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Alexandra Gallant
Anne Vail
Brooke Andersen
Cate Brady
Diana Brewer
Erin Szemak
Frank Rizzuto
Frannie Lorenzi
Hannah Anderson
Jaime Fox
James K. Tudhope
Jennifer McMahon
Joe Gulick
Johannah Crogan
Kaela White
Kathleen Hennings
Kristen Young
Lacey Tudor
Laura Erdman
Laurie Newton
Leyla Allum
Lisa Pierce
Lori McVay
Lori Swanchak
Madelynn Ahlborn
Meghan Weber
Melissa Ricker Bridges
Michelle F. Dawson
Moneé Carter-Griffin
Nadine Assaf
Richard Cassa
Ryan Hunton
Sarah Vanderlinden
Shannon Gaasch
Sheri Cosme
Suing Lockhart
Virginia L. Valentin

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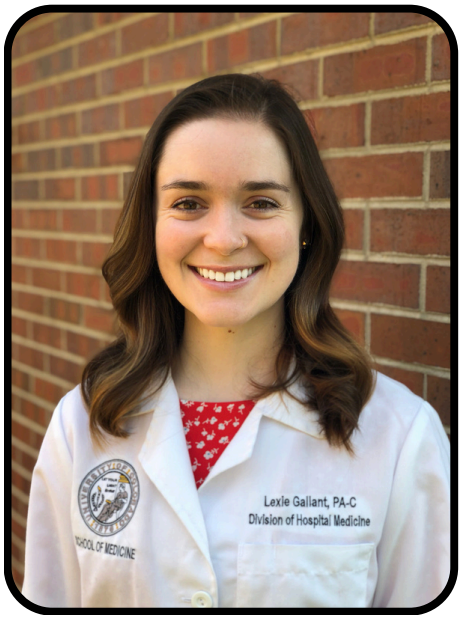

Alexandra Gallant, PA-C

Alexandra Gallant, PA-C graduated from the Child Health Associate/Physician Assistant program at University of Colorado in 2016. She then completed the hospitalist fellowship at University of Colorado before joining the Division of Hospital Medicine as faculty. She is currently the Director of APP Onboarding and the Co-Director of Provider Experience and Wellbeing. She is interested in physician-APP models of care, building cultures and systems that support clinician wellness, APP mentorship, and education. In her clinical work she has gravitated towards caring for solid-organ malignancy patients and splits her time between the medical oncology inpatient team and the Clinical Assessment and Rapid Evaluation clinic for oncology patients.

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Anne Vail

Anne Vail is the NP Fellowship Director for the Center for Advanced Practice at Advocate Health, where she leads the enterprise APP Fellowship across more than 29 medical specialties and multiple regional markets. In this role, she supports the development of fellows annually while collaborating with specialty leaders to advance workforce readiness, standardization, and excellence in postgraduate training. Anne earned her BSN from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and went on to complete both her Master of Science in Nursing (Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner) and Doctor of Nursing Practice at Duke University. At the national level, Anne has held leadership roles within the Board of Directors for the Association of Post-Graduate APRN Programs and has contributed to advancing best practices in APP fellowship education. She has published and presented nationally on topics including fellowship development, onboarding, and transition to practice. Anne is a graduate of the NCNA Leadership Academy, where she was selected as the 2021 class speaker, and she completed the Atrium Health Physician and APP Leadership Institute in partnership with Queens University of Charlotte. She remains passionate about mentorship, leadership development, and advocacy for structured postgraduate training pathways. Outside of her professional work, Anne enjoys spending time with her four energetic sons and Aussiedoodle, Piper, and playing golf.

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Brooke Andersen, DNP, ACNP, FCCM

Brooke Andersen is the Director of Advanced Practice Education and Director of the Advanced Practice Critical Care Fellowship Program at the University of Maryland Medical Center and R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center. She launched the inaugural Advanced Practice Provider Critical Care Fellowship in 2012. She has developed and led numerous multidisciplinary courses, in critical care, ECMO, ultrasound, and invasive procedures. Clinically Brooke practices in Critical Care at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center.

