

2025 APPAP/APGAP

APP FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE

NEW ORLEANS



SPEAKER & STAFF BIOS

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NEW ORLEANS



Aimee M. Abide
Brooke Andersen
Hannah Anderson
Rosemary Bloom
Lindsey Bozeman
Melissa Ricker Bridges
Jackie Guarino Broda
Tasha D. Bryant
Richard Cassa
Melinda Cooling
Johannah Crogan
Michelle Dawson
Jaime L. Fox
Shannon Gaasch
Alexander Gouttsoul
Stephanie Green
Cragin Greene
Danielle Hebert
LeAnn R. Holmes
Ryan Hunton
Jason Ipsarides
Annika Kay
Kirsten Lorenz

Frannie Lorenzi
Ellen Marin
Erin McElrath
Lori McVay
Heather Meissen
Laurie Newton
Susan Palmer
Michael A. Pisa
Frank Rizzuto
Danielle Roberts
Jordan Rodriguez
Dr. Andrew Rotjan
Erin Szemak
Dennis Tankersley
Jill M. Terrien
James K. Tudhope
Virginia L. Valentin
Anne Vail
Sarah Vanderlinden
Lisa Wanger
Meghan Weber
Kristen Young

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Aimee M. Abide

Aimee M. Abide, PA-C, MMSc, FCCM earned her PA degree from LSU and an MMSc from Emory University. She began her career in Cardiothoracic Surgery at Emory University Hospital Midtown before joining the Emory Critical Care Center, where she practices in the Medical and Cardiac Care ICUs. Aimee served as Lead Advanced Practice Provider for the Cardiothoracic ICU and is now the PA Program Director for Emory's Critical Care Fellowship Program. She focuses on educational and leadership initiatives for advanced practice providers, earning accolades such as the SCCM Presidential Citation, induction into the American College of Critical Care Medicine and newly elected to SCCM's board of regents. She also works with ARC-PA, achieving continued accreditation for Emory's fellowship in 2024 and serving as a Post-graduate Commissioner. Aimee has published on APP clinical practice, education, and research.

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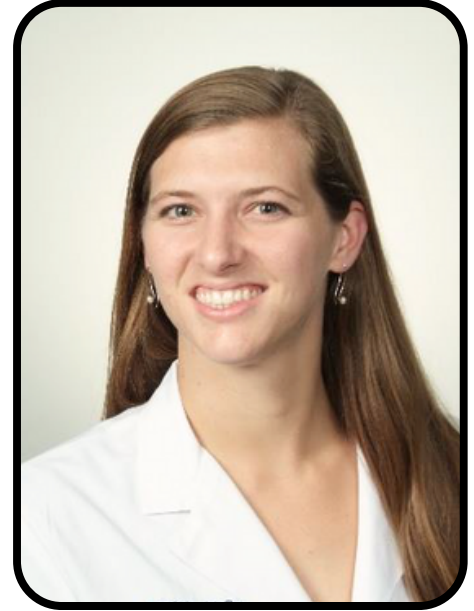
Brooke Andersen

Brooke Andersen DNP, AGACNP-BC graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center with her BSN in 2002 and her MSN, Acute Care NP in 2006. After graduation she relocated to the East Coast for an NP job at the University of Maryland R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center on the Trauma Surgical Team. She then transitioned to work in the critical care areas. Brooke helped to create the NP Critical Care fellowship in 2011 and is now the Director of the fellowship program. The program enrolled its first cohort in 2012 and to date has had 22 fellows graduate from the program. In addition to the fellowship, she is the Senior Clinical Program Manager for the Advanced Practice Critical Care Team at Shock Trauma. She works clinically in the Critical Care Resuscitation Unit, Multi Trauma ICU, and Neuro Trauma ICU. Brooke earned her post master's Doctoral of Nursing Degree in May 2023 from the University of Maryland. In addition to her clinical responsibilities Brooke has a passion for multidisciplinary education. Brooke has created and facilitated the APP Critical Care Bootcamp attended by all APPs hired into ICU positions as well as APPs throughout the state and region. Brooke also created and facilitates the Core Concepts of ECMO course. The course is a multidisciplinary two-day course that is also attended by people throughout the state and region.

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Hannah Anderson

Hannah Anderson, MSPAS, PA-C is the Associate Program Director for the University of Kentucky PA Academic Residency and Lecturer at the University of Kentucky PA Program. She is an alum of the UK PA program currently practicing in primary care with a background in Trauma and General Surgery. She is passionate about empowering the next generation of PAs to be resilient in clinical practice, human advocacy and research.

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Rosemary Bloom

Rosemary Bloom PA-C, born and raised on Oahu, Hawaii. Practicing in Phoenix, AZ as a plastic and reconstructive surgery PA. The Division Director of Surgical APPs at the Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center and the Fellowship Director of the surgical program. Mother of two boys, Beckett (Age 6) and Gentry (Age 4) and currently serving in the Utah Army National Guard's Aviation unit as their flight surgeon.

