postgraduate Dean for Health Education England working across Kent, Surrey and Sussex*



At the official launch event, left to right: Emily Gooday, FPARCP; Professor Graeme Dewhurst, HEKSS; Dr Natalie King, KSS School of Physician Associates SASH; and Dr Des Holden, MD SASH



Canterbury Christ Church University PAS students, April 2016 cohort

PGDip Physician Associate Studies: New training available in Kent, Surrey and Sussex

Jo Piper
Programme Manager, KSS School of Physician Associates

We are excited to report that the new PG Diploma courses in Physician Associate Studies (PGDip PAS) launched this year at three universities in our region – Brighton and Sussex Medical School, University of Surrey, and Canterbury Christ Church University in conjunction with the University of Kent.

The PGDip PAS is a two year, full-time course which takes science graduates and trains them to become highly skilled clinicians who go on to work in secondary care or in the community. The training consists of a minimum of 1600 hours of teaching and 1600 hours of clinical practice delivered across different specialisms. These include Acute and General Medicine, Accident and Emergency, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Mental Health, Paediatrics and General Practice.

Fifty students enrolled in April and September 2016 and are all now fully ensconced in their studies.

"From the moment I started my PA course I knew that I had made the right choice. I have learned so much in just a few months. The learning experience has been superb and I love the course structure which is filled with all of the valuable theory, practical teaching and real-world experience of working with experienced GPs"

Milen Tewolde, PA Student, Canterbury Christ Church University

University faculty at each institution have worked tirelessly over the last 18 months to produce excellent curricula, recruit clinical supervisors in general practice and secondary care and give our new students the best start in this new profession. We are confident our students will receive the highest quality training and can look forward to rewarding careers as PAs in Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

The nine CCCU students who make up the April cohort (pictured above) recently visited East Surrey Hospital to undertake Quality Ward Round training with Dr King. More on this in our next Newsletter.

Inaugural UK conference welcomes PAs from across the country

Dr Natalie King

As Head of the KSS School of PAs and also a proud board member of the Faculty of Physician Associates at the RCP London, I was absolutely delighted to be asked to present at the first FPARCP National Conference held at the RCP in London. I, along with three other Consultants from Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust, was asked to lead a session at the event on the 28 and 29 September 2016.

The sell-out event opened its doors to over 300 student and qualified PAs and Professor Jane Dacre, President of the RCP, extended a warm welcome to all in her opening address.

I had the opportunity to present on the topic of acute geriatrics and spoke about the need for developing services with older people in mind and understanding frailty and how it impacts many older people.

Pam Trangmar, a PA who teaches on the Canterbury Christ Church PA programme, presented her work with Dr Ian Wilkinson and Dr Jo Preston of Surrey and Sussex NHS Healthcare Trust on the MDTea (Multidisciplinary Team Education on Ageing), a free open access series of podcasts for all healthcare professionals working with older adults, covering different areas of geriatric medicine.

“We will present the evidence base, recent advances and established best practice / wisdom in healthcare for older adults. Each episode will review an aspect of caring for older adults from the perspective of our MDT faculty”

<http://thehearingaidpodcasts.org.uk/mdtea-2/>

We were delighted to learn of Pam’s nomination for PA of the Year, both by her supervisor at SASH, Dr Wilkinson, and by the course lead at Canterbury Christ Church University, Sue Graham.

Pam Trangmar, PA, presents on the MDTea podcasts to delegates at the FPARCP National Conference in London



“Pam is one of the lynchpins of the MDT who care for our patients and is highly regarded by the wider team ... She gives all of us a sense of direction to the personalisation of care we deliver”

Dr Iain Wilkinson, Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust

“Pam’s enthusiasm, knowledge and boundless energy have made her an invaluable member of the teaching team... she is truly a world class PA and a credit to our profession”

Susan Graham, PA Programme Director, Canterbury Christ Church University

Next year’s conference looks to be even bigger and better, with ever increasing student and qualified PA membership at the FPARCP and we hope that more PAs and supervisors from the region will have the opportunity to be involved.

My Visit to AAPA 2016 - Texas

Dan Woosey, Physician Associate at SASH, looks back at the highlights of his trip to the world's largest PA event

It's an early start to catch my flight from London. I'm spending the next week with my fellow American PA colleagues at the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) Conference in San Antonio, Texas, and to say I'm excited is an understatement.

As I join my connecting flight from New York to San Antonio I discover I'm sitting next to a PA student from New York. The good thing about the conference is that it allows you to network and I arrange to meet Peter socially later in the week.

Day 1

I walk to the conference centre and once again I am amazed by the number of people walking around, knowing that all of these people are either qualified PAs or students. There are probably more PAs in this conference hall than we have working across the whole of the UK.

I sit down for the first lecture which is on presentations of oral and facial trauma. Another advantage of this conference is that you can participate in lectures that are outside your everyday knowledge base. Some lectures are broken up by quizzes in which you easily participate via your smartphone; the results are displayed on a large screen above the stage which gives a general feel of the knowledge base in the room before and after the lecture.



At a 'general session' we are introduced to a PA called Kevin Lacz who is a former Navy Seal and starred in the film American Sniper alongside Bradley Cooper. For me, Kevin's presentation is

extremely inspiring and highlights what an amazing profession I have joined because he talks about the virtues of being a PA and how the role has many crossovers with being a Navy Seal.

Day 2

Day 2 follows a similar path: more lectures followed by the Challenge Bowl in the evening. This is a competition where PA University Programmes answer medical questions to find out who is the ultimate winner. Lots of music and lots of dancing create a great atmosphere.

Day 3 & 4

Day 3 and 4 are interesting because alongside the usual lectures there is a chance to visit the exhibitors' hall.



This is where hospitals, drug companies, medical technology firms and exam writers come together to showcase their new products in all things healthcare related. It's nice to have a walk around and examine all of the products available. I discover an interesting potential product that I can take home and discuss with other PAs – an app for recording procedures.

Day 5 – final day

After the last of the lectures I feel sad it's all over but have a few extra days to myself to explore Texas. Finally the end of my time in the US has arrived and I prepare to fly back home. Next year's AAPA conference will be in Las Vegas - I am already preparing my trip...

