

## **Patrick Ivory, PA-C**

### **2003-2005**

Florida is now the residence of Pat Ivory, the 13th president. Pat came to the PSPA with extensive leadership experience. Teamwork was his emphasis. His dance abilities and big heart set him a head above the crowd.

#### **From your Perspective, what were the greatest challenges that the PSPA and its leadership faced during your term in office as president?**

During my presidency, the BOD and I faced the changes to the PA regulations which was supposed to have been fast tracked through the regulatory process. Unfortunately, the process took over 5 years to complete. It wasn't signed until after I left office. The second major challenge was dealing with the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine in getting prescriptive authority parity with the State Board of Medicine regulations. Many conversations had been had with the SBOM as well as the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medicine Association. We attempted to outline that PAs were safe prescribers as evidenced through the history of prescribing under the SBM. Some improvements in communications occurred however, it wasn't until the right Commissioner was appointed and the efforts of my successor, that the barriers to osteopathic PAs to prescribe were removed.

#### **What were your greatest achievements for PSPA during your term?**

I believe one of the best achievements was the increase in the number of younger PAs to become involved in the PSPA. Also, the expansion of the liaison relationships with other professional organizations allowed us to have a seat at many tables. The liaison idea was not new to PSPA, my predecessor help to expand the number of liaisons and we continued to hone the relationships.

#### **What were your greatest disappointments?**

Much as I said earlier, the failure to get the regulations finalized under the State Board of Medicine and the failure to complete a prescriptive parity with the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

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

I think the slight change in how we approached the annual conference was helpful in many ways. In the past, we had routinely used hotel/conference centers for our meetings. There was a reluctance to deviate from that model, but we took a chance and had a very successful conference in Altoona. There were some that thought it would be a flop and that people wouldn't attend, but they were wrong. We had many attend the conference, and some hadn't been to a conference in years. We saw that being a bit creative and varying the venue was a pleasant and profitable experience.

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

I believe that PAs need to be involved in their professional organizations. Standing up to run for a leadership position in any organization is a difficult decision for anyone. You may be criticized for some decisions, praised for others, and may occasionally question your own thought process when things don't go exactly as planned. I believe that my running and serving as president was the right decision at the right time. I believe that my prior experiences as a leader in other venues helped us be successful and the time I served helped to improve my leadership skills for future endeavors. It was an experience I truly enjoyed and that could not have happened without the Board of Directors, Chairs of Committees, Region Representatives and all the volunteers that make PSPA what it is. I was just the orchestra leader waiving the baton; it was everyone else that made the music. We were a team!!!

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

I graduated from the combined US Navy/ George Washington University Physician Assistant Program in 1981. I initially received a certificate and then a BS in 1983 from GWU. Later went on to get an MPAS, in family medicine from the University of Nebraska.

#### **In what specialties have you worked?**

I was a Navy PA for 9 years before retiring. In the Navy, I worked in primary care and emergency departments. I was also a teacher at submarine independent duty school of 4 years. After retiring from the navy I worked in emergency medicine for several years and then shifted to family and internal medicine in a group practice. I then became a full time PA educator at Lock Haven University.

#### **What are you doing now?**

I am currently the Academic Director of the Nova Southeastern University PA program in Jacksonville, FL. I am also a Doctor of Health Sciences student at A.T. Still University in Arizona through a distant learning program.

**What are your major interests in life?**

My family is my major interest. I have become involved with the Military Officers Association of America in Florida. I like camping, but unfortunately don't have enough time to do it as much as I would like.

**Who are your significant others, family members?**

I have been married to my wife Terri for 25 years. We have recently returned from a tour of Ireland. My daughter Amanda is a senior at the University of Central Florida and should graduate next May with a degree in Health Care Administration. My youngest son Sean, graduated from Lock Haven University in December 2009 and is currently serving in the US Army. My middle son Brandon, is an EMT and firefighter in New Jersey. And as many of the membership know, my oldest son Craig, was a combat medic, paratrooper who made the ultimate sacrifice when serving in Iraq in August 2003. He was the recipient of the Bronze Star. Our family is extremely proud of him.