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Lindsey Bozeman

Lindsey Bozeman, BSN, MSN, FNP-C, ACNP-BC

Lindsey earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from Georgia College in Milledgeville, GA, and her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and Family Nurse Practitioner certification from Georgia State University. Her career began at Emory University Hospital Midtown (EUHM), where she developed her foundation as an Advanced Practice Provider (APP) in the Emergency Department before moving into the Neuro ICU within the Emory Critical Care Center (ECCC). In 2015, she completed her Post Master's Certificate as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (ACNP) from Emory University, solidifying her expertise in critical care. In 2015, Lindsey advanced her career at The George Washington University Hospital in Washington, DC, where she worked across multiple critical care specialties and later took on a leadership role as NP Director of the APP Trauma and Critical Care Residency Program. In this role, she relaunched the program to meet the highest standards, strengthening critical care education and APP transition-to-practice. Lindsey also contributed as the ICU APP lead, as well as serving as adjunct faculty at The George Washington University School of Medicine, precepting PA students and fostering the next generation of healthcare professionals. Lindsey returned to Emory's Cardiovascular ICU at EUHM in 2022, bringing a wealth of experience in APP education and interdisciplinary collaboration. She is actively involved in the Emory Critical Care Education Committee and the POCUS Committee, enhancing skills training for APPs within the ECCC. Her contributions to the field were recognized with the "Advancing the ECCC Educational Mission Award" in 2015, highlighting her commitment to APP education. As an appraiser for the Advanced Practice Provider Fellowship Accreditation™ (APPFA), Lindsey supports the accreditation of high-quality APP fellowship programs nationwide, ensuring excellence in the transition-to-practice for new APPs. She is also involved in wellness and mentorship initiatives at Emory, including co-chairing the Preceptor Mentor Committee to enhance preceptor support across Emory Healthcare. In research, Lindsey serves on the Emory STAGE research committee and is actively pursuing grant funding to support research focused on APP fellowship programs. A dedicated presenter, Lindsey shares her insights at national conferences where she discusses best practices from Emory's APP Critical Care Fellowship Program. Her work reflects her belief in building strong clinical leaders through mentorship, education, and wellness. Outside of her professional life, Lindsey is an adventurous Sagittarius who loves exploring new cultures, places and national parks. She's currently working through her bucket list of visiting every national park in North America.



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Melissa Ricker Bridges

Melissa Ricker Bridges, DMSc, PA-C 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. Since assuming the role as PA Fellowship Director in 2018, she has worked closely with co-Director Anne Vail, DNP to maintain the national reputation as the largest, most clinically diverse APP Fellowship in the country. To prepare these professionals to compassionately care for all, recent program additions include adding a diversity, equity, and inclusion curriculum, a formal leadership program, local and international service opportunities, and education/research collaboration with other allied health Resident's at Atrium Health. Melissa also worked closely with the Center for Advanced Practice to demonstrate APP utilization and satisfaction, resulting in Atrium Health being recognized as one of 16 healthcare systems, an Employer of Excellence. Melissa has also worked closely with the North Carolina Academy of PAs and the North Carolina Medical Board to increase awareness of general Fellowship value which has afforded PA Fellows being recognized uniquely by the Medical Board. Melissa has also been active in leadership, education and advocacy throughout her career holding positions such as past president of the national Student Academy of PAs, past president of American Academy of Physician Assistants 'PAs in Critical Care' and currently serves as the President of the Association of Postgraduate PA Programs. Her passions outside of work include traveling, baking, and playing the piano.

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Jackie Guarino Broda

Jacqueline (Jackie) Guarino Broda, MPAS, PA-C completed her masters in Physician Assistant Studies from Baylor College of Medicine, and found her passion for treating pediatric patients. She graduated from the Physician Assistant Surgery Fellowship Program at Texas Children's Hospital in the Department of Surgery in January 2014. The training exposed her to all surgical subspecialties at Texas Children's Hospital and she found a standout experience in Pediatric Urology. She joined the Urology team in January 2015 and has deeply enjoyed working with patients and their families to treat and educate them about pediatric urological conditions. In addition to patient care, she enjoys teaching and has been Program Director for the TCH PA Surgery Fellowship Program, TCH PA Orthopedic Fellowship Program, and TCH PA Community Surgery Fellowship Program since 2018. As Program Director, she has led her team through accreditation through ARC-PA. Jackie has been an active member of APPAP and is APPAP Board of Directors as a Director-at-Large of Education.

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Tasha D. Bryant

Tasha D. Bryant, MSN, FNP-BC, CPNP-AC is a dedicated Pediatric Cardiology Nurse Practitioner with a profound passion for mentoring and fostering professional growth. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1995, followed by a Master of Science in Nursing from Prairie View A&M University in Prairie View, Texas, in 2009. She further specialized with a Pediatric Acute Care Certification from Texas Tech Health Science Center in Lubbock, Texas, in 2015. A proven leader, Tasha has been a nurse practitioner and instructor at Texas Children's Hospital since 2001. In her role, she serves as a preceptor and mentor, guiding the next generation of advanced practice providers. Additionally, Tasha is a reputable speaker and holds leadership roles on various organizational and professional committees, advancing best practices and innovation in healthcare. Known for her unwavering commitment to excellence and development, Tasha continues to inspire and drive meaningful change within the healthcare community.

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Richard Cassa

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 an 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, Yale, and Nuvance Health. 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'. Currently, Mr. Cassa is the Director of the Physician Assistant Surgical Residency program at Norwalk Hospital/Yale School of Medicine. In his free time, Mr. Cassa enjoys spending time with his wife, and 16-year-old son, running and hiking.

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Melinda Cooling

Melinda Cooling DNP, MBA, APRN, NEA-BC, FAANP serves as the Senior Vice President of Advanced Practice for OSF HealthCare and the Chief Clinician Executive for OSF OnCall. Melinda is a clinical leader with expertise in building clinical models of care including in person and digital care solutions. She is a family nurse practitioner and developed the vision for the Center for Advanced Practice within OSF HealthCare which included the conceptualization of an APP Fellowship model which has now achieved national accreditation. She has held faculty positions in undergraduate and graduate colleges of nursing. Dr Cooling has experience in research serving as a principal and co-investigator for studies related to rheumatoid arthritis, APP transition to practice, burnout, preceptor evaluation tools for post-graduate fellowship and digital health. She is currently the principal investigator for remote patient monitoring and hospital at home programs. Additionally, she is the project lead for the HSII program through Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) at OSF HealthCare. Dr Cooling is actively involved in multiple APP leadership groups across the country and speaks both nationally and internationally. She serves as a clinical leader on the ATA clinical council. In addition, she serves as a commissioner on accreditation for American Nurses Credentialing Center Transition to Practice programs.

