

# 2024



# IAPAE 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

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## Theme:

"Can global physician associate (PA) and PA analogue education adapt to the changing world? Responding with Collaboration, Innovation and Mutual Respect"

**Venue:** University of Lynchburg, Lynchburg, Virginia, USA. | **Date:** 1-4 October 2024

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**WELCOME**

**TO THE 15TH ANNUAL IAPAE CONFERENCE**



**Delegates' arrival for the start of the 15TH ANNUAL IAPAE Conference at the University of Lynchburg, Virginia, USA. October 1 – 4, 2024.**

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# Thank you to the Conference Co-hosts and Sponsors





The in-person attendance for the 2024 IAPAE Conference included 73 delegates from 15 countries. The countries and number of participants were as follows: USA (45), Kenya (5), Ethiopia (4), Malaysia (3), South Africa (3), Uganda (3), UK (1), Germany (1), India (1), Puerto Rico (1), Malawi (1), Zambia (1), Sierra Leone (1), Ghana (1), and New Zealand (1). Virtual attendance included more than 15 persons each day, joining online from the United States, Canada, South Africa, Malaysia, Germany, Switzerland and India.

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# IAPAE Mission and Aims



**Three of the four Founding Trustees of IAPAE joined the Conference events. Professor Phil Begg, UK; Professor Dana Sayre-Stanhope, USA; and Professor David Fahringer, USA.**

IAPAE was started in 2007 by a dedicated group of educators and clinicians with the mission of bringing together global Physician Associate and PA Analogue educators to develop and share best educational practice by respecting regional cultures.

IAPAE promotes this mission through four aims:

- To represent Physician Associate educators globally
- To develop, maintain, and share a dynamic repository of knowledge and experience relating to international Physician Associate education
- To undertake, commission, and disseminate research and other scholarly activity concerning international Physician Associate education
- To achieve and maintain a heightened awareness and promote recognition of Physician Associate education amongst national governments and international organisations.

The 2024 Conference theme of "Can global physician associate (PA) and PA analogue education adapt to the changing world? Responding with Collaboration, Innovation and Mutual Respect" aligns with our mission and highlights the importance of collaboration that fosters innovation, enhances efficiency, and amplifies impact through shared resources. By pooling knowledge, expertise, and assets with partners, associations can tackle complex challenges more effectively, increase credibility, and offer greater value to their members.

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# 15th Annual IAPAE Conference Activities – Day 0

## Pre-Conference Meet and Greet

On the evening before the start of the IAPAE conference, it is customary to hold a casual meet-and-greet session for all delegates to help them register, collect conference bags, and engage with new and old friends in anticipation of the next 3 days.

IAPAE President Scott Smalley welcomed the gathering along with Jenna Rofs, the Virginia Association of Physician Assistants President and Program Director of the Doctor of Medical Sciences program at the University of Lynchburg, the hosts. Also joining in welcoming was Jeremy Welsh, Provost, University of Lynchburg, Founder, Master of PA Medicine and DMSc Program, University of Lynchburg.



**IAPAE President Scott Smalley and Jenna Rofs, VAPA President, Dean of the School of Medicine and Health Science, and Program Director of DMSc at the meet-and-greet session.**

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**Welcome address by Jeremy Welsh, Provost, University of Lynchburg, Founder, Master of PA Medicine and DMSc Program, University of Lynchburg**

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**Delegates from various countries at the Pre-conference meet-and-greet session**



**Delegates gather for group photo at the Meet and Greet evening session.**



**Delegates from various countries at the Pre-conference meet-and-greet session**

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# 15th Annual IAPAE Conference Activities – Day 1

## Welcome Speeches

Day 1 of the conference began with a Welcome speech by IAPAE President, Scott Smalley; President-Elect, Lumbani Tshotetsi & Chair of the Local Organising Committee, Tom Colletti, followed by a Welcome address by Jenna Rolfs, VAPA President, Dean of the School of Medicine and Health Science, and Program Director of DMSc.



