

# President's Letter

**Saura Douglas, PA-C**  
**OAPA Board President**



## Dear Members,

As we begin a new year with the OAPA, I am honored to serve as the president. After graduating from OU Tulsa almost 10 years ago I have primarily been working in spine surgery, with a couple other specialties thrown in the mix. Working inpatient, outpatient, in surgery, in a private office and with a corporation has allowed me to see multiple ways our great profession impacts our communities. It has also given me a window into areas where we can improve our practice.

The mission of the OAPA is "to secure and strengthen the Physician Associate profession in Oklahoma through advocacy, promotion, and continuing medical education". My goal this year is to bring this mission to the forefront of all we do. I am eager to see what can be accomplished with this mission.

**Advocacy.** We continue to push forward with changes to the PA rules and other legislation to further advance our practice and improve patient care. With the assistance of our lobbyists, we are looking at all possible avenues to achieve appropriate changes within the legislature and at the OK State Medical Board. Currently we plan to once again propose our rules to OSMB. When we attempted this last year, the OSMB elected not to include PAs in their revision of the rules. During state legislative session this spring, both the house and senate disapproved their proposed rules and the governor has asked OSMB to include PAs in further revision. Technically PAs have the ability to prescribe schedule II by state law; however, the pharmacy board has instructed all pharmacists not to fill these prescriptions. Our litigation with the OSMB and Oklahoma Pharmacy Board is on hold until appropriate meetings have occurred.

**Promotion.** Each PA in Oklahoma has the daily ability to promote our profession through discussions with patients, collaborating physicians, healthcare colleagues, employers, local and state politicians. The OAPA continues to work with various organizations and stakeholders to further promote our profession and our efforts.

**Continuing medical education.** This mission is dear to my heart as I have acted as CME Committee chair for several years. It is our goal to provide quality CME for not only our members, but to all providers near and far. The stronger we are in information, the better we can be for our patients.

I encourage each of you to pursue this mission. Take control of your practice and your profession. Advocate and promote for yourself, your patients, your profession. Continue to expand your knowledge. Donate to PAPAC to assist with legislative efforts. Contact representatives and leaders. Let us make it known that Oklahoma PA's can do more.

THANK  
YOU

Saura Douglas, PA-C  
OAPA President

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