

Commencement

Keck School of Medicine of USC

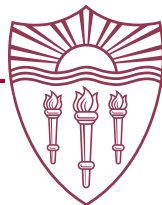
Primary Care Physician Assistant Program

University Park Campus, Los Angeles, California

May 12, 2023

Satellite Ceremony

Class of 2023



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, innovation and collaboration in education by providing teaching and learning opportunities rooted in a primary care philosophy by a team of clinically experienced and well-prepared educators, including faculty and staff.

Diversity, equity and inclusion: Foster a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the curriculum, and in the recruitment and retention of students and program team members.

Service: Equip students to address the social determinates of health in our local Southern California communities through widespread service opportunities.

Leadership: Foster collective community impact, which maximizes the efforts of others. Leaders are courageous, self-aware, humble, communicative, empathetic, compassionate and professional.

Program

Master of Ceremony	Mitzi D'Aquila, MACM, PA-C <i>Program Director</i>
Dean's Remarks	Carolyn C. Meltzer, MD <i>Dean, Keck School of Medicine of USC May S. and John H. Hoover Dean's Chair in Medicine Professor of Radiology</i>
Vice Dean of Medical Education's Remarks	Donna Elliott, MD, EdD <i>Vice Dean for Medical Education, Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Chair of Medical Education</i>
Chair's Remarks	Jehni Robinson, MD <i>Chair of the Department of Family Medicine Professor of Family Medicine</i>
Interprofessional Education and Collaboration in Geriatrics (IECG) Certificates	Freddi Segal-Gidan, PhD, PA-C
Pi Alpha Honor Society Awards	Crystal Rene de Cotret, MPAS, PA-C <i>Chair, Pi Alpha Honor Society</i>
Keynote Speaker	Dawn Morton-Rias, EdD, PA-C
Preceptor of the Year	Mina Hakim, MD, <i>Presented by Program Director Mitzi D'Aquila, MACM, PA-C</i>
Class Speaker	Tenzing Sherpa, PA-S
Presentation of Graduates	Maria G. Maldonado, MPH, MPAP, PA-C <i>Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine</i>
Physician Assistant Oath	Chloe Powell, DMSc, PA-C <i>Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine</i>

Reception with light refreshments immediately following.

It is your time to shine!
Share your photos and best wishes on social media using
#TrojanPA #USCGrad #KSOMgrad #2023Trojan

Interprofessional Education and Collaboration in Geriatrics

The Interprofessional Education and Collaboration in Geriatrics (IECG) is an innovative program that brings together students from different health professional training programs at USC for an interprofessional learning experience focused on aging. The purpose of this program is to train students to develop teamwork skills, connect with seniors in the community and broaden their understanding of aging.

This year the following graduates participated in the IECG experience: *Christine Alexopoulos, Leiana Barreyro, Jenna Caraher, Crystal Gil, Shadia Hamideh, Mary Ishak, Mary Kasmajian, Jane Kim, Taylor Le, Michelle Ly, My-Uyen (Lilly) Nguyen, Tiffany Nguyen, Stephanie Pacheco, Jamie Phan, Kaitlin Prechtl, Tenzing Sherpa, Whitney Sosropartono, Nina Tran, Jacqueline Vasquez, Randi Wirfel*

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: Dawn Morton-Rias, EdD, PA-C

Dawn Morton-Rias was appointed President and CEO of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants in 2014, and is a non-voting member of the NCCPA Board of Directors.

She is a long-time PA educator and former PA program director. Prior to joining NCCPA, she served as a Professor and Dean at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, where she still serves on faculty. Morton-Rias has practiced in family medicine, addictive medicine, gynecology and acute care for the homeless. Morton-Rias has served as President of the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA); appointee to the HRSA Advisory Committee on Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry; appointee to the Federation of State Medical Board's Education Committee; Advisor to the National Health Service Corp; and Commissioner on the PA Accreditation Commission. She has been the recipient of a Fulbright Senior Specialists grant award and the recipient of the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health's Leadership Award.

Morton-Rias earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Stony Brook University and a Bachelor of Science and Physician Assistant Certificate from Howard University. She completed a Professional Diploma in Instructional Leadership and earned a Doctorate of Education from St. John's University.

