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NCCPA celebrates National PA Week by spotlighting achievements of Certified PAs
Weekly Profiles on PAsDoThat.net

Johns Creek, GA, Sept.13, 2017 – This year’s National PA Week (Oct. 6-12) marks a half-century of PAs delivering value-based, high-quality care. To celebrate the profession’s 50th anniversary, the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) is profiling 50 PAs who are representative of how the nation’s 115,000-plus Certified PAs are transforming healthcare in impactful ways.

Featured on the NCCPA [PAsDoThat](#) website, Certified PAs are highlighted for their work in many specialties and settings, in both their clinical position and in service to their communities. The selected PAs provide value and expertise in a variety of clinical and administrative areas, shaping healthcare teams as clinicians, hospital administrators, medical researchers, academic leaders, patient advocates, and forces for good in their communities.

“Certified PAs not only meet patient care needs, they continue to chart new territory and influence healthcare teams in ways that expand access and positively impact the healthcare system,” said Dawn Morton-Rias, Ed.D., PA-C, president and CEO of NCCPA. “I am proud to celebrate my profession for 50 years of dedicated practice and expansion of high-quality care to all patient populations. I look forward to our expanded role in the continued re-visioning of the healthcare landscape.”

NCCPA recognizes the commitment of the nation’s [Certified PAs](#) who treat more than 8.1 million patients each week. The highlighted PAs are prepared and proven, and are impacting patient lives and the U.S. healthcare system every day. Some examples of how “PAs Do That” include:

- **Certified PAs spearhead innovative approaches to improve patient care.** Certified PAs lead process improvement initiatives that increase efficiencies in hospital metrics and patient care. For example, one [PA helped develop a telemedicine process](#) to triage patients in rural community hospitals more quickly.
- **Certified PAs are meeting patient needs in every specialty.** Over 70 percent of PAs work in specialties outside of primary care, including in highly technical specialties such as orthopaedic surgery, cardiothoracic and vascular surgery, and [otolaryngology](#).
- **Certified PAs are filling gaps in rural areas with over 2,500 working in rural health clinics.** Certified PAs can often be found as [sole providers in isolated communities](#). There, they are responsible for everything during a patient’s visit – from taking vitals, conducting the exam, ordering labs, making the diagnosis, implementing treatment, and providing referrals for continuity of care.

- **Certified PAs are key providers in community clinics, often located in underserved markets.** They sometimes serve as clinic directors providing patient care and overseeing clinic staff and volunteer providers. [One such clinic, founded by a Certified PA](#), offers free services for the working poor who often fall through the cracks of the health-care system. This clinic provides services in primary care, mental health, neurology, physical therapy, gynecology and dermatology.
- **Certified PAs are working to combat national health emergencies such as the HIV/AIDS epidemic in marginalized communities.** Certified PAs are making a palpable difference through HIV/AIDS testing and community education in communities impacted by the crisis. They have launched health centers that specialize in [LGBTQ health](#).

For more on these stories and insights on how Certified PAs are meeting the nation's healthcare needs, visit www.pasdothat.net/Celebrate.

About the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants

The [National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants \(NCCPA\)](#) is the only certifying organization for physician assistants (PAs) in the United States. The PA-C credential is awarded by NCCPA to PAs who fulfill certification, certification maintenance and recertification requirements. There are more than 115,500 certified PAs in the U.S. today. For more information, visit www.PAsDoThat.net.

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