**IAPAE President-Elect Lumbani Tshotetsi welcoming all delegates to the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual IAPAE Conference opening session.**



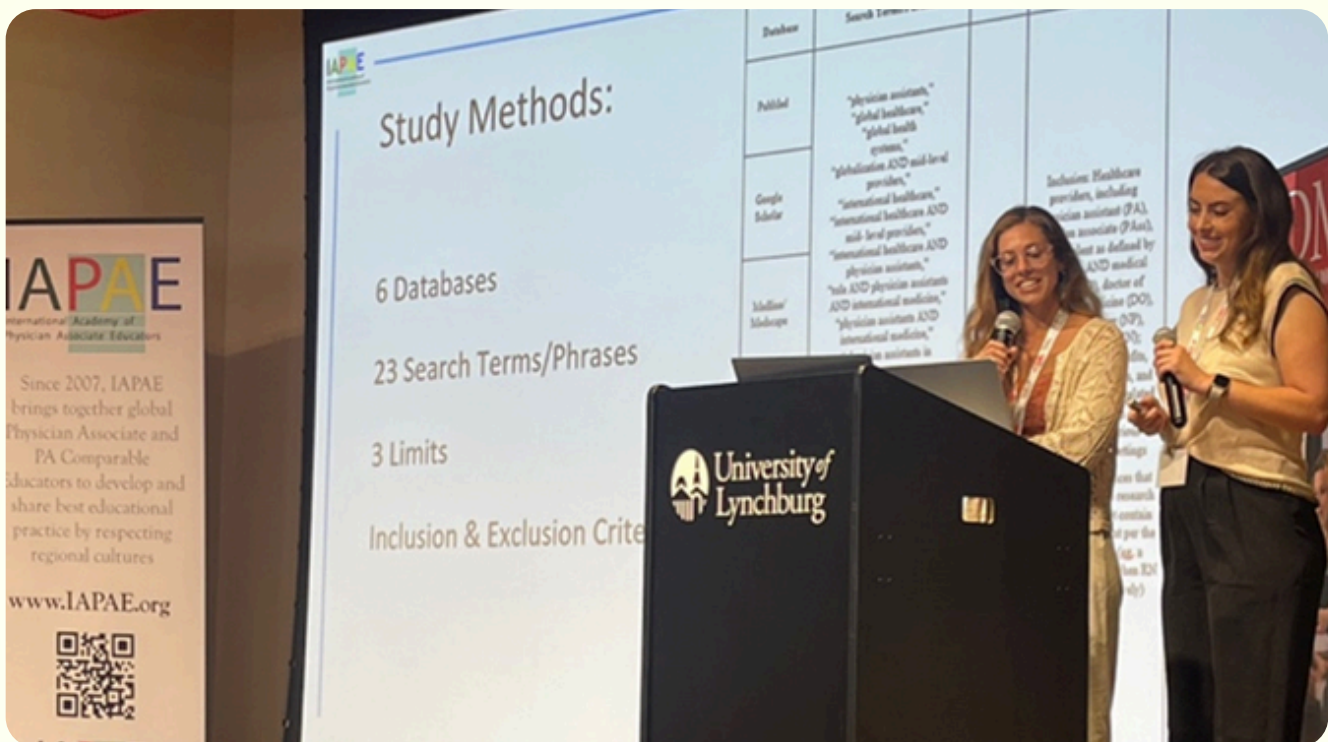
**Jenna Rolfs, VAPA President, Dean of the School of Medicine and Health Science, and Program Director of DMSc at the University of Lynchburg welcoming delegates on behalf of the host**

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## Topic Speakers

The conference was kick-started by the first Topic speakers, Arden Turkewitz and Rachel Smith, presenting a very important study on the Benefits and Limitations of Establishing the PA Profession Globally. This set the tone for the conference, capturing the essence of globalization of the PA profession. They presented a systematic review and mixed methods study conducted to provide insight into the ways PA/equivalents address global healthcare needs, aid in the globalization of the PA/equivalent profession, and increase adoption & understanding of the global PA & PA equivalent concept.



