

# Commencement

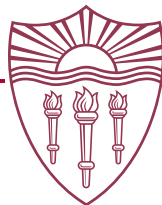
Keck School of Medicine of USC  
Primary Care Physician Assistant Program

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May 13, 2021

## *Virtual Ceremony*

Class of 2021



The Department of Family Medicine

Division of Physician Assistant Studies

Master of Physician Assistant Practice

## **Mission Statement**

The Primary Care Physician Assistant Program at USC is dedicated to the advancement of physician assistant education and emphasizes service to the medically underserved. The program is committed to preparing students from diverse backgrounds to positively transform the healthcare system. Students, graduates, faculty, and staff are committed to doing this through collaboration, inclusivity, innovation, integrity, excellence, and joy.

## **Goals of the Program**

**QUALITY EDUCATION:** Promote excellence in healthcare through carefully considered admissions policies, a well-prepared faculty, and a strong primary care instruction.

**DIVERSITY:** Emphasize diversity in the selection of students, faculty and staff, and throughout the curriculum.

**SERVICE:** Encourage service to the medically underserved.

**LEADERSHIP:** Mentor, model, and teach leadership including advocacy.

## Program

Master of Ceremony Mitzi D'Aquila, MACM, PA-C  
*Director of Clinical Education*

Pi Alpha Honor Society Awards Crystal Rene de Cotret, MPAS, PA-C  
*Chair, Pi Alpha Honor Society*

Keynote Speaker Beth R. Smolko, DMSc, MMS, PA-C  
*CEO of the Physician Assistant Education Association*

Inspirational Speaker Amanda Ingalls, MS, PA-C  
*Clinical Instructor of Family Medicine*

Class Speaker Sonja Joplin, PA-S

Presentation of Graduates

Closing Comments Kevin Lohenry, PhD, PA-C, DFAAPA  
*Director, Division of Physician Assistant Studies*  
*Associate Dean of Graduate Student Affairs*

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***It is your time to shine!***

***Share your photos and best wishes on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram using #TrojanPA #USCGrad #KeckGrad.***

## **Interprofessional Geriatrics Curriculum and Student Senior Partnership Program**

Both the Interprofessional Geriatrics Curriculum (IPGC) and Student Senior Partnership Program (SSPP) are innovative programs that bring together students from different health professional training programs at USC for an interprofessional learning experience focused on aging. The purpose of these programs is to train students to develop teamwork skills, connect with seniors in the community and broaden their understanding of aging.

## **USC PA Pipeline Program**

The USC PA Pipeline Program is focused on mentoring local youth and their families from predominantly educationally and economically underserved backgrounds to help guide them in their pursuits of higher education and health care professions. The following students volunteered their time to lead educational sessions, organize expert panels, mentor students one-on-one, and conduct workshops that highlight the diversity of careers in the medical field as part of the USC PA Pipeline Program. Additionally, we recognize the many volunteers from the Class of 2021 who took time in addition to their coursework to support the USC PA Pipeline Program.

## **Pi Alpha Honor Society**

Pi Alpha, established in 2004 by the Physician Assistant Education Association, is a national honor society for physician assistants. Pi Alpha highlights and gives recognition to PAs who demonstrate a commitment to academic achievement, leadership, research, and community service.

Student membership is granted to graduating students in recognition of their scholastic achievements (minimum GPA of 3.5), excellence in research, publishing, community service or leadership activities.

Induction into the Pi Alpha Honor Society implies a lifelong commitment to learning and educating others, and signifies membership into a community of scholars.

## **Keynote Speaker: Beth R. Smolko, DMSc, MMS, PA-C, DFAAPA**

Beth R. Smolko, DMSc, MMS, PA-C, DFAAPA is the founding program director for Frostburg State University's (FSU) PA Medicine Program in rural western Maryland.

Dr. Smolko is a nationally recognized speaker and author on topics associated with telemedicine, including legislative barriers and access to care issues. Her passion for accessible, effective, and compassionate patient care led her to found a nonprofit called The Heart of Medicine, dedicated to delivering primary care to poor and underserved communities.

Prior to her position at FSU, she served in the unique position of lead clinical advisor and telemedicine lead for wellness center operations for Lockheed Martin, the largest defense contractor in the world. She serves on the advisory board of the Center for Telehealth & e-Health Law and is the current president and chair of the board for the American Academy of PAs.

## **Inspirational Speaker:** Amanda Ingalls, MS, PA-C

Amanda Ingalls, MSPA, PA-C is an Instructor of Clinical Family Medicine at the Primary Care Physician Assistant Program at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. She completed her Bachelor of Art in psychology and government with a Spanish language citation at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Ms. Ingalls has dedicated her time volunteering with youth, as a mental health mentor and working with those facing homelessness.

She is a dedicated educator with rich clinical and research experience. After graduating from Western University of Health Sciences with her Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies, she has focused her time seeing patients with neurologic and comorbid psychiatric disorders. She has also worked in pediatric and family medicine.

She has been published several times including in the Journal of Neuroscience and Learning and Memory. Ms. Ingalls is an active member of both the American Academy of Neurology and the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

Ms. Ingalls is passionate about athletics, as she is an avid runner and enjoys football and hockey.