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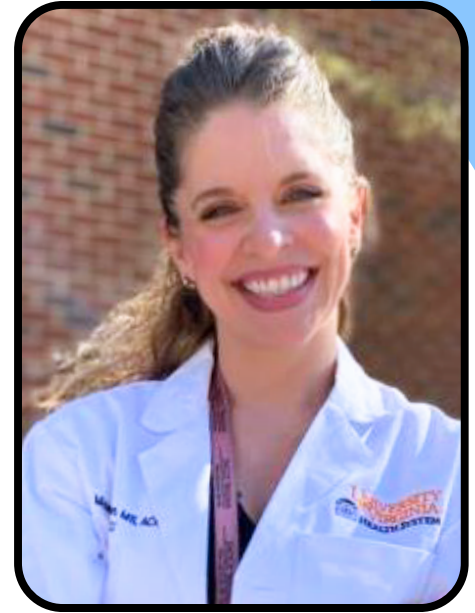
Johannah Crogan

Johannah Crogan, ARNP, CPNP-PC is the Director of the Acute Care Pediatric APP Fellowship program at Seattle Children's Hospital. She is a board-certified pediatric nurse practitioner and has been providing care in the Emergency Department at Seattle Children's Hospital since 2012. She completed her advanced practice training at Boston College in 2008 and worked in pediatric primary care in both Boston and Seattle prior to joining Seattle Children's. She has been involved in the APP Fellowship program since its inception in 2017, initially as a clinical preceptor, before becoming more involved in the development and management of the program and ultimately the director in 2022. She is passionate about providing education and mentorship to newly graduated APPs and seeing them develop the skills and confidence necessary to provide excellent care for children in an ever-evolving complex healthcare system.

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Michelle F. Dawson

Michelle F. Dawson, MSN, AGACNP-BC, RN is the Director of APP Education and Fellowships at UVA Health, where she leads the execution and delivery of three fellowship program tracks and works to advance a variety of educational, quality improvement, and strategic initiatives across the organization while maintaining an active clinical practice in the Thoracic and Cardiovascular ICU. A former NP critical care fellow and fellowship faculty member at the University of Maryland / R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, Michelle brings over ten years of experience in APP fellowship programs. She is a board member of the Association of Post Graduate APRN Programs where she serves as Vice Chair of the Education Committee and Chair of the Fellow Professional Development Committee.

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Jaime L. Fox

Jaime L. Fox DNP, RN, CPNP-AC/PC 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 a Children's Specialty Group (CSG) Advanced Practice Provider Assistant Director, as well as one of the directors of the Centralized Pediatric APP Fellowship. 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 for several years in the College of Nursing graduate program starting in 2014. Dr. Fox is a member of the Association of Post Graduate APRN Programs (APGAP) and has served on multiple local and national committees including Pediatric Hospital Medicine APP 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 APP. 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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Shannon Gaasch

Shannon Gaasch, CRNP-BC has been at University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) for 15 years and has been an NP in Trauma for the last 9 years working in the various critical care units (Multi-trauma, Neurotrauma and Critical Care Receiving Unit). She has been a coordinator for the APP Critical Care Fellowship for the last 7 years and is involved in teaching additional educational courses at UMMC including the Novice APP Critical Care Bootcamp, Fundamentals of Critical Care Support, SCCM Critical Care US Course and the multidisciplinary Core Concepts of ECMO Course. She has a passion for teaching and mentoring APPs and in her spare time enjoys spending time with her husband and two kids.

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Alexander Gouttsoul

Alexander Gouttsoul PA-C is a Board-Certified Physician Assistant, who received his degree from the University of Utah PA Program in 2010. Since 2012, he has been employed at the University of Utah School of Medicine by Cardiology Division and later by General Internal Medicine as a PA hospitalist. In 2017, with the support from the Department of Internal Medicine he had the opportunity to construct and lead the Hospital Medicine Post-Graduate APP Fellowship, and participate at APPAP as a Director at Large responsible for education.

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Stephanie Green

Stephanie Green MSN, APRN, AGACNP-BC is a dedicated Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner working in Critical Care. She is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University where she obtained her BS in Nursing in 2012, after which she continued her education at the University of Texas at Arlington, graduating with her MSN in Acute Care in 2019. Stephanie is currently the Fellowship Manager for the Exceed Healthcare APP Critical Care Fellowship where she is responsible for program operations across all tracks at multiple facilities. Her collaborative and dynamic leadership was vital in achieving APPFA Accreditation for the program, demonstrating her commitment to providing the highest quality training and transition to practice experience for Advanced Practice Providers.

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Cragin Greene

Cragin Greene MHS, PA-C is a native of Massachusetts where he worked as firefighter/paramedic for many years. He graduated from Syracuse University with a BS in Biology and went on to PA school at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. He relocated from Massachusetts to North Carolina starting his PA career in Cardiology and Urgent Care before transitioning to the Department of Emergency Medicine at Carolinas Medical Center. Practicing in an academic medical center allowed him to truly appreciate his passion for teaching. In 2013 he co-founded and developed the multispecialty PA/NP fellowship programs at what is now Atrium Health, now the country's largest and most educationally diverse APP fellowship program. He remains active with the Association for Postgraduate PA Programs with two terms as President and DOL positions, has served on many NCAPA, NCMB, AAPA, ARC-PA, and PAEA committees to promote student and postgraduate education and advancement of the PA profession. He speaks regularly at specialty, state and national conferences. He is currently a commissioner and vice chair with the ARC-PA's Clinical Postgraduate Sub-Commission through 2025. As the Academic Director with the Center for Advanced Practice at Atrium Health he oversees the APP fellowship program, APP student placement, CME events, the system APP academic mission and coordination the UME and GME departments.