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Cate Brady, PA-C

Cate Brady, PA-C, is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. In 2026, she was promoted to Medical Director of the Gastroenterology Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Fellowship Program, where she leads curriculum development, training, and mentorship for postgraduate APP education.

With over ten years of clinical experience across pediatrics, urgent care, and adult gastroenterology, Cate is a recognized leader in APP education. Her manuscript "From vision to reality: Establishing a financially beneficial APP fellowship in gastroenterology" was published in the Journal of the American Academy of PAs (JAAPA) (2025), outlining a framework for developing specialty postgraduate APP training programs.

Cate is a national speaker on postgraduate APP education and presented on Fellowship Return on Investment (ROI) and Competency-Based Education at the Postgraduate APP Consortium meeting in Denver in 2025. She also contributes nationally through the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) as a mentor in the Mentorship Pathway Program, involved member on the Education Committee as well as a clinical content developer for the ACG APP Learning Series.

Through her leadership, the University of Colorado GI APP Fellowship has experienced record interest and continues to expand structured training opportunities for APPs entering gastroenterology practice.

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Diana Brewer, MS, PA-C

Diana Brewer, MS, PA-C, is an Assistant Professor and Physician Associate specializing in chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), where she also serves as a sub-investigator on CML clinical trials. She is the Director of the Knight Cancer Institute APP Hematology/Oncology Fellowship. To further her expertise in adult learning theory, she completed Harvard Medical School's Training to Teach in Medicine (T2TM) program. She also serves as Chief Medical Officer and co-founder of Sapient Clinician LLC.

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Erin Szemak, DNP, APRN, RN, AGACNP-BC

Erin Szemak, AGACNP-BC is the Co-Director of the Advanced Practice Fellowship in Hospital Medicine at the University of Colorado, where she channels a deep passion for shaping the next generation of advanced practice providers. Her educational superpower? She has never forgotten what it feels like to be a learner — and that empathy fuels her drive to create learning environments that are supportive, dynamic, and genuinely fun. She prefers hands-on, interactive experiences over slide decks, mentors future APP educators with enthusiasm, and ignites a sense of scholarly identity in fellows by pushing them to write clinical vignettes that turn meaningful cases into opportunities to shine on a bigger stage.

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Frank Rizzuto MBA, PA-C

Frank Rizzuto, MBA, PA-C is a Physician Assistant with over 30 years of experience in cardiothoracic surgery. A strong advocate for postgraduate education for PAs and NPs, he developed one of the first Critical Care fellowship programs for advanced practice providers in New York State in 2008 at NYU Langone Hospital—Long Island (formerly Winthrop Hospital).

In 2017, he joined Northwell Health, where he has led the development and expansion of postgraduate PA and NP fellowship programs across the system. He currently serves as Director of Advanced Clinical Providers for the Center for Advanced Providers, Co-Director of the ACP Fellowship Program, and Track Leader for the Cardiothoracic Surgery fellowship.

A leader in system-wide education and training, Mr. Rizzuto contributes to the development of clinical and leadership programming, teaches in simulation and bioskills procedural training, and remains clinically active within the cardiothoracic surgery service line. He is a frequent national speaker on advanced practice provider transition to practice programs and workforce development.

Outside of work, he is an advocate for animal rescue and welfare, enjoys cooking and landscaping, and is always in search of the perfect beach.

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Frannie Lorenzi, MMS, PA-C, FHM

Frannie Lorenzi MMS, PA-C, FHM completed her undergraduate degree in Biomedical Sciences at Marquette University in 2012 and her Masters in Medical Science at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine in 2014. She joined the University of Colorado's Division of Hospital Medicine in March of 2015 as an Advanced Practice Fellow and has been a faculty member since her graduation in 2016. She is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine, and her focus lies in Postgraduate Medical Education as well as APP Faculty Development. Clinically her interests lie in inpatient medical oncology and general medicine patients. She hopes to spark other APPs' interest in medicine through innovative postgraduate training.