## **Closing Comments: Kevin Loheny, PhD, PA-C**

Kevin Loheny, PhD, PA-C, Clinical Professor of Family Medicine, currently serves as the Associate Dean of Graduate Student Affairs and Director for the Division of Physician Assistant Studies at the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

Dr. Loheny was a practicing PA in Family and Internal Medicine providing inpatient and outpatient services to his patients.

Dr. Loheny has served as a Director at Large on the Board of Directors for the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants and served as President of the Physician Assistant Education Association in 2011.

From 2012-2013 he served on First Lady Michelle Obama's Joining Forces Initiative focusing on military veterans and families.

Dr. Loheny has received numerous federal grants focusing on interprofessional education and practice and many state funded grants focusing on the PA workforce and diversity. He has published in the Journal of Physician Assistant Education, the Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants and Medical Education Online. Dr. Loheny is a veteran of the United States Navy.

# Class of 2021

Adrienne Ahdoot	Ting Mei Liang
Suzan Princess Arasheben	Stacey Lora
Lindsay Ashford	Kelley Lu
Bradon Burningham	Deborah Madelon
Jessica Carney	Milad Marashi
Karen Chen	Natalie Montero
Jacqueline Chu	Esmeralda Morales
Sally Chun	Sarah Marcela Moreno
Katherine K. Crandall	Ashley Nguyen
Ana Maria Cruz Duda	Órla Sinéad O'Sullivan-Roche
Christina Anna Davidian	Natalie Renee Parker
Johanna De Silva	Alysa Kristine Ureta Permalino
Robert Mitchell Finch II	Queenie Pham
Ian Timothy Fitzgerald	Salvador Antonio Portillo
Gisela Gonzalez	Julianna Noelle Ramirez
Christine Gutierrez	Amanda Jayne Winningham Reynolds
Jacqueline Hayata	Mariam Justina Saad
Blaine Matthew Hendon	Stephanie Alice Schwartz
Emily Hernandez	Shavontae Briana Simpson
Vanessa Nicole Hernandez	Amanda Michelle Tabarracci
Christine Hong	Hisano Asato Tasedan
Gregory Huffman	Eric Thai
Sonja Elizabeth Joplin	Madeline Tien
Morgan Bre Jossie	Emily D. Vargas Jimenez
Kareen Marderosian Khamo	Annie Yang
Jessie Kim	Eric S. Yang
Marissa Tse-Fang Kuo	Chaya Shoshana Zobdeh
Renee Lee	



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## Physician Assistant 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 health care 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.

*-American Academy of Physician Assistants*

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## Faculty and Staff

Mitzi D'Aquila, MACM, PA-C <i>Director of Clinical Education</i>	CharRita Cox-Beaman <i>Student Services</i>
Brett Feldman, MSPAS, PA-C <i>Director of Street Medicine</i>	Sara Diosdado, MBA <i>Director for Admissions</i>
Corinne Feldman, MMS, PA-C <i>Director of Didactic Education</i>	Jelani Dunn <i>Inventory Coordinator</i>
Kate Gibson, MD <i>Medical Director</i>	Amy Giang, MA <i>Clinical Education Administrator</i>
Lillie Hudson, MSPA, MPH, PA-C <i>Instructor of Clinical Family Medicine</i>	Enya Lowe, MS <i>Program Specialist</i>
Amanda Ingalls, MS, PA-C <i>Instructor of Clinical Family Medicine</i>	Christina Medina <i>Administrative Manager</i>
Kevin Loheny, PhD, PA-C <i>Clinical Professor and Director, Associate Dean for Graduate Student Affairs</i>	Claire Norman, MSJ <i>Communications Strategist</i>
Sae Byul Ma, PharmD <i>Assistant Professor of Clinical Family Medicine</i>	Jessica Ortega <i>Office Assistant I</i>
Maria Maldonado, MPH, MPAP, PA-C <i>Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine</i>	Mars Rivas <i>Admissions Counselor II</i>
Darryl Mayo, MPAS, PA <i>Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine</i>	Jacob Ruiz <i>Office Assistant I</i>
Chloe Powell, DMSc, MPAS, PA-C <i>Clinical Instructor of Family Medicine</i>	Marisela Sotomayor <i>Administrative Assistant II</i>
Jennifer Ramos, MPAP, PA-C <i>Instructor of Clinical Family Medicine</i>	Sandra Vasquez <i>PA Pipeline Coordinator</i>
Janice Tramel, MS-HPE, PA-C Emeritus <i>Instructor of Clinical Family Medicine</i>	Nare Yesayan <i>Admissions Counselor I</i>
Alberto Vallejo, PhD <i>Associate Professor of Clinical Family Medicine</i>	

## Acknowledgments

Thank you to all of the staff, faculty, and student volunteers, who assisted in coordinating the Division of Physician Assistant Studies Satellite Commencement Ceremony. Special thanks to family, friends and loved ones for their unending support.



*Congratulations to the  
Class of 2021!*

Keck School of Medicine of **USC**