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Danielle Hebert

Danielle Hebert, DNP, MBA, ANP-BC has been in the nursing field for 27 years, receiving her BSN and MBA at Fitchburg State University, her MSN from UMass Medical School Graduate School of Nursing, and her DNP from UMass Boston. She has 17 years' experience in primary care managing a panel of patients as well as holding several leadership positions. She is currently the project manager and academic partner for a HRSA funded family nurse practitioner residency, an Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Practitioner Track at UMass Chan Medical School Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing and continues to practice in primary care. Her areas of interest include gamification in the classroom and fixed versus growth mindset.

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LeAnn R. Holmes

LeAnn R. Holmes, DNP, APRN, FAANP is an advanced practice registered nurse with extensive experience in clinical practice, education, and leadership in nursing. She currently serves as the Interim Associate Dean for Transformation Practice & Partnerships at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Nursing, Lincoln Division. Dr. Holmes holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) from UNMC (2014), a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) with a focus as a Family Nurse Practitioner (1998), and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from South Dakota State University (1992). Dr. Holmes' academic career has focused on advancing nursing education, faculty development, and enhancing access to care through innovative nurse practitioner fellowships. She has served in multiple leadership roles, including Director of the UNMC DNP Program and Faculty Practice Director at the College of Nursing. Her research interests include nurse practitioner workforce development, faculty practice, and health equity, and she has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Holmes is a Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (FAANP) and has held several leadership positions in professional organizations, contributing to developing nursing policy and practice standards. She has received several awards, including the Ada M. Lindsay Professional Service Award (2024) and the Donna Westmoreland Excellence in Faculty Mentoring Award (2023). In addition to her academic contributions, she has served as a faculty preceptor, mentor, and committee member for numerous nursing initiatives. Her clinical experience spans various settings, where she has mentored new nurse practitioners and contributed to advancing care models.

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Ryan Hunton

Ryan Hunton, DHSc, PA-C, is an Assistant Professor in the University of Kentucky (UK) Department of Physician Assistant Studies and Director of the Medical Tracks for the UK PA residency programs. He completed a Doctorate of Health Sciences at A.T. Still University in 2023, and he completed the Advanced Practice Provider residency in the UK Department of Emergency Medicine in 2018. He currently works in the emergency department at Frankfort Regional Medical Center in Frankfort, Kentucky, and serves in the Kentucky Army National Guard.

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Jason Ipsarides

Jason Ipsarides, APRN completed his bachelor's degree in sociology with a concentration in health and medicine at Northwestern University in 2018. He then enrolled in the accelerated direct entry Master's of Science in Nursing program at Marquette University. While completing his master's degree at Marquette, he worked as a registered nurse on the inpatient behavioral health unit at Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital. He completed his master's degree in nursing in 2020 and enrolled in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at the University of Missouri. He completed his doctorate and obtained his certificate as a psychiatric nurse practitioner in 2022 and started working with Medical College of Wisconsin shortly after. He splits his time between Children's Hospital and the Froedtert North Hills Health Center doing outpatient psychotropic medication management for children and adolescents. He is currently the program director for the MCW Psychiatry APP Fellowship.

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Annika Kay

Annika Kay, PA-C, MPAS, is an advanced practice provider on the Trauma & Surgical Critical Care Team at Intermountain Medical Center, an ACS verified level 1 Trauma Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. She completed the Intermountain Trauma Fellowship for APPs in 2011, which included a formal clinical research project. Since, she has been an integral part of building the trauma research program at her institution and has a rank of Associate Professor of Research. She also serves as the APP Trauma Fellowship Research Director.

Kirsten

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Kirsten Lorenz

Kirsten Lorenz MSN, AGACNP is the program director of Prisma Health's Critical Care Advanced Practice Provider Fellowship in Greenville, South Carolina, where she also serves as the Lead Inpatient APP for the division of Pulmonary Critical Care. She is a graduate of Vanderbilt University's Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program and has worked in Pulmonary Critical Care since 2016. She is passionate about training new graduate APPs in the specialty of Critical Care Medicine and has assisted in improving access to critical care services by growing a team of more than twenty critical care APPs that cover multiple intensive care units in the greater Greenville area. Kirsten serves on Prisma Health's Department of Medicine APP Leadership Council and the operations sub-committee, advocating for the advancement of APPs within the system. She also has a clinical appointment as an Instructor at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine and serves as a co-leader of APGAP's mentorship group. In her personal time, Kirsten enjoys golfing, playing tennis, hiking, and spending time with her husband, two sons, and friends.

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Frannie Lorenzi

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 Post Graduate 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 post-graduate training.

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Ellen Marin

Ellen Marin, PA-C, MPAS is a Physician Assistant on the inpatient BMT and Malignant Hematology service at Emory Healthcare's Winship Cancer Institute in Atlanta, GA. She obtained her master's degree in physician assistant studies at the University of South Florida. During her career, Ellen has focused her research on the understanding of rare hematology disorders along with elucidating and mitigating acute complications seen with cellular therapy. Ellen currently serves as the co-director of the hematology and medical oncology APP fellowship at Winship Cancer Institute and is an active member of the Education Committee. While her professional interests include incorporation of evidence-based medicine into APP practice and treatment of various hematology disorders, Ellen's personal focus has been taking care of her newborn baby at home.

