



# WHITE COAT CEREMONY

*PA Class of 2024*

January 7, 2022

Harrison Opera House  
Norfolk, VA



**F**or more than a century, healthcare providers have donned the white coat as the universal symbol of medicine. Today, the white coat ceremony marks a student's entry as a junior colleague into the field of medicine, and the coat serves as a constant reminder that they are to devote themselves to learning not only the science and methods of their profession, but also the compassion that must guide a caregiver's decisions.

At Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS), second-year students help the incoming class into their coats in a gesture of camaraderie. All physician assistants (PAs) in the audience are invited to join the newly clad students in reciting the PA Professional Oath.

Students begin interacting with patients early in the education process at EVMS, and in taking the oath, they publicly pledge to assume the responsibilities and professional conduct that form the foundation of effective care.

# WHITE COAT CEREMONY

PA CLASS OF 2024

PROCESSIONAL	<b>PA Class of 2024</b>
WELCOME TO EVMS	<b>Alfred Abuhamad, MD</b> <i>Interim President and Provost Dean of the School of Medicine</i>
WELCOME TO THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS	<b>C. Donald Combs, PhD</b> <i>Vice President and Dean School of Health Profession</i>
WELCOME TO THE PA PROGRAM	<b>Kimberly Dempsey, EdD, MPA, PA-C (MPA '03)</b> <i>Program Director and Associate Professor</i>
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WHITE COAT	<b>W. Travis Kirby, MPAS, PA-C</b> <i>Associate Professor</i>
PRESENTATION OF THE WHITE COATS	<b>Angela Cerezo, MPA, PA-C (MPA '03)</b> <i>Associate Director and Assistant Professor</i> Assisted by the Physician Assistant Class of 2021
PA PROFESSIONAL OATH	<b>Jennifer Wohl, DHSc, PA-C</b> <i>Associate Professor</i>
CLOSING REMARKS	<b>Angela Conrad, MPA, PA-C (MPA '05)</b> <i>Clinical Director and Associate Professor</i>
RECESSIONAL	<b>PA Class of 2024</b>

*We hope you enjoy today's ceremony.  
Please remember to wear your mask at all times.*

# THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROFESSION

## What is a physician assistant?

Our national organization (AAPA) states: PAs are medical professionals who diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and often serve as a patient's principal healthcare provider. With thousands of hours of medical training, PAs are versatile and collaborative.

## What can PAs do?

PAs practice in every state and in every medical setting and specialty, improving healthcare access and quality.

## How are PAs educated and trained?

The PA educational program is modeled on the medical school curriculum, a combination of classroom and clinical instruction. The PA course of study is rigorous and intense. The average length of a PA education program is 27 months.

Admission to PA school is highly competitive. Applicants must complete a bachelor's degree to include courses in basic science and behavioral science as prerequisites to PA school, analogous to premedical studies required of medical students. The majority of PA programs have the following prerequisites: chemistry, physiology, anatomy, microbiology and biology. Additionally, most PA programs require or prefer that applicants have prior healthcare experience.

PA education includes instruction in core sciences: anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, pharmacology, physical diagnosis, pathophysiology, microbiology, clinical laboratory science, behavioral science and medical ethics.

PAs also complete more than 2,000 hours of clinical rotations, with an emphasis on primary care in ambulatory clinics, physician offices and acute or long-term care facilities. Rotations include family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, general surgery, emergency medicine and psychiatry.

Practicing PAs participate in lifelong learning. In order to maintain national certification, they must complete 100 hours of continuing medical education every two years.

There are currently 282 accredited PA programs in the United States. The vast majority award master's degrees. PA education programs are represented by the Physician Assistant Education Association and accredited through the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant.

## **History of the PA profession**

The PA profession was created to improve and expand healthcare. In the mid-1960s, physicians and educators recognized there was a shortage of primary care physicians. To remedy this, Dr. Eugene Stead of Duke University Medical Center put together the first class of PAs in 1965. He selected Navy corpsmen who had received considerable medical training during their military service.

Dr. Stead based the curriculum of the PA program on his knowledge of the fast-track training of doctors during World War II. The first PA class graduated from the Duke University PA program on Oct. 6, 1967.