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Hannah Anderson, MSPAS, PA-C

Hannah Anderson, MSPAS, PA-C is an Assistant Professor at the University of Kentucky Physician Assistant Program and Associate Program Director for the UK PA Academic Residency Program. After completing an undergraduate degree at Taylor University, she worked in community health in Lexington and Colorado before attending PA school at UK. After graduating from PA school, she practiced in Trauma and Acute Care Surgery. She currently works in primary care in Student Health at University Health Services. She serves on the PAEA Government Relations Steering Committee as well as the Kentucky Academy of Physician Assistants board. She is passionate about training resilient, excellent healthcare providers, advocacy for the patient and the provider, and fostering opportunities to improve the health and wellness of the local and global community.

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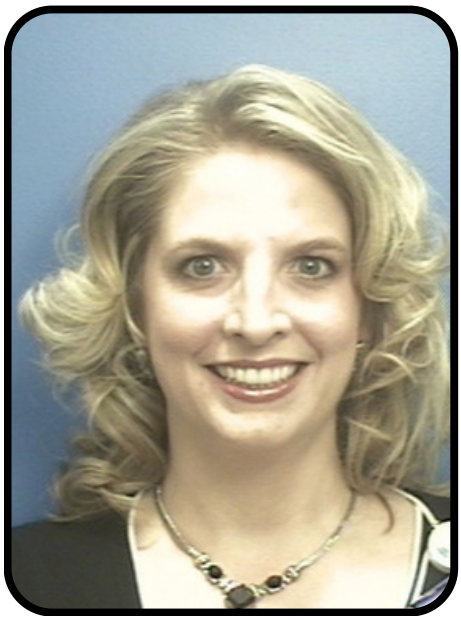

Jaime Fox DNP, RN, CPNP-AC/PC

Jaime Fox has been a certified pediatric nurse practitioner in acute and primary care at Children's Wisconsin since 2003 with experience in Pediatric Hospital Medicine, Pediatric Critical Care and Pediatric Transplant. In addition, Dr. Fox serves as the Children's Specialty Group (CSG) Advanced Practice Provider Director. Dr. Fox has a degree in Cell Physiology and obtained her Doctorate of Nursing Practice in 2010 from Marquette University where she has taught as adjunct faculty in the College of Nursing graduate program.

Dr. Fox is a board member of the Association of Post Graduate APRN Programs (APGAP) and has served on multiple local and national committees and boards including national leadership, clinical practice, finance, and centralized orientation, among others. She has attended the Society of Hospital Medicine (SHM) Leadership Academy.

Dr. Fox brings experience with program development designed to support the advancement and growth of new APPs. She, along with her team, created a now accredited Centralized Pediatric APP Fellowship, and graduated the first cohort in 2022. In 2017, she established an Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Pediatric Hospital Medicine team at Children's Wisconsin for which she developed an orientation and continues to provide education for new APPs. Additionally, Dr. Fox has experience mentoring medical and nursing students, residents, and staff. She has been a facilitator for multiple interprofessional provider workshops to enhance communication, understanding, and respect among various workers in the healthcare environment and participated in multiple research initiatives addressing clinical outcomes, nutrition, and the development of APP teams.