**Arden Turkewitz and Rachel Smith presenting the 1<sup>st</sup> Topic Speech on the Benefits and Limitations of Establishing the PA and equivalent Health Profession Globally**

## Keynote Address Day 1

The Keynote Speaker for Day 1 was Dr Jason Prevelige, President of the American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA) and Chair of the Board, who delivered a powerful speech on The American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA) Collaboration with International PA and PA Comparable Education Partners. He presented an overview of the PA profession in the U.S., highlighting its growth, milestones, and ongoing challenges, such as advancing PA education, certification, and legislative reforms. The talk focused on key modernizations, including removing practice barriers, the development of the PA Licensure Compact, and the transition to the title physician associate. Through collaboration, forward-thinking leadership, and patient-centered advocacy, he provided valuable lessons for the global PA community on improving healthcare systems and expanding access to care worldwide.

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**Dr Jason Prevelige, President of the American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA) and Chair of the Board, USA presenting the Keynote Speech**

## Parallel Sessions

This was followed by parallel Scientific research presentations in two halls, and the audience divided themselves, choosing topics of their interest.



**Dawn Morton-Rias, President and CEO of NCCPA, USA, presented a research study on 'The PA Profession in the US'**

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**James Rick Kilgore, USA, presented an insightful talk on 'Addressing Misconceptions about the Physician Associate/Assistant Profession'**



**Laura Juarez from Puerto Rico delivered an informative talk on 'The Puerto Rican Keystone: Globalizing Excellence in PA Education'**



**There was good audience engagement that created opportunities for insightful information exchange, making the sessions more dynamic and positive.**

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## Poster Presentations

There were five poster presentations around lunchtime, facilitating direct, one-on-one networking, allowing for in-depth discussion of research, and providing a flexible, visual platform for sharing work-in-progress. The posters were:

1. Unmet need for hernia surgery in Sierra Leone - Lawrence T. Kargbo, Sierra Leone
2. Public experience with and perspectives on medical care provided by PAs - Dawn Morton-Rias, USA; Mirela Bruza-Augatis, USA
3. Empowering Health Officers in Ethiopia: Strategies for Improved Health Care Delivery - Mulugeta Abate, Ethiopia
4. Effects of the Intensive Nutrition Education and Counseling package on Hemoglobin Level of Pregnant Women in East Shoa Zone, Ethiopia: Randomized controlled trial - Ermias Wakwoya, Ethiopia
5. Insights from Ethiopia's Health Officer Licensure Exams (2019-2023): Unveiling Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities - Serkalem Girma, Ethiopia



**Delegates enjoying lunch time conversation during the poster session**

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The post-lunch session was handled by Mary Showstark, PA-C, Associate Professor, Yale University. She presented a talk on 'Can global physician associate and PA comparable education adapt to the changing world? Responding with Collaboration, Innovation, and Mutual Respect'.



## International Panel Discussion

This was followed by a Panel Discussion with the geographic Region Representatives on the conference theme: Global PA Education Changing to Global Needs

There were 5 panelists from each region (in the photo from left to right):

- North, Central & South America: Dana Sayre-Stanhope, IAPAE Regional Director North, Central, and South America, USA
- Asia: Alias Mahmud, Malaysia Medical Assistant Association, Malaysia
- Europe: Phil Begg, IAPEA Regional Director Europe, United Kingdom
- Africa: John Charles, Allied Health Professions Council, Uganda
- Oceania: Lisa DeWolfe, New Zealand Association of Physician Associates, New Zealand



The panel discussion moderated by David Faringer, IAPAE Treasurer and Founder member, provided a dynamic, 'unscripted' experience, allowing the audience to gain multifaceted insights, engage in Q&A, and explore varied perspectives.

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Following the panel discussion, the next Topic Speech was on 'International PA & PA Comparable Curriculum Mapping using LOOOP: understanding qualifications, content, competencies, and developing International Accreditation Standards'.



