



# The Preceptor's Newsletter



MISERICORDIA  
UNIVERSITY

JANUARY 2014

## PATIENT ACCEPTANCE

Many preceptors are concerned about how their patients will respond to the presence of the learner. The majority of patients enjoy and benefit from the presence of learners. They like the increased "face time" with a provider. You can take several steps to assure this positive reaction and prevent potential problems with your patients. For example:

Hang a notice in the waiting room indicating that your practice is a teaching site.

Your office manager can submit an article for the local newspaper. This is useful for patients and can be fun for the learner.

The nurse or staff should check with patients to make sure they are willing to be seen by a learner. It is crucial to instruct them on how to ask. With a proper introduction, most patients are happy to be seen by a learner. One preceptor introduces the topic by asking the patient, "How would you like to be a teacher today?"  
NOTE: If possible, avoid asking patients for permission to be seen by learners in front of the learners; this is awkward for students and patients alike.

Staff can also post a notice in the exam room or vital signs area that a learner is working with the doctor today and the patient should notify the staff if they have any questions or do not want to be seen by the learner.

Review the schedule at the start of the day with the learner, and indicate which patients would be particularly good for the learner to see and which patients prefer not to be seen by learners.

Identify patients with interesting physical findings and let the patient know how useful this is for learners to see or hear.

Thank patients for their involvement in teaching the learner.

How patients react to your teaching depends a lot on how you present it to them. Patients are more likely to appreciate your precepting activities if they perceive them as an indication that you are an accomplished clinician, recognized by the school for the knowledge you have to share with learners. They are more



likely to be open to a learner if they know in advance that they will be seen by the learner and if they see their role as helping teach the learner. They are also more likely to be receptive if they have the extra time to be seen by a learner; patients have more "face time" with a clinician when seen by both the learner and you, but they also have to wait longer while the learner discusses the case with you. With these precautions taken, most practices find that patients readily accept and are interested in helping to train learners.

*Adapted from:*

[www.oucom.ohiou.edu/fd/monographs/busyoffice.htm](http://www.oucom.ohiou.edu/fd/monographs/busyoffice.htm)



Alicia Dill

My name is Alicia Dill and I am the class president for the class of 2014 and also held a position in SAAAPA as a House of Delegate (HOD) representative. SUNY Fredonia was my home for the first four years of my academic career where I majored in biology. I was raised on Chautauqua Lake in Bemus Point, NY where I will soon be married as I was recently engaged in March of 2013. Upon graduation I hope to obtain employment in an ED or Urgent care in North East Pennsylvania.



Becky Jackson

My name is Becky Jackson and I am originally from Greensboro, MD. I received a BS degree from Salisbury University, MD in 2011. Prior to beginning the PA program at *Misericordia University*, I took a year off to continue working as an emergency department scribe at **Peninsula Regional Medical Center**. While in the PA program, I was elected Vice President for our SAAAPA chapter. I have learned that I strive off of the fast-paced, team orientated atmosphere that the emergency department offers, and hope to work as an emergency department PA upon graduation in August, 2014.



Laura Weatherholtz

My name is Laura Weatherholtz. I am second year physician assistant student at Misericordia. I graduated from *King's College* in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. in May of 2012. My hometown is Yardley, PA. As an upcoming graduate of the first PA class of *Misericordia University*, I am extremely excited to tell everyone, that this has been the best two years of my life. I have learned so much not only from my teachers during our didactic year but also from the wonderful preceptors I



Jennifer Laskowski

My name is Jennifer Laskowski and I reside in Hanover Twp, PA. I received a B.S. in Biology with a teaching certificate from *Misericordia University* in 2011 and after graduation taught 9th grade Physical Science and 10th grade Biology at a local high school for one year. I am currently the External Affairs Chairperson for our PA class and hope to work in pediatrics upon graduation.

have had. Each preceptor is different in their own way, and they all teach you a little more than the first. As I graduate I plan to work down in North Carolina as an Orthopedic Physician Assistant. I have always had that specialty in mind and was confirmed when I completed my first orthopedic rotation with Dr. Kolasser at **Geisinger, Wyoming Valley**. Throughout these two years, I have been involved in so much more then I truly expect, along with meeting new individuals and connections. I look forward to seeing what the future holds for me and my classmates as the first graduating physician assistant class of *Misericordia University*. I also would like to extend out a special thanks to all our teachers and preceptors for all their hard work and teaching.



Jennifer Rizel

My name is Jennifer Rizel. I am originally from Monroe, NY. I received my undergraduate degree in Graphic Design while living in Jerusalem, Israel. My husband and I lived in Israel for five years, before relocating to Northeast PA. We have four beautiful sons who love to hear about my interesting adventures in PA school. I had the privilege of representing *Misericordia University* at the **2013 AAPA National Medical Challenge Bowl** in Washington, D.C. this past May.