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James K. Tudhope, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC, NPD-BC, CNE

James K. Tudhope has been a registered nurse since 2001, a licensed professional counselor since 2008, and a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) since 2013. He currently serves as Program Director for the Integrated Community Psychiatry Nurse Practitioner Fellowship Program at Portage Path Behavioral Health. Additionally, Jim is an Assistant Professor at the College of Nursing, Kent State University and serves as the PMHNP Concentration Coordinator

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Jennifer McMahon MSN, APNP, AGACNP-BC

Jen is an Advanced Practice Provider in the division of Geriatrics and Palliative Care Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). Her clinical practice is with the inpatient Palliative Care consult team at Froedtert Hospital since November 2020. She has six years of critical care experience as a nurse practitioner, having worked in both the Medical and Cardiovascular ICUs at Froedtert Hospital. She has a special interest in providing patient and family-centered care for the critically ill patient population with focus on quality and patient values. In 2024, she joined the Office of Advanced Practice as the Associate Director for APP Fellowships at Froedtert and MCW. In this role, Jen focuses on APP fellow recruitment, core curriculum, and program experience. She is currently working on optimizing the APP fellowship website experience, implementation of the APP fellow mentorship program, ongoing peer-to-peer mentorship, and program educator connection.

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Joe Gulick, PA-C

Joe Gulick, PA-C, is a PA in hospital medicine at the University of Colorado and serves as the Assistant Director of Education for the division. His work focuses on APP faculty development, inpatient teaching innovation like an APP focused teaching team, and practical frameworks that help busy clinicians teach effectively in real clinical settings.

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Johannah Crogan, ARNP, PNP-PC

Johannah Crogan, ARNP, PNP-PC, is the director of the acute care pediatric advanced practice provider (APP) fellowship at Seattle Children's Hospital. A board-certified pediatric nurse practitioner, she has provided care in the Seattle Children's emergency department since 2012. Johannah completed her advanced practice training at Boston College in 2008 and began her career in pediatric primary care in Boston and later in Seattle. She joined the Seattle Children's APP Fellowship program at its inception in 2017 as a clinical preceptor, gradually taking on expanded leadership roles before becoming program director in 2022.

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Kaela White MSN, APRN, FNP-C

Kaela White MSN, APRN, FNP-C, began her career as a Family Nurse Practitioner in 2013 and joined Emory Healthcare in 2019 within the Department of Urology. She currently serves as the Advanced Practice Provider Education Lead for Surgical Services at Emory Healthcare and is the APP Fellowship Director for the Department of Urology, where she oversees advanced practice provider education, training, and professional development.

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Kathleen Hennings, ARNP, MSN, FNP-BC

Kathleen Hennings is a nurse practitioner at Seattle Children's, where she practices clinically in the Emergency Department and serves as an APP Educator in the Acute Care APP Fellowship Program. She completed the Seattle Children's APP Fellowship in 2017 as a member of the program's first cohort. Kathleen is passionate about APP postgraduate training and the use of simulation to strengthen clinical education and improve provider confidence. Her clinical and academic interests include quality improvement, Emergency Department flow, and triage discordance.

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Kristen Young, MSPAS, PA-C

Kristen Young, MSPAS, PA-C, is a pulmonary and critical care PA with over 17 years of clinical experience and a strong focus on postgraduate APP education. She founded Norton Healthcare's APP Fellowship Program and now serves as a consultant to support its continued growth and development. Kristen is a member of the APPAP Board of Directors, contributing to national advancement of APP fellowship standards and collaboration. She also teaches at Sullivan University, where she mentors PA students and integrates critical care practice with academic instruction. She is a frequent speaker at state and national level conferences. In her free time, she competes horses in the equestrian sport of dressage.

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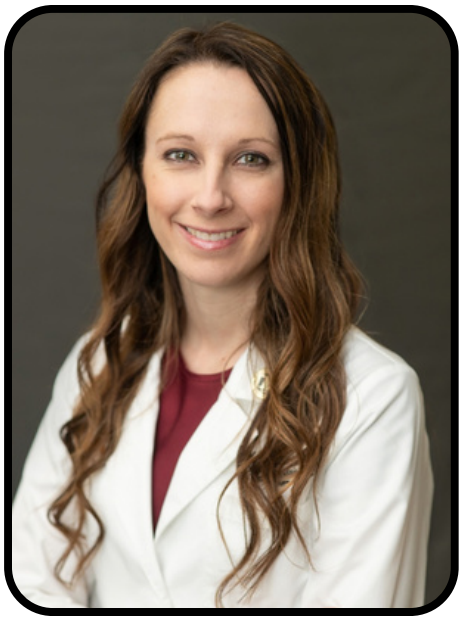