The speakers for the LOOOP presentation were (from left to right) Mary Showstark, Mirela Bruza-Augatis Fitsum Taye, Lumbani Tshotetsi & Laura Juarez

Parallel Scientific research presentations and Palaver presentations continued in different halls with delegates dividing themselves, while also making sure all presentations had a good audience.



Ericka Stoor-Burning from USA presented on 'Helping Babies Breathe - A Comparative Analysis of Virtual and Traditional Mentored Train-the-Trainer Courses: A Pilot Program for Physician Assistants in Liberia' while Sanele Ngcobo from South Africa engaged in a healthy discussion.

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## Country Updates

The next session was Updates from Guests, Countries, Organisations & Associations. For this session, there was a special PechaKucha presentation by Anitha Chandrasekhar, India-trained PA working in the US on 'My Professional Journey from Chennai to Chicago'. Following this Jennifer Wills, Director of Global Education, University of Lynchburg, gave an overview of faculty-led exchange programs and medical humanitarian trips, partnering with licensed preceptors to assess and treat individuals in various communities as part of Global Education.



**Left photo: Anitha Chandrasekhar, an India-trained PA working in the US, highlighted the importance of professional skills in a niche domain, crafting new pathways even if non-existent initially. Right photo: Phil Begg, IAPAE Regional Director of Europe, providing the Summary of Day 1.**

This was followed by county updates where representatives from each of the 15 countries shared information about their country's PA/ Analogue profession and recent developments.

The first day's proceedings were summarized by Phil Begg, IAPAE Regional Director Europe.


After the end of Day 1 of the conference, the delegates were encouraged to visit either the University of Lynchburg campus, Downtown Lynchburg, or the Riverwalk.

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# 15th Annual IAPAE Conference Activities – Day 2

## Topic Speakers

Day 2 of the conference was opened by a Topic speech on 'Proposal for International Labour Organisation (ILO) name and definition as Clinical Practitioner for ISCO-28 by the PA Working Group' with speakers Scott Smalley, Mary Showstark, Jennifer Eames & George Gibore.



### International Labour Organisation: ISCO 2008 In Major Group 2: **Professionals**

Sub-Major Group 22: **Health Professionals**

- 221 Medical Doctors
- 222 Nursing and Midwifery Professionals
- 223 Traditional and Complementary Medicine
- 224 Paramedical Practitioners**
- 2240 Paramedical Practitioners**
- 225 Veterinarians


Examples of the occupations classified here:

Advanced care paramedic, **Clinical officer, Feldsher**, Primary care paramedic, Surgical technician

*International PA Working Group –  
recommending to ILO global title:*  
**224 CLINICAL PRACTITIONERS**

Tasks include –

- (a) conducting **physical examinations of patients** and interviewing them and their families to **determine their health status**, and recording patients' medical information;
- (b) performing basic or more routine **medical and surgical procedures**, including **prescribing** and administering **treatments, medications** and other preventive or curative measures, especially for **common diseases and disorders**;
- (c) administering or **ordering diagnostic tests**, such as X-ray, electrocardiogram and laboratory tests;
- (d) **performing therapeutic procedures** such as injections, immunizations, suturing and wound care, and infection management;

