

The DOctor's Perspective on Physician Assistants

by Abby Jacobson, PA-C, Public Relations and Education Chair

On October 6, 2005 the PSPA public relations and education committee organized a presentation for Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DOs) to come learn about the PA profession. DOs that hold a license in Montgomery, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, or Philadelphia County were invited to the dinner presentation. We had over 50 RSVPs! The event began with a twenty minute powerpoint presentation about PAs. Reimbursement, Regulations, PA education, PA scope of practice, and the benefits of having a PA were just a few of the topics that were covered.

The presentation was followed by a panel discussion including three DOs who employ PAs and two PAs. Brad S. Friedmann, DO, was the moderator for the panel discussion. He's worked with fellow panel member Kitty Martin, PA-C, for sixteen years. Pam Minardi, PA-C, and her supervising doctor of nearly twenty five years, Joel Samitt, DO, were on the panel. Both Dr. Friedmann and Dr. Samitt work in primary care. The panel was completed by Steven Lichtenstein, DO. Dr. Lichtenstein practices in gastroenterology and could not stop raving about his PA. All three physicians emphasized the close relationship of trust that is developed between a physician and a PA.

There were many questions and comments from the audience after the presentation. Questions focused on reimbursement and the current osteopathic regulations for PAs who are supervised by a DO. Many of the physicians in attendance that night decided to hire a PA! Contact information for these jobs can be found on the job link or with your regional PSPA representative. The evening certainly attained its goals of educating DOs about the PA profession and creating a bridge between the osteopathic community and the PA community. Additional programs are planned across the state and the PSPA plans to send PA volunteers to the next Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) conference. If you would like to help the PR committee create a closer relationship with DOs in this state please contact the committee chair, Abby Jacobson, PA-C at AbbyJPA@comcast.net.