Lacey Tudor, DMSc, PA-C

Lacey Tudor, DMSc, PA-C, is an Accreditation Director with the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), where she has served since 2023, following her role as a Reconsideration Panelist. In this role, she engages with PA programs, clinical postgraduate programs, and post-professional doctoral programs to support accreditation and promote continuous quality improvement in PA education.

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Laura Erdman, PA-C

Laura Erdman PA-C is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine at the University of Colorado Hospital. She took a role within the division after completing the Advanced Practice Fellowship in 2016, and currently serves as a clinical coach, mentor, and member of Core Faculty for the Advanced Practice Fellowship. Laura also is an active lecturer at the Child Health Associate Physician Assistant (CHAPA) program and serves as a clinical coach and preceptor for the CHAPA program. Additionally, she serves as an Early Career Coach for APPs within the Division of Hospital Medicine.

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Laurie Newton DNP, RN, CPNP-AC/PC

Laurie Newton is a pediatric nurse practitioner at Children's Wisconsin and Medical College of Wisconsin, where she is an assistant professor in the Department of Otolaryngology. She is also a Director of Advanced Practice Providers for Children's Specialty Group where one of her primary roles is oversight of their centralized pediatric APP fellowship program. Laurie has been an active member of APGAP for the last several years, serving as a mentorship group leader and more recently on the Board of Directors. She has presented and published on various topics related to APP onboarding, transition to practice, and APP fellowships.

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Leyla Allum, ARNP

Leyla Allum, ARNP, CPNP-PC, is a pediatric nurse practitioner at Seattle Children's Hospital, where she has practiced since 2010. She is an educator for the Acute Care Pediatric Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Fellowship and has served in this role since 2022. Clinically, Leyla practices in Cardiac Surgery, providing care in both inpatient and outpatient settings. She completed her nursing and advanced practice education at the University of Washington in 2010 and 2014. Her professional interests include simulation-based education, development of didactic case studies, and mentorship of new APP fellows.

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Lisa Pierce, DNP, APRN, CPNP-AC

Lisa Pierce is the Vice President of Advanced Practice at OSF HealthCare in Peoria, Illinois. For 10 years she served the role as the program director for the OSF HealthCare APP Fellowship Program, leading three times to accreditation, most recently earning APPFA accreditation with distinction. Lisa has led the growth of the program to over 50 fellows annually in 9 specialties. She is the Principal Investigator for 2 HRSA grants that have provided support for the fellowship, she participates in research in advanced practice, and currently serves as a member of the NCICLE Steering Team. In 2025, Lisa expanded her executive oversight at OSF HealthCare to include both the APP Fellowship and RN Transition to Practice Programs.

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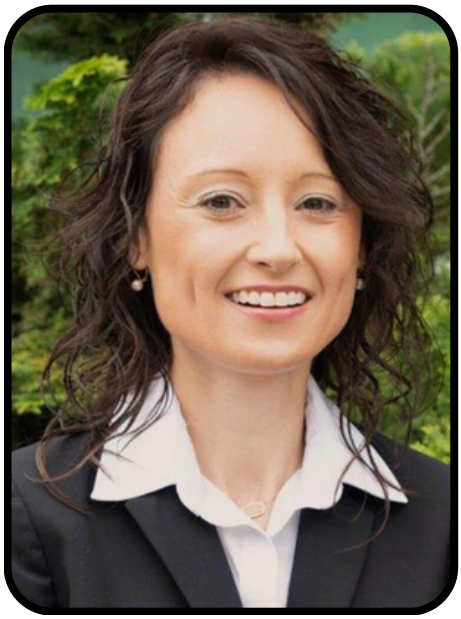

Lori McVay, DMSc, PA-C, CPAAPA, DFAAPA

Dr. Lori McVay received her Bachelor of Science degree in biology and health science from James Madison University, Master of Science degree in PA Studies from Shenandoah University, and Doctor of Medical Science degree from the University of Lynchburg. She has graduate certificates in executive leadership and healthcare administration.