**ISCO**  
International Standard Classification of Occupations

IAPAE Connecting the World through a Universal Term – Clinical Practitioners

## Annual General Meeting


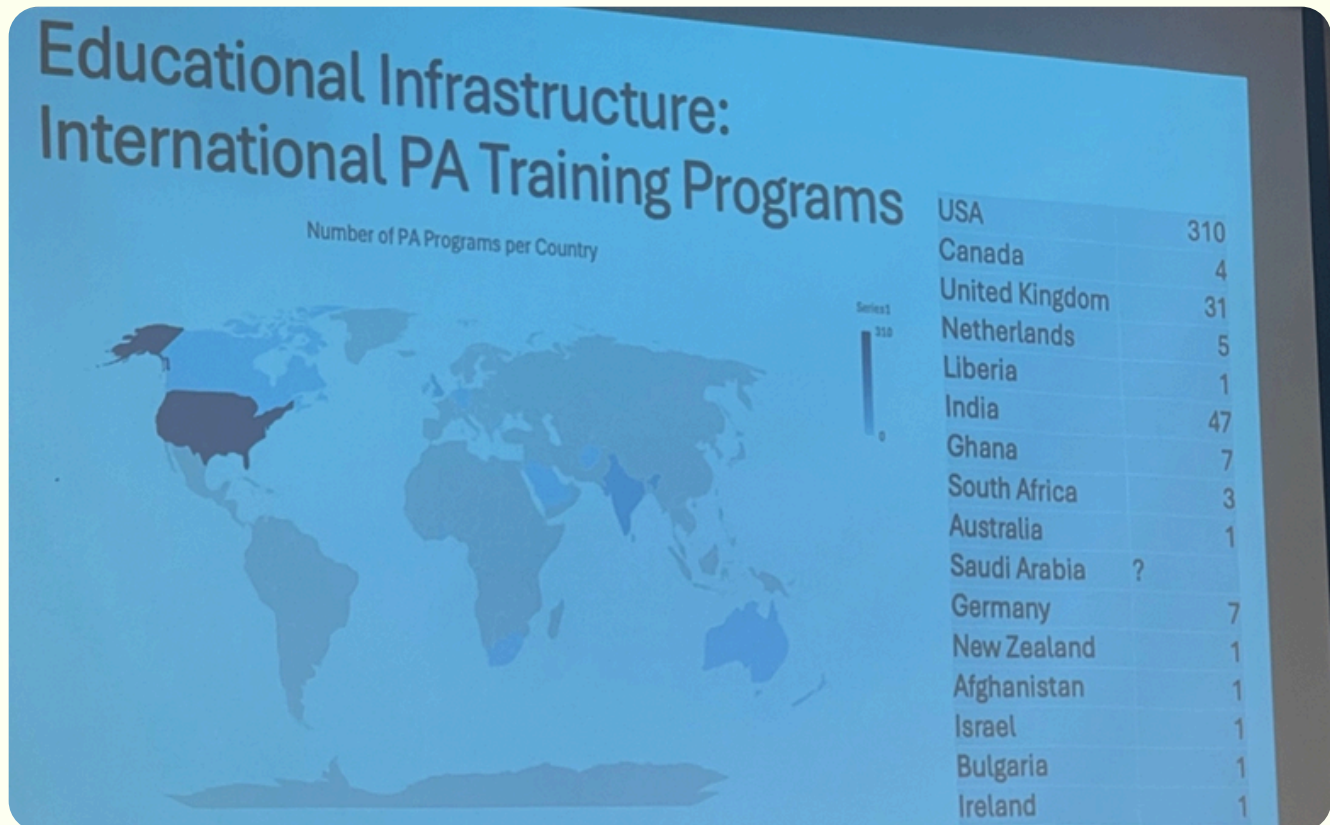



Delegates engaged in the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual IAPAE Annual General Meeting discussions.

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## Keynote Address

The keynote address for Day 2 was by Siobhan Fitzpatrick, Technical Officer, Health Workforce Department, WHO, Geneva, Switzerland, on the Topic - 'World Health Organisation Global Competency and Outcomes Framework for Universal Health Coverage'. This was followed by an interactive Q&A and facilitated discussion.



**Siobhan Fitzpatrick**  · 2nd  
Technical Officer, Health Workforce Department, World Health Organization  
Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland · [Contact info](#)

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## Poster Presentations

There were four poster presentations during lunchtime, offering in-depth, informal, interactive conversations among interested peers.

