

Linda Sekhon, PA-C 2007 – 2009

Our most recent past president was Mrs. Linda Sekhon. She was an outstanding diplomat with articulate speaking and writing abilities. Linda's academic roots kept her in touch with the student faction of the PSPA. Linda was task oriented which led to expansion of the PSPA committee structure strongly leading the society into a new decade.

From your perspective, what were the greatest challenges that the PSPA and its leadership faced during your term as president?

The greatest challenge was the ongoing legislative battle to allow Osteopathic Physicians to delegate prescriptive authority to Physician Assistants in Pennsylvania. The Osteopathic Prescribing regulations were successfully passed in August of 2009. This was due to many years of hard work and perseverance from Pennsylvania Physician Assistants and the dedicated PSPA volunteers who worked relentlessly, long before I was president, to improve the working conditions of Pennsylvania PAs.

What were the greatest achievements for the PSPA during your term?

- PSPA Bylaws Revision which was voted on by the General Membership in October 2009.
- Development of a the Bylaws and Policy review Ad Hoc Committee which later became a standing PSPA Committee under the direction of Dee Soltes
- Development of a Leadership Development and Mentoring, Ad Hoc Committee which later became a PSPA standing committee under the direction of Tracy Wright.
- Development of the Website Development Ad Hoc Committee under the direction of Rob Emery
 - Development of Employment Development Ad Hoc Committee which later became the Employment subcommittee under the direction of Jen Romagnoli and Abby Jacobson.
 - Initiation of "Job Target" as PA job database.
 - 2009 AAPA Chapter Excellence Award.
 - April 2009 Leadership Development Workshop designed to train new leaders and revise the PSPA's Strategic Plan.

What were your greatest disappointments?

I can't really say that I experienced any major disappointments. We are a strong society and always come back from any setback stronger and wiser.

The loss of our dear friend Tom Lemley is one that was most difficult for me. It was because of Tom that I had the privilege of serving as the PSPA president. Due to illness, Tom stepped down as president -elect just weeks before he was to take office. He asked me if I would be willing to serve in his place. I was never more honored. I was placed in the interim position as president by the Board of Directors and the membership voted me in as president a few months later. He passed away during my term, and my only hope is that I made him proud.

Tell us something that happened during your term as president that you think our membership should know.

The membership should know that during my term as president the PSPA was comprised of the hardest working group of volunteers I have ever had the privilege of working with. Each one brought something very special to their position, and any achievements that occurred under my presidency can be directly attributed to this amazing group of individuals. I will always be grateful for their kindness, patience, and friendship.

Now that time has passed, was being president of the PSPA something that you are glad you tackled? Did it help you in your career?

I have absolutely no regrets with my decision to run for president of the PSPA. I am proud of the advances that our society made during that period of time. I can't say that the position helped my career; however, I am more confident and self-assured when faced with new and exciting challenges in my life as a result of this experience.

Where did you get your PA education and when did you graduate?

I graduated from Gannon University in 1983 as a Physician Assistant and from Saint Francis University in 1996 with a Masters in Medical Science.

I what specialties have you worked?

I have worked in Oncology, Endocrinology, and over the past 9 years in Rheumatology.

What are you doing now?

I began working in Academics in 1996 and am currently an Assistant Professor at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA. I still work clinically one day per week for UPMC (Greensburg) in Rheumatology. Over the past few years I have also facilitated Problem Based Learning in an Immunology course at the University of Pittsburgh Medical School.

What are your major interests in life, i.e., passions or hobbies?

I am a doctoral student, so free time is a luxury! I enjoy spending time with my friends and family whenever I can. I play piano and like to sing when time allows.

Who are you significant others, family members?

Husband: Mani

Son: Michael

Son: Andrew

Dog: Casy