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Erin McElrath

Erin McElrath, MBA, PMP is an administrator for inpatient clinical operations at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) in Boston where she has spent the last 10 years. She began her career over 20 years ago working in Emergency Registration at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Virginia. In 2013, she earned her MBA with a concentration in Healthcare Management from Simmons University School of Management. In 2017, she began working as the Project Manager to help establish the first PA Fellowship at BWH and transitioned to the Program Administrator in 2020 when the fellowship was officially stood up.

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Lori McVay

Lori McVay DMSc, PA-C, CPAAPA, DFAAPA received her Bachelor of Science degree in biology and health science from James Madison University, Master of Science degree in Physician Assistant 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. Dr. McVay has completed training in cardiac device technology at the Arrhythmia Technologies Institute. Dr. McVay has clinical experience in hospital medicine, general cardiology, electrophysiology, and structural cardiology. She has practiced at the Centra Heart and Vascular Institute in Lynchburg VA, since 2011. Dr. McVay is the Founding Program Director of the Centra Heart and Vascular Institute Fellowship Programs. She has experience overseeing fellowship programs in general cardiology, vascular surgery, cardiothoracic surgery, and wound care. Under her leadership the Centra Heart and Vascular Institute Fellowship Programs obtained ARC-PA accreditation in June 2024. Dr. McVay oversees the cardiology teaching service providing cardiovascular medical education to NP, PA, medical students, and family practice residents. Dr. McVay is the Chair of the Governance and Nominating Committee and a Clinical Documentation Improvement Advisor. Dr. McVay has been recognized by the AAPA as a distinguished fellow and has been awarded the clinical preceptor designation. She has received the University of Lynchburg outstanding preceptor award (2018), Centra Heart and Vascular Institute professional achievement award (2018), Centra Medical Group Rising Star Leadership Award (2022), Virginia Academy of PAs PA/Physician Partnership award (2023) and has been named a Shenandoah University successful alumni (2024). Centra Medical Group Rising Star Leadership Award (2022), Virginia Academy of PAs PA/Physician Partnership award (2023) and has been named a Shenandoah University successful alumni (2024).

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Heather Meissen

Heather Meissen DNP, ACNP, FCCM, FAANP is an Associate Professor at the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University. She is the program director for the MN Pathway Program and teaches in both prelicensure and post licensure coursework. She also practices as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at Emory University Hospital. Previous to joining the school of nursing, Heather was the founding program director of the Critical Care NP Fellowship at Emory Healthcare, which received the nation's first accreditation as a practice transition program from ANCC. She now serves as a commission of accreditation. She was also instrumental in the development of the Association of Post Graduate APRN programs, serving on their founding executive board and becoming the first president.

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Laurie Newton

Laurie Newton is a certified pediatric nurse practitioner in acute and primary care and a member of the pediatric otolaryngology division at the Medical College of Wisconsin where she has practiced at Children's Wisconsin since 2006. She was recently promoted to a formal faculty position at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Newton was recruited to the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing after completing her Doctorate of Nursing Practice degree and has taught since 2015 as a clinical associate professor. Dr. Newton has a deep understanding of advanced practice providers' (APPs) needs and challenges through her own practice, teaching, and committee service as chair of the APN Discipline, chair of the Children's Specialty Group (CSG) Professional Development Committee and member of the Advanced Practice Provider (APP) leadership team at Children's Wisconsin. She has been an elected board member for the Society of Ears, Nose, and Throat Advancements in Children (SENTAC), a member of the education committee for the Society of Otolaryngology Head-Neck Nurses (SOHN), and a member of the Association of Postgraduate APRN Programs (APGAP). In addition to her clinical responsibilities, Dr. Newton is the Assistant Director of APPs with a core responsibility of developing and overseeing the centralized pediatric APP fellowship program at Children's Specialty Group. In addition to development of a centralized pediatric fellowship, during the Covid 19 pandemic her team received grant funding to look at improvement of orientation for new APPs hired into all pediatric specialty practice areas at MCW and CW, particularly looking at the leadership and professionalism needs of novice APPs. As faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Nursing, her scholarly work focuses on innovation in nursing education. Her dual roles as a clinical provider and nurse educator gives her first-hand experience with the needs of novice APPs, helping her to effectively lead development of clinical and professionalism training initiatives for new graduates and APP fellows.

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Susan Palmer

Susan Palmer, PA-C graduated from the University of New England in 2003 to in turn help launch the 1st minimally invasive urologic division in the northeast at Lahey Hospital and Medical Center. There, Susan built up the laparoscopic program, in all practice settings for urology and has her own (>1K) patient panel she currently cares for. She has precepted numerous NP and PA students as well as delivering lectures for PA programs. In 2020 she launched the first urology fellowship program in the Northeast at Lahey Hospital and Medical Center. During her tenure she has served on PA and AP advisory councils, facilitating APs to become members of the medical staff. She has lectured at the New England American Urologic Association general audience and AP audience, facilitated panel sessions, cystoscopy workshops and been the lead coordinator for the AP educational session. She currently serves as lead AP of the division of Urology and Urology Fellowship Director, as well as an admissions committee member for the UMass Chan at Lahey Medical School. She's a proud mom of 3 boys, likes to feed people, considers herself constantly curious, and is enthusiastically inclusive.