1. Influential Factors of UK PA Postgraduate Employment: Primary Care vs. Non-Primary Care Specialties - Leslie Woltenberg and Andy Willford, United Kingdom
2. Outcomes of Cesarean Deliveries and Determining Factors, at Felegemeles Health Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Retrospective Study Design - Fitsum Taye Negash, Ethiopia
3. Association between anemia and maternal depression during pregnancy: Systematic review - Gebeyaw Wondim, Ethiopia
4. Management of Severe Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome With Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation as a Bridge for Transplant-Case Report - Victor Ongeru Makori, Kenya



**Fitsum Taye Negash from Ethiopia answering questions related to his poster presentation.**

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The post lunch session was on 'PA Qualifications from Certificate to Doctorate' by speakers Peter Heistermann, Chair ENPAE, Germany & Jeremy Welsh, Provost, University of Lynchburg, USA.



Delegates taking part in a Q&A session during Day 2.

## International Panel Discussion

The highlight of Day 2 of the conference was a historic panel discussion on 'Collaborative Actions for International PA Education with US and International PA Organisations' that saw the coming together of major organizations and stakeholders in PA education globally: From the US - AAPA, NCCPA, ARC-PA, PAEA & from the International Associations - GACOPA, ENPAE, IAPAE & PAGH. The Panel members were representatives of each Association/ Organization.

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**Panel members (from left to right): Jason Prevelige, President American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA), USA; Nicole Burwell, President Physician Associate Education Association (PAEA), USA; DeShana Collett, Chair, Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), USA; John Bradford, Chair, National Commission of Certification of Physician Associates (NCCPA), USA; Peter Heistermann, President, European Network of Physician Associate Educators, Germany; Phil Begg, Chair, United Kingdom Physician Associate Schools Council (UKPASC), England; Serkalem Girma, President, Public Health Officers Association Ethiopia (PHOAE), Ethiopia; Lumbani Tshotetsi, President, International Academy of Physician Associate Educators (IAPAE), South Africa; Lyndsey Milcarek, President Physician Associates for Global Health (PAGH), USA.**



**Moderator of the panel discussion, Dana Sayre-Stanhope, IAPAE Regional Director North, Central and South America and one of the four Founding Trustees of IAPAE**

The next session was a talk on 'US PA History & Malaysia AMO History' and the speakers were Debra Munsell & Alias Mahmud.



This was followed by parallel Presentations of Oral Scientific Papers and Palavers Session in separate halls.



Very informative presentation on 'Use of Field Care Training to Advance AI Technology' presented by Erika Storing-



Harriet Irusa from Kenya made a Palaver presentation on 'Applying Data-Driven Insights in the Provision of Healthcare to Underserved Communities - The Use of the Digital SPICE App in Local Communities in Kenya'.

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The next session was focused on a pertinent topic in present circumstances about Doctoral training for PAs. The presentations included:

- 'Doctor of Medical Science Program' - Jenna Rolfs, Dean, PA Master's Program at University of Lynchburg
- 'Doctoral-trained PAs: The Perks and Pitfalls' - Anitha Chandrasekhar, India-trained PA, DMSc Graduate from University of Lynchburg



Day 2 was a resounding success with PA educationalist from around the world gathering to share best practices and research with colleagues. This day was particularly important for IAPAE to be recognised by the four US PA Organisations.

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Global collaboration is seen here with Lisa Gables, CEO of AAPA, Sara Fletcher, CEO of PAEA, Dawn Morton-Rias, President and CEO of NCCPA, Sharon Luke, Executive Director and CEO of ARC-PA, and Scott Smalley, President of IAPAE.

## Conference Gala Dinner

A Gala Dinner with entertainment was held in the evening, and the delegates dressed up in their respective country's traditional attire. The hall with flags from across the globe made the perfect setting for the evening, with delegates proudly displaying the flag of the country they're representing. The colourful attire and the colourful flags made a vibrant combination to set the mood for a fun-filled and entertaining evening.





Music during the dinner was provided by Carter Freeman - singer, songwriter and guitar player, and the delegates happily grooved to the endearing music.



