

The Current Status of the International Development of the PA Role & Why You Should Care

David H. Kuhns, PA-C Emeritus,
CCPA- Retired, DFAAPA, MPH

Objectives

- Overview of current international status
- Describe areas of opportunity for PAs internationally
- Advice for those wishing to do international work

- USAF 1972-77
- Saint Louis University 1978-80
- Canadian Certified PA
- First PA with Doctors Without Borders 1994-Somalia, 95 Afghanistan
- AAPA International Humanitarian, 1999
- Associate Program Director, U. of Birmingham 2008-11
- Consult: U. of Aberdeen, Central Lancashire, St. Bart's, Worcester, and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Founding Program Director at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, 2015
- Presented to Royal Society of Medicine, London, 2015

NORWAY	14 MI.
PARIS	15 MI.
DENMARK	23 MI.
NAPLES	23 MI.
SWEDEN	25 MI.
POLAND	27 MI.
MEXICO	37 MI.
PERU	46 MI.
CHINA	94 MI.





The World of PAs 1980

- ~8,000 PAs
- ~30 Programs
- Male dominated

QUIZ

How many countries have
adopted the American Physician
Assistant model?

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The World of PAs in 2019

- United States
- Canada
- The Netherlands
- England
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland
- Germany
- Australia
- New Zealand
- Afghanistan
- Saudi Arabia
- India
- Liberia
- Ghana
- Guyana
- Zambia
- Israel
- Bulgaria
- Ireland
- Laos
- Switzerland
- Aruba



PAs

- Physician Assistants
- Physician Associates
- Master Physician Assistants
- Clinical Associates

- Does not include....
 - Other non-physician providers
 - Clinical officers, Medical Auxiliaries



CANADA

- ~750 CCPAs
- >25 year hx of 'PAs' in Canadian Forces.
- 3 civilian programs launched in 2009
 - ~160 students
 - McMaster University
 - University of Manitoba
 - North Ontario University
- National exam and re-cert process
- Early discussions around reciprocity



Canadian PA Model?

- “PAs are academically prepared and highly skilled health care professionals who provide a broad range of medical services. PAs are physician extenders and not independent practitioners; they work with a degree of autonomy, negotiated and agreed on by the supervising physician(s) and the PA. PAs can work in any clinical setting to extend physician services. PAs complement existing services and aid in improving patient access to health care. A relationship with a supervising physician is essential to the role of the PA.” (CAPA)



The Netherlands

- 2001
- As per the direction of the Dutch government!
- Five programmes, 36-months
- each with ~20 students:
 - Utrecht
 - Amsterdam
 - Nijmegen
 - Rotterdam
 - Groningen



The Netherlands

- ~1300 MPAs in the Netherlands
- Since 2012
 - Prescriptive practice
 - High degree of autonomy
- Model for integration of PA -> EU?



United Kingdom

- First American PAs in 2001 as “demonstration project.”
- UKAPA -> Faculty of PAs at the Royal College of Physicians
- Now >30 programs
- NHS wants 1,000 PAs in both primary and emergency care by 2020!



What is a Physician Associate?

'...a new healthcare professional who, while not a doctor, works to the medical model, with the attitudes, skills and knowledge base to deliver holistic care and treatment within the general medical and/or general practice team under defined levels of supervision.'

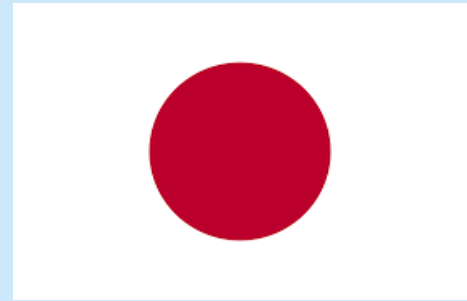
UK DoH

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UK DoH

Where to next?











2018

- **>115,000 PAs**
- >200 university-based programs
 - Master's level
- 6,000 graduates / year
- Urban and Rural, primary and secondary care, prison health care, military and ...