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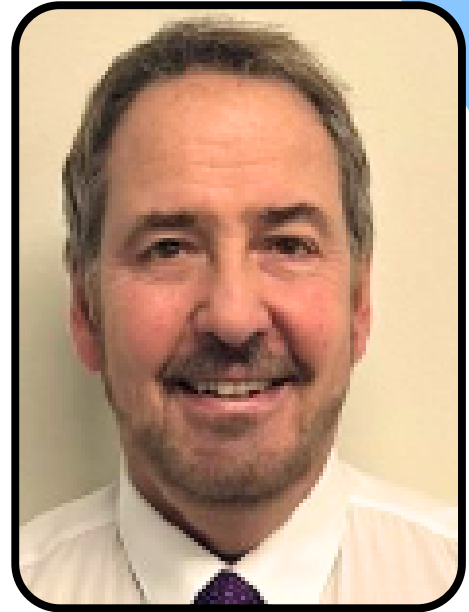
Michael A. Pisa

Michael A. Pisa, MSN, ACNP-BC is the Program Director for Advanced Practice Fellowships at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania where he also practices clinically as a Nurse Practitioner in Traumatology & Surgical Critical Care. He is currently the outgoing President of the Association of Postgraduate APRN Programs where he has served on the board of directors since 2021. He is a course director for Fundamentals of Critical Care Support offered by the Society of Critical Care Medicine. He is active in the national curriculum committee for the Fundamentals of Critical Care Support. In his role as a multidisciplinary educator he makes extensive use of high fidelity simulation. He has presented locally and nationally on various topics surrounding the delivery of critical care, critical care education, and high fidelity simulation. Michael completed his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from La Salle University in 2004. He completed his Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania in 2005 and his Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania in 2007.

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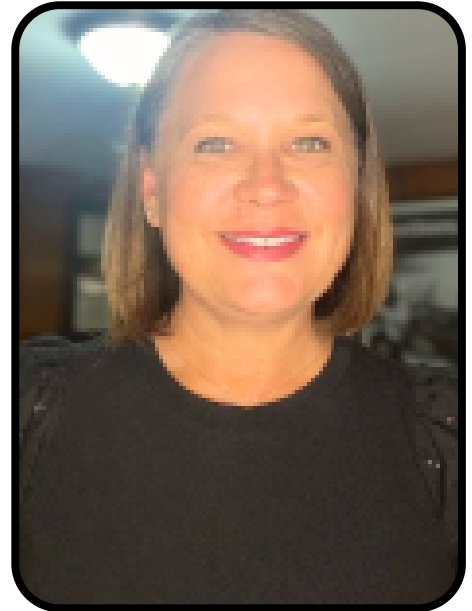
Frank Rizzuto

Frank Rizzuto MBA, PA-C is a seasoned Physician Assistant with over 30 years of experience in Cardiothoracic Surgery. A dedicated advocate for post-graduate education for PAs and NPs, Frank spearheaded the first Critical Care Fellowship Program in New York State in 2008 at NYU Langone Hospital-Long Island (formerly Winthrop Hospital). In 2017, he joined Northwell Health where he applies his expertise in developing and maintaining post-graduate PA and NP programs across the health system. He currently serves as the Director of Advanced Clinical Providers for the Center for Advanced Providers, Co-Director of the Northwell Health ACP Fellowship Program, and Track Leader for the Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship specialty track. As a leader in systemwide education and training, Frank contributes to the development of annual leadership and clinical seminars, instructs in simulation and bioskills training, and maintains an active clinical role within the Cardiothoracic Surgery service line. He has presented at prominent conferences, including the International Congress of Cardiology and the New York State Society of Physician Assistants conference, where he has highlighted the significance of post-graduate PA and NP education. In his personal time, Frank 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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Danielle Roberts

Danielle Roberts, PA-C is the associate Chief of Education for APPs and the CoDirector Hematology/Oncology APP Fellowship at the Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University. She graduated from Emory University's Physician Assistant Program in 2007. Upon graduation Danielle worked in community oncology before joining the Winship Cancer Institute in 2011. She has enjoyed working in many oncologic specialties including Community Oncology, Survivorship, GVHD, and in her current position in Malignant Hematology. Danielle currently serves as the Associate Chief of Education for the Winship Cancer Institute and is Society Leader and adjunct faculty for the Emory University Physician Assistant Program. She is currently enrolled in the WHEA Teaching Fellowship and was honored with the 2022 Physician Assistant of the Year by Emory PA program.

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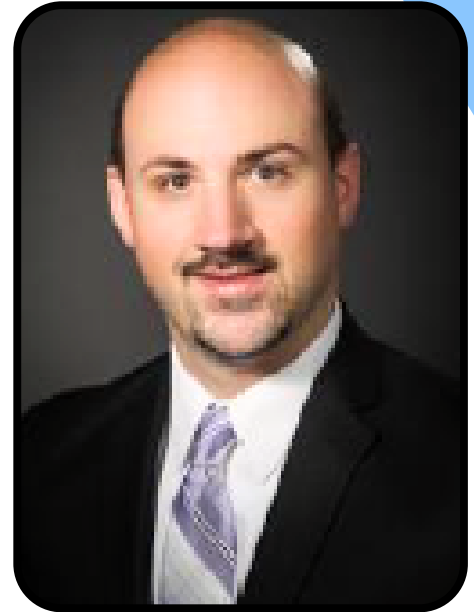
Jordan Rodriguez

Jordan Rodriguez is the Senior Project Manager for the Surgery Advanced Practice Providers (APPs) at Texas Children's Hospital, where we have over 200 Surgery APPs across four campuses. In this role, she collaborates with various leaders and stakeholders to implement initiatives and expand programs. She also generates and analyzes financial reports, oversees student placements, and manages accreditation processes for our Physician Assistant Fellowship Programs. Additionally, she developed and is co-chair for the Surgery APP Mentorship Program. Previously, she served as the Pediatric Surgery Physician Assistant Fellowship Coordinator, where she coordinated the first program of its kind in the country. Her responsibilities included overseeing education, curriculum, recruitment, and special projects. In addition to her professional achievements, she has co-authored several publications focused on improving healthcare practices and education. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her 2-year-old daughter and her husband.