**IAPAE Board members (left to right) David Fahringer, Phil Begg, Lumbani Tshotetsi, Dana Sayre-Stanhope and Scott Smalley, enjoying the Gala Dinner celebration.**



**New friendships formed with colleagues from around the globe, sharing in the Gala Dinner.**

## **15th Annual IAPAE Conference Activities – Day 3 Parallel Sessions**

**Day 3 started with Parallel Presentations of Oral Scientific Papers and Palaver Sessions.**



**Delegates taking part in the parallel presentations.**

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## Workshops

Three parallel Workshops of 70 min each were conducted simultaneously in different halls, and the attendees divided themselves between the three workshops based on their topic interest.

**Workshop #1** – Topic: Amplifying the Diagnostic Reach: Equipping the PAs for the POCUS Future. Facilitator: Phillip Williford, USA

**Workshop #2** – Topic: Exam Question Writing Workshop to fit the PA Program Needs. Facilitator: Joshua Goodman, USA

**Workshop #3** – Topic: How to Conduct Research. Facilitator: Phil Begg, UK



Phillip Williford from the USA provided a didactic and hands-on session on Point of Care Ultrasound for PAs.

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# IAPAE Conference Election Results

## Board Member Election Results

Elections were conducted for two IAPAE Board positions, including the Regional Director of North, South, and Central America and the Regional Director of Asia. The following results were announced:

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**Laura Juarez**

Regional Director:  
North, Central and South America

To Serve until Oct 2026

Votes: 31

No Votes: 1



**Nurhan Norris**

Regional Director:  
Asia

To Serve until Oct 2026

Votes: 20

No Votes: -

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**IAPAE President Scott Smalley and President-Elect Lumbani Tshotetsi congratulate the newly elected Board members.**

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## Committee Chair Election Results

Elections were conducted for four Chair positions including the Advocacy & Education Committee, the Communication & Repository Committee, the Innovation Committee, and the Research Committee. The election results were as follows:

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### Advocacy & Education Committee Chair



**DeShana Collett**

Chair of Education and Accreditation Committee

To Serve until Oct 2026

Votes: 20

No Votes: -

### Communication & Repository Committee Chair



**Mary Showstark**

Chair of Communication and Repository Committee

To Serve until Oct 2026

Votes: 30

No Votes: -

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### Innovation Committee Chair



**Anitha Chandrasekhar**

Chair of Innovation Committee

To Serve until Oct 2026

Votes: 21

No Votes: -

### Research Committee Chair



**Sendilkumar B**

Chair of Research Committee

To Serve until Oct 2026

Votes: 29

No Votes: -

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## IAPAE Presentation Awards

**Best Oral Presentation Award** was awarded to Eunice Kuria for her study titled: "Examination Blueprint: A Case Study Approach to Standardize and Balance Test Items in The Pre-Internship Examination - Ensuring Content Validity". Eunice is a clinical officer and the Education and Training Committee Chair for the Clinical Officers Council in Kenya.



Eunice Kuria, left, is celebrating her Best Oral Presentation award with African colleagues.

**Best Oral Presentation Runner Up Award** was given to Jacquelyn Borst with her study titled: "Ethical Considerations for the PA Student on a Short-term Medical Service Trip: How Can One Prepare?". Jacquelyn is a PA and the Program Director and Associate Professor at Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania PA Program in USA.



Jacquelyn Borst is in the center, surrounded by supporting delegates for her Runner Up Award for Best Oral Presentation at the Conference.

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**Best Poster Award** was awarded to Serkalem Girma Moges with her study titled: "Insights from Ethiopia's Health Officer Licensure Exams (2019-2023): Unveiling Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities". Serkalem is a Public Health officer in Ethiopia and the President of the Public Health Officers Association of Ethiopia.

**Best Poster Runner Up Award** was given to Lawrence T. Kargbo for his study titled: "Unmet need for hernia surgery in Sierra Leone". Lawrence is a Community Health Officer and the Chairman of the Koinadugu District Council in Seirra Leone.



