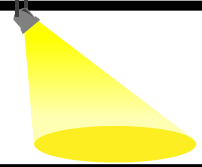




CWRU PA Program

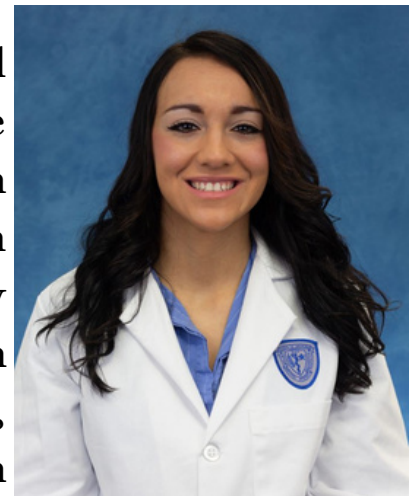
<https://case.edu/medicine/physician-assistant/>

Alumni Spotlight



Amanda Henderson, PA-C (CWRU PA Class of 2021):

I am a retired EMT, nursing assistant and medical laboratory technologist. I currently work for the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) in Pittsburgh, PA in Thoracic Surgery as a Physician Assistant. I work as an inpatient PA as the primary caregiver for pre and postoperative patients whom undergo an esophagectomy, hiatal hernia repairs, gastric bypass surgery or lung biopsies/resections with an occasional caustic ingestion.



I see esophageal, lung and gastric cancers very frequently and I work on a service that is no stranger to a tracheostomy, chest tube management, surgical feeding tubes and those patients who cannot eat by mouth for months at a time. My patients can be rather complicated with the need to involve palliative care, infectious disease, GI hepatology, cardiology and most often interventional radiology.

As crazy as it sounds, I would do it all over again and I still would pick CWRU every time. The vision they have for their students to succeed is what drew me to this program in the first place and now I see why. To those who are nearing graduation or look forward to it, know that you are in the best hands possible with amazing faculty and you will be more than prepared when the time comes for you to step foot in YOUR patient's room.

*Amanda regularly helps the CWRU PA program with interview days and enjoys serving the program and profession in this way.

I never saw myself in this specialty but what I love most about the PA program here is that I could adapt so quickly to this service because of my training, foundation and confidence that CWRU helped instill in me.

I also am moving towards getting some time in the OR which I love! I feel very prepared to be first/second assisting because of my clinical experience on rotations assisting in the OR. My biggest takeaway from the program was learning how to be confident when thrown into any situation. I believe that the community service, preclinical clerkships and the variety of clinical rotations prepared us to be well rounded providers that are not afraid to step out of our comfort zones and how to make our patients from any background feel listened to. I am and will always be forever grateful to the acceptance to this program that ultimately CHANGED MY LIFE.

What did our newest students do this semester?



- Interprofessional Simulation
- Smoking Cessation Simulation
- Health Education and Health Screenings in the Community
- Barriers to Health 'Lunch & Learns'
- Leadership Activities (mentoring, webinars, tours, etc)
- Lots of Learning! (Microbiology, Internal Medicine, Physiology, Physical Diagnosis, Collaborative Practice, Pharmacology)
- Pre-clinical Clerkship Orientation
- Basic Life Support Training
- Career Aptitude Tests with Seeds of Literacy
- Height/Weight/Vision Screenings at Cleveland Municipal School District
- Food Bank
- Cedar Point Trip
- Wellness 'Steps' Challenge
- CAVS game
- Tennis & Ping Pong tournaments
- Bake Sale (benefitted Global Giving Hurricane Ian Relief & Coats for Kids)

Benefits of Precepting for CWRU PA



- Clinical faculty appointments in the School of Medicine at CWRU
- Category I AMA CME credits based on an hourly basis
- Access to CWRU library and digital resources
- Access to highly qualified PAs ready to hire
- It's fun & rewarding!

Please use [this form](#) to tell you are interested in getting involved with CWRU PA program!

Testimony from Preceptors

"...has done exceptionally well on this rotation. We have enjoyed his skillset and interest in the community's health."

"...is very inquisitive about diseases/pathology and her bedside manner rivals students finishing their clinical rotations."

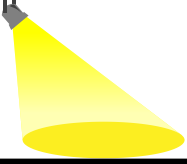
"I am always thrilled to host CWRU PA students. They are well prepared, motivated, capable, and curious."

"Teaching in the clinical setting is not only a way to give back to the profession and train the next generation of healthcare professionals, but it helps me improve my own skills and ability to articulate."

"I was nervous to host a student the first time but CWRU PA students are very helpful and the workflow was smooth, even making my day easier. It was a really rewarding experience and now I take students regularly."

Contact Jennifer.capretta@case.edu if you are interested in precepting students.

Student Spotlight



Dwayne Chapman, Class of 2023

The second year CWRU PA student began playing football when he was just 5 years old, and over the years drew the attention of college coaches, including those at Division I Western Michigan. But his D1 college football career came to an abrupt end in 2017 when he suddenly collapsed during a practice as a redshirt freshman.

Chapman spent several weeks in the hospital, and was diagnosed with an enlarged heart and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, a thickening of the heart muscle.

Six months after his diagnosis, Chapman sought a second opinion. After his prolonged period of not training for football, secondary tests showed heart shrinkage and Chapman said he was diagnosed with athlete's heart, a condition that can cause an increase in heart chamber size and thickening of heart walls during intense training.

"I had never experienced any heart complications or health issues," he remembered. "I felt like my life was over; everything I had worked so hard for was derailed. I was devastated to learn I would never be able to play football again." At his lowest moment, the care and empathy Chapman received from healthcare providers helped him recognize his life wasn't over. Rather, it was the beginning of a new chapter.

Chapman said one physician assistant, in particular, spent a lot of time talking to him about life experiences and praying with him. He said that connection "had a profound impact" and helped define his future. "Through research, counsel and prayer, I realized being a physician assistant was what I wanted to do in life," he said. "When God closes one door, he always opens another door with the correct path." Chapman explained that his choice to become a physician assistant is about being able to help others live healthier, happier lives.

As a physician assistant—with plans to specialize in orthopedics—Chapman wants to work in an underserved community. There, he hopes to establish trust through building relationships, particularly by working with children during their formative years.

"Kids may view this career as a viable option since they are receiving health care from someone who looks like them," said Chapman. "Ultimately, I feel that it is imperative as healthcare providers that we build interpersonal trust with patients, which will ultimately lead to overall healthy communities who view medical providers as an asset."

And football will always be a part of his life. After completing the physician assistant program, Chapman plans to coach football in his spare time.

"The love of the game," Chapman said, "is real."

Dwayne recently began clinical rotations and says "I am learning how to improve patient centered care as well as gaining an abundance of knowledge on how to properly care for each individual patient needs".

He has a strong desire to start a chapter of Black Men in White Coats at the School of Medicine to show how important diversity is in the health care profession. I want to encourage as well as motivate other minority students to go into the field of medicine to help ensure all backgrounds and ethnic groups are represented.

Save the Date!

Thursday, March 9th, 2023 - Preceptor Appreciation Event (for all current preceptors and administrators) **Invites will be sent soon!

*We
thank
you!*

Friday, August 17, 2023: 5:30pm- COME BACK ALUMNI! (Join us for the first annual PA alumni reunion)

Please reach out to jennifer.capretta@case.edu if you are interested in helping to plan this alumni event