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Lori Swanchak, PhD, PA-C

Lori E. Swanchak is currently an Accreditation Director at the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). She joined the ARC-PA in March of 2022.

Before this role, she served two terms on the Commission, serving on the Executive team as Secretary and then Chair of the Commission. Lori has been a site visitor for the ARC-PA since 2010.

With more than two decades of experience in higher education, Lori has held various academic leadership positions. She spent 16 years as a Clinical Director and Program Director within PA education, followed by four years as Dean of the College of Health and Human Services.

Clinically, Lori has practiced in Urgent Care and Emergency Medicine. She earned her PhD in Human Development, with a concentration in Health Promotion, in 2010, underscoring her commitment to advancing health and wellness.

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Madelynn Ahlborn, MPH

Madelynn Ahlborn, MPH is a seasoned leader in graduate medical education accreditation and operations, currently serving as Manager of Accreditation at Nuvance Health. She brings over a decade of experience supporting GME programs across healthcare systems and consulting environments, with deep expertise in ACGME compliance, program development, and institutional oversight. Madelynn holds a Master of Public Health from Michigan State University and is known for building sustainable accreditation frameworks, educating academic leaders, and advancing high-quality medical education programs nationwide.

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Meghan Weber, DNP, MBA, APRN, FNP-C

Meghan Weber is the Director of Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Education and Fellowship Programs at OSF HealthCare, where she provides system-level leadership for APP education, fellowship development, and clinical training across inpatient and outpatient settings. Since transitioning into clinical education in 2019, she has assisted in the design, expansion, and evaluation of multiple APP fellowship programs focused on clinical excellence, competency-based education, and workforce development.

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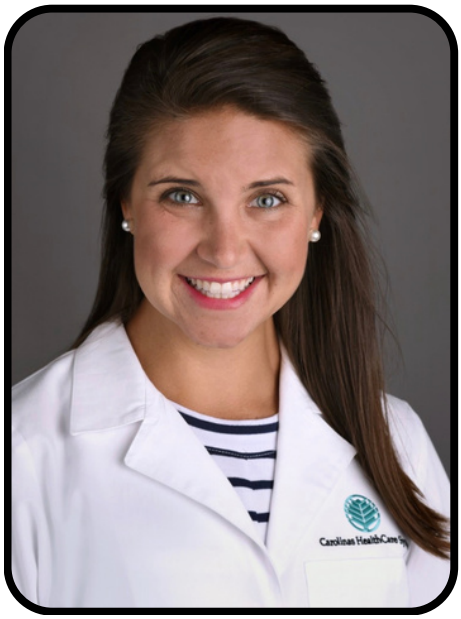

Melissa Ricker Bridges, DMSc, PA-C, FCCM, DFAAPA

Melissa Ricker received her Bachelor of Science in Human Biology from North Carolina State University, her Masters in PA Studies from East Carolina University, and completed the WakeMed Health and Hospital Surgical Trauma Critical Care PA Fellowship. Currently, she is practicing clinically in Pulmonary Critical Care and serves as the PA Fellowship Director of the Atrium Health APP Fellowship. She is past president of APPAP, serves on the nominating committee for the North Carolina Academy of PAs and Society of Critical Care Medicine PA Section Chair-Elect.

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Michelle Dawson, MSN, RN, AGACNP-BC

Michelle Dawson, MSN, AGACNP-BC, is a Critical Care Nurse Practitioner and the Director of APP Education and Fellowships at UVA Health in Charlottesville, Virginia. With over 10 years of experience in APP fellowship coordination and development, she leads the design and implementation of UVA Health's fellowship programs in Critical Care, Neurosciences, and Primary Care, earning APPFA Accreditation with Distinction in 2025.