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Dr. Andrew Rotjan

Dr. Andrew Rotjan, DNP, FNP-BC, AGACNP-BC, ENP-C, EMT-P, CHSE is a board-certified Adult-Gerontology Acute Care, Emergency, and Family Nurse Practitioner. He serves as Director of the Center for Advanced Providers and Co-Director of the Advanced Clinical Providers fellowship program at Northwell Health. At Northwell, he collaborated on the design and implementation of post-graduate training programs and leads numerous educational and administrative initiatives related to NP and PA practice. He also maintains a clinical practice in Northwell's emergency departments. Additionally, Dr. Rotjan is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Hofstra-Northwell School of Nursing and Physician Assistant Studies, teaching in both the Family and Acute Care tracks. He is Director-Elect of Education for the Association of Post-Graduated APRN Programs and serves on the Education Committee for the American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners (formerly as co-chair). Dr. Rotjan has published and presented nationally on advanced practice and post-graduate education. He earned his BSN and Doctor of Nursing Practice from Stony Brook University. He also holds a family nurse practitioner degree and a post-master's certificate in emergency care from Rutgers University, and a post-master's degree in acute care from the University of Pennsylvania. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family and the outdoors.

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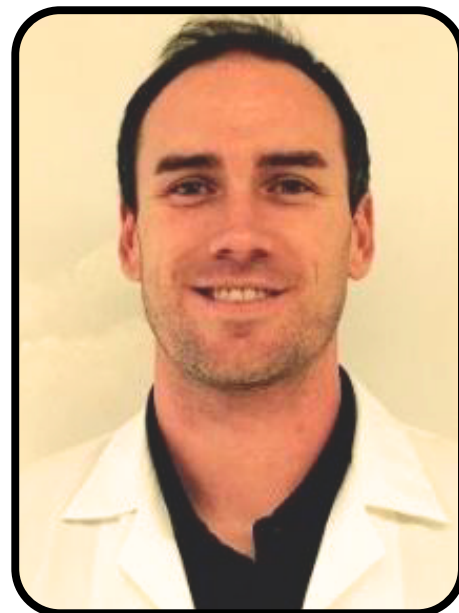
Erin Szemak

Erin Szemak, DNP, AGACNP-BC is an Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner and passionate clinical educator, serving as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine at the University of Colorado Hospital. She also holds the position of Co-Associate Director for the Advanced Practice Fellowship in Hospital Medicine, where she plays a vital role in mentoring and shaping the next generation of Advanced Practice Providers (APPs). Erin is deeply committed to the professional growth and development of APP students and early-career APPs, leveraging her expertise to guide them toward excellence in clinical practice. Her work focuses on quality improvement initiatives that enhance healthcare delivery and patient outcomes, with a particular interest in caring for individuals affected by addiction. Additionally, Erin is dedicated to fostering resilience and well-being among healthcare professionals by advocating for sustainable practices that support provider wellness.

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Dennis Tankersley

Dennis Tankersley DMSc, PA-C is the Immediate Past President of APPAP. He is the Founding Program Director of the EMPA Fellowship at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton, CA. Dennis served in that capacity for over 16 years and, about a year ago, moved from full-time emergency medicine practice to owning and operating All Valley Urgent Care in Calimesa, CA. Dr. Tankersley is currently in his second term as a California Associate of PAs Board Member and has nearly a decade of experience as both a hospital and Healthcare District board member. Dennis has been a sheriff's department medical reservist since 2012.

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Jill M. Terrien

Jill M. Terrien, PhD, ANP-BC is an Adult Primary Care Nurse Practitioner and is the project director and academic partner for a HRSA funded family nurse practitioner residency. She also has a second HRSA grant focused on supporting nursing preceptors across all levels of nursing education and employment. Her expertise includes curriculum design and evaluation, academic and community partnerships and interprofessional education. She is the Associate Dean for Interprofessional and Community Partnerships at UMass Chan Medical School, Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing in courses that include population health, social determinants of health, healthcare disparities and the healthcare system

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James K. Tudhope

James K. Tudhope DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC, NPD-BC 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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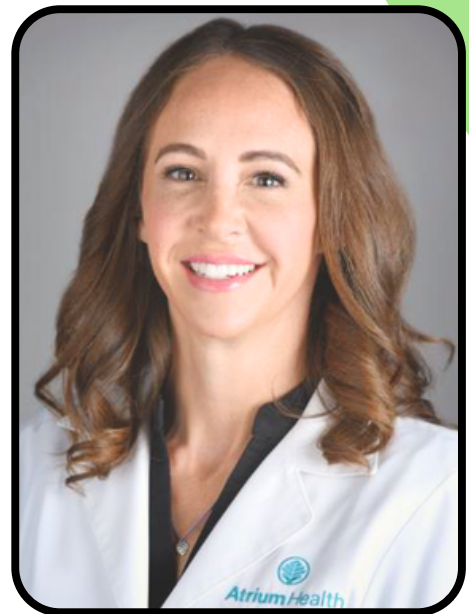
Virginia L. Valentin

Virginia L. Valentin DrPH, PA-C, is an Associate Professor who serves as the Chair of the Department of Physician Assistant studies and PA Academic Residency Program Director at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Valentin received her Doctorate of Public Health from the University of Kentucky, a Master's in PA Studies from Barry University, and nursing degree from Weber State University. Her clinical background is in inpatient and outpatient oncology, Bone marrow transplant and neurosurgery. Dr. Valentin is passionate about developing PA leaders who will focus on eliminating health care disparities.