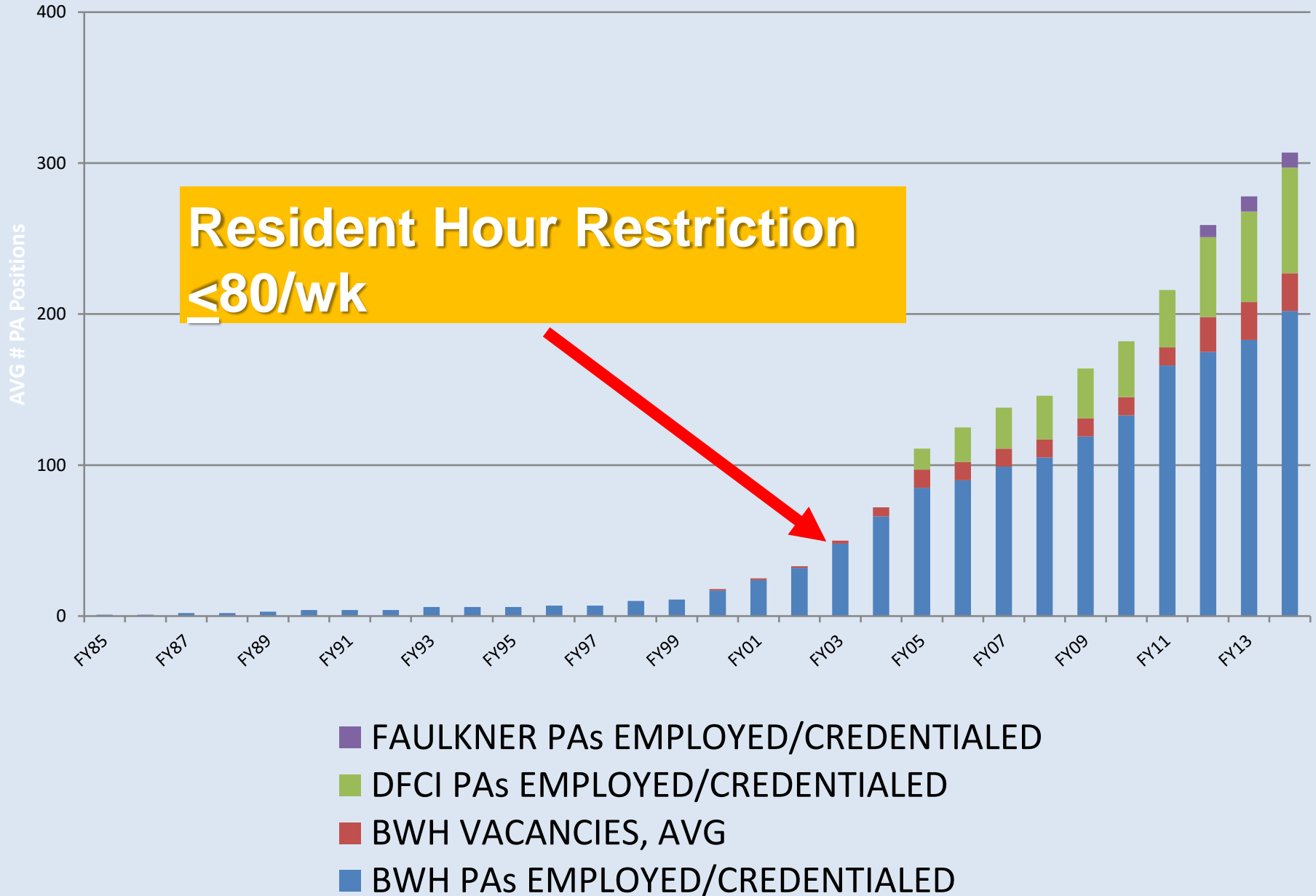


'The Brigham'

- 2nd largest teaching affiliate for Harvard University Medical School
- 800 beds
- >400 PAs
- (~60 vacancies)



BWH Physician Assistant Growth (1985 - 2014)



International Opportunities?

- Clinical work/Academic roles
- US Government
 - Peace Corps
 - PC Medical Officers
 - State Department
- NGOs
 - IMC, IRC,
- Corporate
 - Military bases
 - Mining /industrial sites
- Mission work & Service trips

So you want to work internationally?

- Experience?
 - Clinical
 - Travel
- Languages
- Specialty training
 - MPH, Epidemiology, Tropical diseases, HELP
- Time commitment?
- Networking
 - PAGH
 - LinkedIn
- Benefits and risks



“...PAs can be viewed as the profession, designed as uniquely adaptable, that is moving from the USA to other parts of the world at this time expressly because it can meet the world’s current health workforce gaps.”

(EVALUATION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS TO NHS SCOTLAND, 2009)

Questions?

davidkuhnspace@gmail.com