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Moneé Carter-Griffin, DNP, MBA, MAOL, APRN, ACNP-BC

Moneé Carter-Griffin, DNP, MBA, MAOL, APRN, ACNP-BC is a healthcare executive, clinician, and learning strategist committed to advancing workforce development and professional education across healthcare and academic environments. With more than a decade of experience spanning higher education, clinical practice, and organizational leadership, she designs scalable learning infrastructures that strengthen engagement, improve retention, and support long-term professional success. Her professional interests include adult learning theory, program effectiveness and evaluation. Clinically, she maintains a strong interest in COPD and the application of personalized and precision medicine to optimize patient outcomes.

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Nadine Assaf, PA-C

Memphis native, Nadine Assaf, PA-C, is a physician assistant specializing in solid tumor and neuro-oncology at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and is a fellow in the ANCC Accredited Evolve APP Fellowship Program. She earned a Master of Physician Assistant Studies from Samuel Merritt University and a Master of Science in Education in Clinical Nutrition from the University of Memphis. Before becoming a physician assistant, Nadine practiced as a clinical dietitian for nearly five years, with experience caring for adult critical care and pediatric patients. Her experience across disciplines has given her a broad perspective on patient care and the healthcare system, shaping her commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration and advancing the role of APPs in healthcare. Throughout her career, Nadine has been actively involved in professional organizations, including the Tennessee Academy of PAs and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She also previously served on the Tennessee Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' diversity team and is passionate about healthcare advocacy, expanding access to care, advancing diversity and inclusion, and empowering clinicians to use their voices to shape the future of healthcare.

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Richard Cassa, PA-C, MPAS, MBA

Richard Cassa, PA-C, MPAS, MBA is originally from Huntington, New York. He received his Bachelor's of Arts degree in Foreign Languages from the State University of New York at Geneseo in Geneseo, NY. While studying in Geneseo, Richard became a volunteer AEMT and firefighter for the Geneseo Volunteer Fire Department. After graduation, he earned a Graduate Certificate in Physician Assistant Studies from Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. He later received a Master's in Physician Assistant Studies from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. In 2016 he completed a MBA from the Keller School of Management.

Mr. Cassa has twenty-three years of experience as a Physician Assistant. Most of his career has focused on Neurosurgery and Neurocritical Care. He has worked at Institutions such as New York Presbyterian Hospital-Cornell and Yale New Haven Hospital. While at Cornell, he was awarded the Physician Assistant of the Year award. He was an Adjunct Professor for the Physician Assistant Institute at the University of Bridgeport in Bridgeport CT from 2018-2021. He has co-directed CME courses at NYP and at Yale. He has published in the Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants and is a co-author of 'Neurocritical Care for the Advanced Practice Clinician'. Mr. Cassa has spent the last 7 years as the Director of the Physician Assistant Surgical Residency program at Norwalk Hospital/Yale School of Medicine and serves as President of the Association of Postgraduate PA Programs. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his wife, and 17-year-old son, running and hiking.

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Ryan Hunton, DHSc, PA-C

Ryan Hunton, DHSc, PA-C, is an Assistant Professor in the University of Kentucky (UK) Department of Physician Assistant Studies and the UK PA Residency Program Director. He completed an Advanced Practice Provider residency in the UK Department of Emergency Medicine in 2018, and a Doctorate of Health Sciences at A.T. Still University in 2023. He currently serves on the Association of Postgraduate PA Programs Board of Directors.

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Sarah Vanderlinden, DMSc, PA-C

Sarah Vanderlinden, DMSc, PA-C, is the Associate Chief Advanced Practice Officer for Practice and Privilege and APP Fellowship Director at Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin. She also serves as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery.

Dr. Vanderlinden has over a decade of experience in academic health system leadership, focusing on advancing the APP workforce, optimizing scope of practice, and integrating APPs into medical staff governance. She leads enterprise efforts to enhance privileging standards and align APP practice with evolving models of team-based care.