The PA concept was lauded early on and gained acceptance and backing federally as early as the 1970s as a creative solution to physician shortages. The medical community helped support the profession and spurred setting accreditation standards, establishing a national certification and standardized examination, and developing continuing medical education requirements.

# THE PA CLASS OF 2024

PA CLASS OF 2024

Ralph Ababio

Rachele Abel

Joanne Aquino

Melissa Armknecht

Antoinette Auger

Jacqueline Baran

Kristen Barnum

Padeedeh Bibizadeh

Shannon Blount

Christina Briegel

James Britton

Charlotte Burchett

Molly Callans

Sarah Campbell

Nathan Chow

Christina Chung

Derek Cousins

Kaylie Dalton

Emily Dawson

Miranda De Roos-Louden

Darin DeMille

Kenneth Dixon

Maya Finley

Samantha Garza

Kathryn Gaskin

Sonam Gill

Katelyn Glover

Jessica Hamilton

Rechard Harris

Alexandra Howe

Erica Iannello

Lauren Jaenecke

Celeste Joly

Kendall Jordan

Carly Kliment

Lindsey Langless

Emily Latimer

Omar Longoria

Kathy Ly

Jenel Manuel

Cameron Meade

Kristine Meloche

Alyssa Milvo

Nicole Myers

Michaela Nadeau

Laura Nadolski

# THE PA CLASS OF 2024

Udoka Ndukwe

Vy Nguyen

Ellie Oh

Rachel Paroby

Kayla Payne

Tyler Perkins

Amanda Peroe

Sang Phan

Matthew Pitts

Lauren Proulx

Evan Pugh

Annabel Riebel

Lauren Ritz

Cassie Rodriguez

Rebecca Rush

Kristina Ryan (Student)

Sitareh Saifnijad

Anna Samson

Katie Sexton

Maura Simokaitis

Alexis Smith

Emma Smith

Kemecia Smith

Catherine Snellings

Tiana Sotepenra

Zayba Syed

Katryce Sykes

Ebony Taylor

Lauren Temple

Jen Torracco

Claudia Valenzuela Carpio

Christina Vickers

Aleeza Maurene Villena

Kathleen Wahl

Brianna Ward

Carly Westbrook

Annika White

Madison Wieseler

Braxton Wilkinson

DeAndra Williams

Chandler Winnie

Roksolana Zhukevych

Nicholas Zobor

# PA PROGRAM FACULTY AND STAFF

PA CLASS OF 2024

**Kimberly Dempsey, EdD, MPA, PA-C**  
(MPA '03)

*Program Director/Associate Professor*

**Richard Conran, MD, PhD, JD**

*Medical Director/Professor*

**Angela Conrad, MPA, PA-C**

(MPA '05)

*Clinical Director/Associate Professor*

**Angela Cerezo, MPA, PA-C**

(MPA '03)

*Associate Director/Academic Director/  
Assistant Professor*

**Amy Fantaskey, MD**

*Assistant Professor*

**W. Travis Kirby, MPAS, PA-C**

*Associate Professor*

**Shannon Morris, MPA, PA-C**

(MPA '09)

*Admissions Co-Director/Assistant Professor/  
Clinical Educator*

**Amanda Kubin, MEd, MPA, PA-C**

*Assistant Professor*

**Jennifer Wohl, DHSc, PA-C**

*Associate Professor*

**Daniel Thibodeau, DHSc, MHP, PA-C**

*Associate Professor*

**Joy Hampton, MS, PA-C**

*Assistant Professor*

**Jeffrey Yates, MPA, PA-C**

*Associate Professor*

**Erin Suit**

*Program Administrator*

**Ashley Miller**

*Clinical Support Coordinator*

**Tiffany Smith**

*Clinical Support Coordinator*



# PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROFESSIONAL OATH

I pledge to perform the following duties with honesty and dedication:

I will hold as my primary responsibility the health, safety, welfare and dignity of all human beings.

I will uphold the tenets of patient autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence and justice.

I will recognize and promote the value of diversity.

I will treat equally all persons who seek my care.

I will hold in confidence the information shared in the course of practicing medicine.

I will assess my personal capabilities and limitations, striving always to improve my medical practice.

I will actively seek to expand my knowledge and skills, keeping abreast of advances in medicine.

I will work with other members of the healthcare team to provide compassionate and effective care of patients.

I will use my knowledge and experience to contribute to an improved community.