Preceptor of the Year: Mina Hakim, MD

Mina Hakim, MD is pediatrician at South Central Family Health Center in Los Angeles. Fascinated by medicine since he was a child, when he was often sick himself, he found himself inspired by the incredible doctors and their ability to heal others. Pursuing his interest in biology and medicine by getting his BS in Microbiology from UC Davis in 2008, he earned his medical degree in 2013 from the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia. He then went on to complete his residency in pediatrics at the University of Florida in 2016.

Dr. Hakim has experience seeing patients in outpatient private clinics and now at a Federally Qualified Health Center and one of our favorite sites, South Central Family Health Clinic. Dr. Hakim is committed and passionate about his field, his team and of course his patients.

Dr. Hakim started to precept our students during October 2020 with the Class of 2021. Highly sought out during our student's clinical rotation wish lists, he has taken a student every single rotation since then.

Class of 2023

Christine Alexopoulos	Taylor Thiên Minh Lê
Leiana-Richelle Barreyro	Danielle Elizabeth Lee
Tehilla Benabou	June Liu
Tessa Isabella Tejero-Bingham	Michelle Ly
Niki Isabella Bronner	Vanessa Mariscal
Simona Elisa Capitani	Shadab Moini
Jenna Rochelle Caraher	Ella Monteverde-Vo
Allissa Cardenas	Amanda Ng
Jessica Cohen	Lilly Nguyen
Holly Paloma Contreras	Tiffany Lam Nguyen
Limor Dawoody	Mitasha Sunil Patel
Jessica Grace Dixon	Elizabeth Rios Perkins
André Franco dos Santos	Jamie Phan
Cassidy Doyle	Kaitlin Precht
Ricki Eugenio	Danielle Rucci
Yaritxa Gamboa	Claudia Belen Medina Salazar
Crystal Gil	Catherine Jeannette Santizo
Adriana Giron	Shelby Sass
Eric Dro Hairabedian	Maram Hani Sayage
Shadia Akram Hamideh	Tenzing Sherpa
Sarah Elizabeth Hludzinski	Whitney Inez Sosopartono
Winston Hsieh	Sureshni Maryanne Surendranathan
Mary Magdy Ishak	Reginald Tatco
Taylor Johnson	Jaimie Te
Anna Kang	Stephanie Pacheco Torres
Mary Crystal Kasmajian	Nina Tran
Anise Kevakian	Jacqueline Vasquez
Jane Kim	Randi Wirfel
Gabriela Tamar Kohn	Rachel Wood
Joanna Carly Kuby	Tanya Zadeh

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

Platform Party

Julia Baron, MPAS, PA-C <i>Clinical Instructor of Family Medicine</i>	Darryl Mayo, MPAS, PA <i>Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine</i>
Gilbert Benitez, DMSc, PA-C <i>Clinical Instructor of Family Medicine</i>	Carolyn C. Meltzer, MD <i>Dean, Keck School of Medicine of USC May S. and John H. Hoover Dean's Chair in Medicine</i>
Mitzi D'Aquila, MACM, PA-C <i>Program Director, Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine</i>	<i>Professor of Radiology</i>
Crystal Rene de Cotret, MPAS, PA-C <i>Chair, Pi Alpha Honor Society</i>	Chloe Powell, DMSc, PA-C <i>Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine</i>
Donna Elliott, MD <i>Vice Dean of Medical Education</i>	Jehni Robinson, MD <i>Chair of the Department of Family Medicine Professor of Family Medicine</i>
Corinne Feldman, MMS, PA-C <i>Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine</i>	Freddi Segal-Gidan, PhD, PA <i>Assistant Clinical Professor, Dept. of Neurology</i>
Kate Gibson, MD <i>Medical Director, Clinical Associate Professor of Family Medicine</i>	Janice Tramel, MS-HPE, PA-C Emeritus <i>Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine</i>
Natalie Houser, DMSc, PA-C <i>Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine</i>	Alberto Vallejo, PhD <i>Clinical Associate Professor of Family Medicine</i>
Lillie Hudson, MPAS, MPH, PA-C <i>Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine</i>	Abigail Villapudua, BA <i>Clinical Instructor of Family Medicine</i>
Maria G. Maldonado, MPH, MPAP, PA-C <i>Clinical Assistant Professor of 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 2023!*



Keck School of Medicine of **USC**