As the founding director of the critical care APP fellowship program a decade ago, she led the expansion of the system-wide fellowship structure that now supports five specialty tracks. Her work emphasizes developing sustainable and scalable training models that strengthen workforce pipelines, promote cross-specialty collaboration, and support high-quality patient care. She also established an APP Professional and Leadership Development Program to foster career progression and has contributed nationally as co-chair of the AAPA Competencies for PAs in Healthcare Administration Task Force.

Clinically, she has practiced in critical care for twenty years.

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Shannon Gaasch, MSN, AG-ACNP, CNS

Shannon Gaasch, MSN, AG-ACNP, CNS, is a Senior Nurse Practitioner and the Critical Care APP Fellowship Coordinator at the University of Maryland Medical Center. With over a decade of trauma and critical care experience, she leads fellowship curriculum development, interdisciplinary education, and APP mentorship. Shannon has contributed to national accreditation efforts, published extensively on APP education and critical care practice, and presents regularly at SCCM, APGAP, and other national conferences. She currently serves on the APGAP Board as Membership Chair and Education Chair-Elect.

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Sheryl “Sheri” Cosme, DNP, RN, NPD-BC

Sheryl “Sheri” Cosme is the Senior Director of PTAP and APPFA, where she leads national initiatives to elevate excellence in nursing and APP practice environments and accreditation standards. A seasoned leader, Sheri oversees strategic program development, stakeholder engagement, and the advancement of pathways that strengthen professional nursing practice across diverse healthcare settings.

With extensive experience guiding organizations through culture transformation, leadership development, and continuous quality improvement, Sheri is recognized for her ability to build effective collaborations that drive measurable impact for nurses and APPs. She works closely with executive leaders, educators, and frontline clinicians to champion evidence-based frameworks that support nurse empowerment, professional growth, and organizational success.

Sheri is based in Silver Spring and is widely regarded for her commitment to advancing the nursing profession through innovation, advocacy, and excellence in program leadership.

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Suing Lockhart, MSN, PPCNP-BC

Suing Lockhart, MSN, PPCNP-BC, has been a pediatric nurse practitioner in the Division of Dermatology at Seattle Children's Hospital since 2013. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and earned her Master of Science in Nursing from the Yale School of Nursing. Before joining Seattle Children's, she spent five years working in primary care and school-based health in California. In addition to her clinical work, Suing has been a clinical preceptor for the Advanced Practice Provider Fellowship Program since 2018 and joined the program's faculty in 2023. She is passionate about mentoring new APP graduates as they transition into practice and finds great joy in fostering their development, confidence, and clinical proficiency.

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Virginia L. Valentin, DrPH, PA-C

Virginia L. Valentin is an Associate Professor who serves as the Chair for the Department of Physician Assistant studies at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Valentin oversees the Physician Assistant Master's and residency where she works to increase access to care in Kentucky with a focus on rural healthcare.

Dr. Valentin's clinical background includes internal medicine, neurosurgery, and oncology. She utilizes her decades of clinical practice in her mentoring and teaching. Dr. Valentin has a track record of service including as the president of Kentucky Academy of Physician Assistants, member of the PA Education Association Government Relations Steering Committee, Research Mission Advancement Committee, and director at large board member.

Dr. Valentin's research focus is on the PA workforce and understanding the utilization of PAs and barriers to providing patient care. Her goal is to engage faculty and students in research that builds the knowledge PA healthcare impacts.

Dr. Valentin received her Doctorate of Public Health with a focus in epidemiology from the University of Kentucky, a Master's in PA Studies from Barry University, and RN degree from Weber State University's nursing program.

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A special thank you to all of our incredible speakers for helping make the 2026 APP Fellowship Conference so insightful, impactful, and memorable! We truly appreciate each of you sharing your expertise and inspiring our community.

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