ARC-PA

• Chair
  – Gloria M. Stewart, EdD, PA-C

• Vice Chair
  – Timothy C. Evans, MD., Ph.D., FACP

• Executive Director
  – John E. McCarty
Objective

Provide A Feast of Information
The development of the *Essentials of an Accredited Educational Program for the Assistant to the Primary Care Physician* was undertaken by the American Medical Association’s Council on Medical Education’s Advisory Committee on Education for Allied Health Professions and Services.
Subcommittee included representatives from

- American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP),
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
- American College of Physicians (ACP)
- American Society of Internal Medicine (ASIM), American Medical Association (AMA)
- Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)
November 30, 1971

- The AMA House of Delegates, with the endorsements noted and on recommendation of the Committee on Medical Education, adopted the *Essentials*,
- clearing the way for the approval of educational programs that met or exceeded these requirements.
December 18, 1971

- Organizational meeting of the then-titled Joint Review Committee for Educational Programs for the Assistant to Primary Care Physician (JRC-PA).
Collaborating Organizations

- American Academy of Family Physicians (2)
- American Academy of Pediatrics (2)
- American Academy of Physician Assistants (3)
- American College of Physicians (2)
- American College of Surgeons (2)
- American Medical Association (2)
- Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA, formerly APAPA) (3)
- Public Member (1)
June 1972

- The JRC-PA made its first accreditation recommendations to the AMA.
December 1976

• The AMA House of Delegates authorized the transfer of responsibility for accreditation from the AMA Council on Medical Education to its Committee on Allied Education and Accreditation (CAHEA)
1988

- The JRC-PA was renamed the Accreditation Review Committee on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA).
March 1991

- The AMA requested that administrative responsibility for the ARC-PA be undertaken by another sponsoring organization

September 1991

- The corporate offices of the ARC-PA was established in Marshfield, Wisconsin
1994

- CAHEA was dissolved and accreditation activities were transferred to a new, independent agency, the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).
March 2000

- The members of the ARC-PA voted to become a free-standing accrediting agency for the PA profession as of January 1, 2001.

January 1, 2001

- The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) began operation
March 9-10, 2001

- Commission awards accreditation under the new agency ARC-PA
ARC-PA Staff

- **Associate Director – St. Louis**  
  Laura Stuetzer

- **Administrative Assistant**  
  Nancy Boggs

- **Legal Counsel - Chicago**  
  Lynn Fleisher, PhD., J.D.
What do accrediting agencies do?

• Grant public recognition to an institution or specialized program of study that meets or exceeds nationally established standards of acceptable educational quality
ARC-PA

Mission

The ARC-PA is the recognized accrediting agency that protects the interests of the public, current and prospective PA students, and PA profession by defining the standards for PA education and evaluating PA educational programs within the territorial United States to ensure their compliance with those standards.

Goals

- **Foster excellence** in PA programs by requiring continuous self-study and review
- To ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets or exceeds acceptable levels of quality
- **Provide information** and guidance to individuals, groups, and organizations regarding PA program accreditation
Geographic Scope

• The ARC-PA only accredits qualified PA programs offered by, or located within, institutions chartered by, and physically located within the United States, and where students are geographically located within the United States for their education.
- Confidentiality
- Avoid conflict of interest
- Due Process Fair Treatment
Purpose of *Standards*

The *Standards* outline the requirements to which an accredited program is accountable.
Standards

- Competency based
- Minimum criteria, since 1997 more specificity regarding curriculum
- Do not prescribe a specific academic degree
The Standards

Administration
Curriculum
Evaluation
Student Services
Provisional Accreditation
Accreditation Maintenance
Link PA education with patient care
3rd Edition of the Standards (9/1/06)

The ARC-PA acknowledges ongoing change in the delivery of health care and in the education of health professionals.
B2.02 Instruction in the professional phase of the program must include instruction in the following basic medical sciences:

a) anatomy.
b) physiology.
c) pathophysiology.
d) pharmacology and pharmacotherapeutics.
e) the genetic and molecular mechanisms of health and disease.
“The future ain’t what it use to be”

Yogi Berra