I will respect my professional relationship with the physician.

I will share and expand knowledge within the profession.

These duties are pledged with sincerity and upon my honor.

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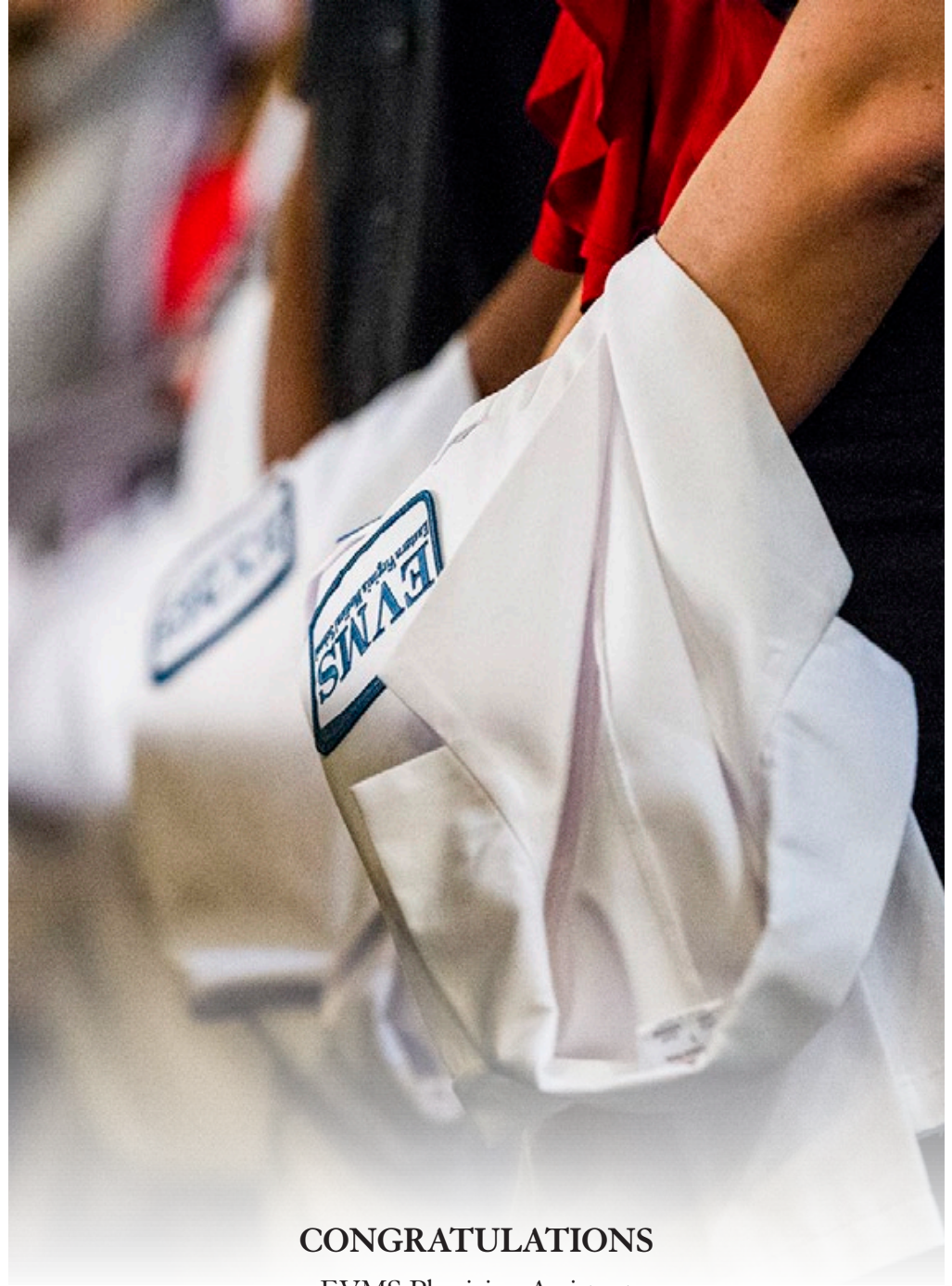
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## CONGRATULATIONS

EVMS Physician Assistant

Class of 2024

*Best wishes for a bright future in your new career!*



**EVMS**  
Eastern Virginia Medical School

**Community Focus.  
World Impact.**