

PA Students Going Beyond: Point-of-Care Ultrasound

In this “PAs Going Beyond” spotlight, we talked to Michael Breunig, MPAS, PA-C, Patrick Bafuma, PA-C, and Janelle Bludorn, MS, PA-C, about their [recent publication](#) on recommendations from a panel of PA-ultrasound experts (who were also required to be educators in some capacity) on what ultrasound applications should be included in PA education.

Q: What prompted you to embark on this research?

A: While more and more PA programs are implementing point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS), the current state of POCUS in PA education is quite varied - some programs have a single workshop, others have fully integrated curricula. Given the growing role of POCUS in practice and the increasing expectation that graduates are familiar with it, we felt a need to define minimum standards and priorities for PA education.



PA students competing in the iSCAN event during AAPA 2024

Read the full interview in the online edition of this quarter’s newsletter at [AAPA.org/research](https://aapa.org/research).

Resource Highlight

Explore our research CME offerings [here](#), and be on the lookout for our new set of courses next year!

AAPA collaborates with experts to offer free CME so PAs and PA students can learn about research and enhance their clinical work. In August 2025 we launched new course offerings related to clinical trials, using R, grant writing, and more.

In [How to Write a Strong Conference Proposal](#), Sean Kolhoff, PhD, discusses the challenges of overcoming imposter syndrome during the writing process and techniques that can be used to match your areas of research interest to a targeted audience.

For more related resources, [visit this article](#) on presenting your research effectively.

Research Activities at AAPA 2026

If you are also passionate about PA research, the call for research submissions for AAPA 2026 in New Orleans is now open! You can [download the submission guidelines](#) and [apply today!](#)

Stay in the know and learn more about the research activities [here](#). For questions, reach out to postersession@aapa.org.

Related links:

[Digital ePosters from AAPA 2020 to AAPA 2025](#)

[JAAPA Collections](#) and [AAPA 2025 Poster Abstracts](#)

[AAPA 2025 Research in Action and Research Rounds On Demand](#)



Newest Research on the PA Profession

Recently published interesting data? Won a research grant? Share your insights on why research is paramount to the PA profession. Reach out to us at research@aapa.org to highlight your work.

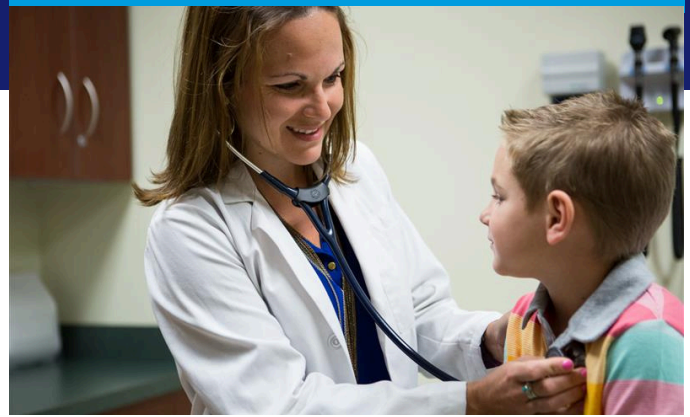
Here are a few articles we think you should see:

[Understanding burnout in physician assistants/associates through the lens of Conservation of Resources theory](#)

This study investigates factors associated with burnout among PAs using the Conservation of Resources theory as a framework and robust national data, finding that declining quality of working conditions is the strongest factor associated with increased burnout.

[Characteristics of family medicine physician associates/assistants in the United States](#)

This study examines the employment characteristics of physician assistants (PAs) in family medicine (FM) in the United States, highlighting their critical role in mitigating the healthcare access crisis, particularly in underresourced and rural areas.



Latest AAPA Publications

Thanks to your survey responses, we can include the latest data in our research reports, publications, News Central articles, and extended data briefs. Check out a sample of our latest publications below:

[The Role of PAs in the Management of Patients with Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias](#)

This brief synthesizes findings from a national survey and a focus group to identify key challenges and policy opportunities to empower PAs across the dementia care continuum.

Want more publications? Visit [AAPA.org/Research](https://aapa.org/research).

Research Connections

Join us on December 11, 7 p.m. ET for a free virtual networking session. Experts will discuss best practices for conference submissions and how to engage students, so come exchange ideas and insights with fellow PAs and PA students!

[Click here](#) to register today!

Related links:

Join the Research community on [Huddle](#)

Sign up for our research [mailing list](#)

