

## 2015-2016 BU Interim Report Achieving our Program Goals

**This document was created 15 months after the PA program at BU matriculated its first class. The program goals are listed below and the corresponding achievements are italicized.**

The goals of the PA Program are to prepare students intellectually and socially to:

- Establish a therapeutic rapport with their patient which facilitates an accurate, patient-centered interview and physical examination,
- Order appropriate diagnostic studies, interpret the findings, formulate a differential diagnosis, and in collaboration with both the supervising physician and the patient, develop an appropriate treatment plan,
- Be effective observers, listeners, communicators, and diagnosticians,
  - *Our students are well prepared for professional clinical life through rigorous instruction during their didactic and clinical education years that includes practice sessions for history and physical exam in the first year and clinical rotations in the second year.*
  - *We are performing extensive curriculum mapping to verify that all of our program goals are being taught and reinforced throughout our students' education.*
  - *We will publish our PANCE passing rates as soon as they become available, as well.*
- Use culture sensitivity to maintain empathy while caring for patients
  - *Our students are exposed to a variety of cultures in our clinical training sites and learn to communicate with patients of different races, religions, and nationalities including how to properly interact with interpreters.*
- Develop a trusting relationship with their supervising physician, while adhering to the concept of team-based care
  - *Our students learn to interact and work with physicians early on by giving them multiple opportunities to interact with medical students in various ways.*
  - *We provide a medical education fellowship to several rising second year medical students each summer to learn about PA education and to provide teaching assistance to our new PA students.*
  - *PA students spend two semesters in the didactic year in the same classroom as second year medical students learning medicine, pathology and pharmacology.*
  - *This frequent and early interaction has built added trust and cooperation between PA students and medical students early on helping to foster the notion of team-based care.*
  - *We also provide an interprofessional oral health curriculum where PA students get to learn from dentists and dental students and broaden their understanding of team-based care.*
- Identify and respond to medical emergencies
  - *Our students have a mandatory rotation in emergency medicine*
  - *All of our students become certified in ACLS*

- Advocate for patient safety and participate in quality improvement
  - *In addition to the classroom education in quality improvement and patient safety, our students have been invited to join the BU student chapter of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), which is an internationally recognized organization that promotes patient safety and quality improvement.*
  
- Practice medicine in an ethical and professional manner
  - *All of our students become certified by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (in conjunction with the BU Institutional Review Board) in biomedical research ethics as well as both research and clinical HIPAA training.*
  
- Identify gaps in the medical and educational literature by critical analysis and propose a novel research project to address the issues
  - *BU offers a rigorous research curriculum, which includes course work, journal clubs, and culminates in the production of a hypothesis-driven thesis.*
  - *The thesis project is archived in the BU library.*
  
- Care for patients from vulnerable populations in all health care settings, including patient centered medical homes and accountable care organizations,
  - *Our three major teaching hospitals: Boston Medical Center, Veterans Affairs Boston Healthcare System, and Roger Williams Medical Center all take care of large proportions of the region's vulnerable patient populations*
  - *Our students will have opportunities to gain clinical experience in patient centered medical homes*
  
- Demonstrate leadership by participation in volunteer and professional organizations.
  - *Our students established a tobacco cessation booth as well as an oral health screening booth in collaboration with Boston Healthcare for the Homeless. They performed volunteer screenings and education during a homeless women's health fair in the fall of 2014.*
  - *One of our students was chosen to be an Albert Schweitzer Fellow. The fellowship is an internationally renowned opportunity for rising leaders in community health. She will be performing a Healthy Hearts project at a homeless shelter in Boston.*
  - *All of our students participated in the Massachusetts State PA Students on the Hill Day in which students learn about the government and policy side of healthcare. They were given a crash course in lobbying and sent out to meet with state senators and representatives to advocate for the PA profession.*
  - *In addition, four students went to the AAPA student lobby event in Washington, DC in order to learn more about leadership and advocating for the PA profession.*