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Contact:
Mary Rittle, Director of Communications
maryr@nccpa.net
678.417.8142

**PA Leader Assumes Chairmanship of
National Physician Assistant Certification Board**

Will guide the Commission during tumultuous period in nation's healthcare industry

Johns Creek, GA, Jan. 03, 2018 – With his assumption of the chairmanship of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) on January 1, Paul Lombardo, MPS, PA-C Emeritus, became the first PA to serve on the governing boards of the profession's four largest national organizations. He is a past president of the American Academy of Physician Assistants and the Physician Assistant Education Association, and he also served on the board of the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant as treasurer.

A longtime leader in the profession, Lombardo is also a past president of the New York State Society of PAs and of AAPA's PA Foundation.

Lombardo retired as Chair of the Stony Brook University Department of PA Education, where he also served as Clinical Associate Professor and contributed to the advancement of the PA profession through scholarly activity, teaching and mentoring thousands of students.

Lombardo takes on the position at a complex time in the healthcare industry's evolution. "More than 65 million Americans live in a primary care desert, with no easy access to quality healthcare," said Lombardo. "Millions more, especially in rural areas, have no access to quality mental health providers. PAs are stepping up to fill gaps in care in virtually every specialty and clinical setting. We want the public to better understand all that certified PAs are doing and that we are committed partners with physicians to finding solutions to our nation's ongoing healthcare challenges."

Today's 123,000 certified physician assistants (PAs) are prepared to deliver high quality care to all patients. As it has done for over 40 years, NCCPA works to assure the public that certified PAs meet established standards of clinical knowledge and cognitive skills upon entry into practice and throughout their careers.

“Paul has pioneered efforts to promote the PA profession to each of its constituencies,” says NCCPA President and CEO Dawn Morton-Rias, Ed.D, PA-C. “Demand for PAs is at an all-time high, and Paul’s leadership will help NCCPA continue to ensure that certified PAs are well represented and the PA-C credential continues to designate the high standards that patients count on for high quality care.”

Lombardo is a 1973 graduate of the inaugural PA class at Stony Brook University. He completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Missouri and received his MPS at New School University.

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. NCCPA also administers the Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ) program for experienced, Certified PAs practicing in seven specialties. For more information, visit www.PAsDoThat.net.

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