**Serkalem Girma receiving her Best Poster Award from Scott Smalley, IAPAE President.**



**Lawrence T. Kargbo receiving his Best Poster Runner Up award from the IAPAE President Scott Smalley.**

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# Introducing the new IAPAE Board of Directors

Following elections at the Annual General meeting, we are pleased to introduce the IAPAE Board of Directors to serve for 2024-2025.



**Lumbani Tshotetsi, South Africa**

President



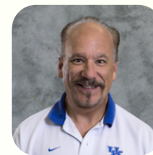
**Scott Smalley, South Africa**

Immediate Past President



**Joseph Choge, Kenya**

President-Elect



**David Fahringer, USA**

Treasurer



**Margaret Maina, Kenya**

Secretary



**Geoffrey Kipkoech Korir, Kenya**

Regional Director Africa



**Nurhan Norris, Malaysia**

Regional Director Asia



**Peter Heistermann, Germany**

Regional Director Europe



**Laura Juarez, Puerto Rico**

Regional Director North,  
Central, South America



**Prathamesh Vijay, India**

Student Board Member

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# Introducing the new IAPAE Committee Chairs

Following elections at the Annual General meeting, we are pleased to introduce the IAPAE Chair of Committees to serve for 2024-2025.



**DeShana Collett, USA**

Advocacy & Education Committee



**Mary Showstark, USA**

Communication & Repository Committee



**To be filled**

Faculty Membership Committee



**Anitha Chandrasekhar, India**

Innovation Committee



**Sendilkumar B, India**

Research Committee

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# 2024 Conference Resolutions – The Lynchburg Concordat

Recognizing the growing role of PAs and comparable health professions worldwide and the need for enhanced international cooperation in education, professional development, and healthcare service, the **International Academy of Physician Associate Educators (IAPAE)** and participating organizations established the **Lynchburg Concordat** as a framework for collaboration. At the **2024 IAPAE Conference in Lynchburg, Virginia**, the International PA education and professional organizations identified four key themes for mutual collaboration:

## 1. Global Standards in PA Education & Accreditation

- Promote common educational advances while respecting regional differences.
- Facilitate accreditation dialogues to enhance quality assurance across global PA programs.
- Support international competency-based frameworks and global accreditation standards for curriculum development

## 2. Professional Recognition and Workforce Integration

- Advocate for the PA role in education institutions and diverse healthcare systems worldwide.
- Share strategies to improve legislative and regulatory recognition of PAs for support of education programs and clinical practice.
- Promote a unified, recognized global nomenclature, such as clinical practitioner.
- Support global scope of practice initiatives for increased workforce development, including career mobility and global reciprocity.

## 3. Research, Innovation, and Evidence-Based Practice

- Encourage international collaboration in PA-related research.
- Share data and findings to improve education practices, student learning, and ultimately patient care outcomes
- Support innovation in PA education through the international PA curriculum mapping project using LOOP

## 4. Interprofessional and Cross-Border Collaboration

- Strengthen interprofessional education and team-based healthcare approaches.
  - Promote student and faculty exchange programs between institutions.
  - Facilitate mentorship, leadership training, and knowledge-sharing initiatives.
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## Future Conference Locations

**We are pleased to announce the next three Annual IAPAE Conferences and their locations:**

- The 16th Annual IAPAE conference in 2025 is being planned to be conducted in Africa.
- The 17th Annual IAPAE conference in 2026 is being planned to be conducted in Europe.
- The 18th Annual IAPAE conference in 2027 is being planned to be conducted in New Zealand.



**Heartfelt gratitude to all the delegates of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual IAPAE Conference for their active participation, outstanding contributions, and the collaborative atmosphere, fostering a sense of shared accomplishment, making the conference a grand success.**

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# 2024

## IAPAE 15TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

Visit the IAPAE website to learn more about our Mission, Vision, Aims and the Six Branches of IAPAE Activities – [www.iapae.org](http://www.iapae.org) and to see how you can get involved to impact the global PA education movement.

 [www.iapae.org](http://www.iapae.org)

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Thank you to Anitha Chandrasekhar, Scott Smalley and D. Prabhakaran for text and layout of the 2024 Report.