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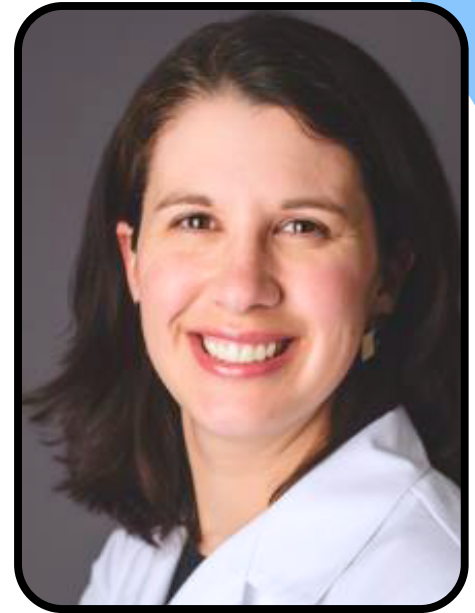
Anne Vail

Anne Vail earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in 2007. She worked for seven years as a RN in the Coronary Care Unit and Cath/EP Lab before transitioning to advanced practice. She pursued graduate education at Duke University School of Nursing to obtain a Master of Science in Nursing with Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner and Doctor of Nursing Practice. Anne's NP career began with Inpatient Infectious Disease and now finds a clinical passion for Geriatric Medicine specifically in dementia management. Since 2017, Anne has been directly involved with postgraduate education building the Geriatric Medicine track and in 2019 transitioning to full-time administration as the NP Fellowship Director at Atrium Health Advanced Practice Provider Fellowship. Anne is passionate about leadership, NP and postgraduate education advocacy, fellowship program development and excellence in training. Anne was honored as the class speaker of graduates of the 2021 NCNA (North Carolina Nurses Association) Leadership Academy and successfully completed The Atrium Health Physician and APP Leadership Institute through the Queens University of Charlotte. She has published and presented nationally on topics of Fellowship, onboarding models, and transition to practice. She was active in the Atrium Health DNP Community and as the Co-Lead of the Mentorship and Leadership Subgroup. In her free time, she loves spending time with her four energetic fun-loving boys and Aussiedoodle, Piper.

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Sarah Vanderlinden

Sarah Vanderlinden DMSc, PA-C is the Associate Chief Advanced Practice Officer for Practice and Privilege and the APP Fellowship Director at Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin. With over 10 years of system APP leadership roles, she is deeply dedicated to developing innovative strategies that advance patient care and strengthen the APP workforce and healthcare teams to deliver exceptional, patient-centered care. As the founding director of the APP Critical Care Program, Sarah spearheaded the development of the first centralized APP fellowship in critical care nearly a decade ago, setting a new standard for advanced practice education. Under her leadership, the APP fellowship programs have expanded across four adult specialty areas, and she now directs efforts to support ongoing program development, establish standards, and promote collaboration across specialties. In addition to her fellowship achievements, Sarah is committed to fostering professional growth within the APP workforce. She developed the APP Professional and Leadership Development Program at her institution, which supports career-long learning and leadership development for APPs. Sarah also co-chaired the AAPA Task Force responsible for creating the “Competencies for PAs in Healthcare Administration,” published in 2023, promoting PAs’ evolving role in healthcare leadership and developing key skills from students to experienced leaders. Clinically, Sarah has practiced in critical care for nearly two decades, with current practice in Trauma and Acute Care Surgery within the surgical ICU.

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Lisa Wanger

Lisa Wanger, PA-C is a Physician Assistant with 20 years of clinical experience in family medicine. She has worked at Denver Health, a safety-net health care organization in Denver, Colorado since 2010. Lisa holds a master's degree from the University of Colorado. Lisa has enhanced her skills through two fellowships; primary care research and psychiatry. She is the Director of the Denver Health, Advanced Practice Provider Fellowship Program. She is committed to teaching and mentoring the next generation of primary care clinicians. In her free time, loves to hike and ski with her 4 children in the Colorado outdoors.

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Meghan Weber

Meghan Weber, DNP, MBA, APRN, FNP-C, is the Director of Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Education and Fellowship Programs at OSF HealthCare, where she leads fellowship initiatives, including curriculum development, implementation, and system-wide education efforts. Meghan has a passion for mentoring and supporting APPs across multiple specialties, particularly in rural and underserved communities. In her clinical role as a Family Nurse Practitioner, she contributes to digital health initiatives, including chronic disease management and telemedicine services. She holds a DNP and an MBA from Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville, IL and is a graduate of the first OSF HealthCare Advanced Practice Provider Fellowship cohort. Meghan is also a published author and has presented at national conferences, including the ANCC Transition to Practice Symposium and Nexus Summit, where she shares insights on enhancing fellowship programs and advancing health equity. Her dedication to advancing nursing education is further reflected in her work on HRSA-funded projects and the development of programs to meet the needs of rural populations. With a strong foundation in leadership, education, and clinical practice, Meghan continues to drive innovation in APP education and fellowship programs.

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Kristen Young

Kristen Young, MSPAS, PA-C graduated from A.T. Still University / Arizona School of Health Sciences with her Masters of Science in Physician Assistant Studies in 2008. Kristen has worked most of her career in Pulmonary / Critical Care, while working in Emergency Medicine on the side. Throughout her career in critical care, Kristen also realized she was passionate about teaching and precepting students. She started her teaching career at Sullivan University's PA program as a guest lecturer. In 2015, Kristen officially joined Sullivan as Adjunct Faculty. Later, she was promoted to Professor, as she took on more responsibility within the program. As someone who helped in the hiring process for critical care APPs, Kristen noted the challenges in orienting new graduates into specialties such as critical care. Kristen approached her hospital's leadership about creating an APP fellowship program. Thus, the Norton Healthcare APP Fellowship Program began. Kristen serves as the Norton Healthcare APP Fellowship Program Director, where she continues to expand and grow the program. Kristen serves on the APPAP Board of Directors as a director at large. For fun, Kristen competes her horse, Shiloh in the competitive equestrian sport of dressage. She serves as the Kentucky Dressage Association President.