

Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATS) and Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants Meet: Discuss Issues to Improve Quality of Healthcare for Athletes

At the November, 2013 Allied Health Committee meeting the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATS) leadership met with the Board Administrator for the PA Society of Physician Assistants (PSPA). The group discussed the details of how the professions can work together and define their roles within emergency action plans, as well as the policy and procedures for return to play for athletes with injuries and illness.

Harrisburgh, PA ([PRWEB](#)) December 03, 2013 -- Athletic trainers (AT) have always been medical professionals that work with other health care providers to maintain and return the health of the physically active. They have worked with medical and osteopathic doctors to deliver the best health care for physically active individuals. As a result, the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATS) annually awards a team physician who deserves recognition for his or her work with Athletic Trainers and athletes in the Commonwealth. Recently, the PATS leadership has reached out to another group in the state to meet and discuss ideas to better provide health care for the physically active in Pennsylvania.

During the recent November, 2013 Allied Health Committee meeting, conducted by Vice Chair George Roberts MEd, LAT, ATC the PATS leadership met with the Board Administrator for the PA Society of Physician Assistants, Susan DeSantis PA-C, The groups came together with the goal of enhancing the quality of care for the physically active individuals in the Commonwealth. In attendance representing PATS was Tanya Miller, PATS Governmental Affairs Committee Chairwoman, PATS President Yvette Ingram PhD, LAT, ATC, and President-Elect John Moyer LAT, ATC. Members from the State Board of Medicine, as well as their attorneys and investigators were present. The purpose of the meeting earlier this month in Harrisburg was to establish the roles of each profession and discuss legal issues surrounding the sideline care of athletes by athletic trainers and physician assistants.

The group discussed the details of how the professions can work together and define their roles within emergency action plans, as well as the policy and procedures for return to play for athletes with injuries and illness.

Mutual respect and communication are keys to better care for the athlete as well as the physically active. President-Elect John Moyer discussed the mutual respect "This meeting resulting in a positive collaboration between PATS and the PSPA demonstrates our willingness to understand the roles of other allied health care professions and to help them understand the role of the licensed athletic trainer (LAT). The mutual respect we continue to gain with numerous allied health care professions will be reflected by the expert care we can all provide for our athletes."

Communication between the leadership of the PSPA and PATS and the physician assistants and licensed athletic trainers working together on the sidelines improves the safety of our athletes. Moyer continued his comment "Effective communication skills between the LAT and the PA-C are very important for creating collaboration as a Sports Medicine Team. Understanding our roles as well as communication between the two professions will create a very positive environment to provide the best possible care for our athletes."



PATS looks forward to these collaborative efforts to further the care of all physically active people in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

After the meeting, both parties developed a question and answer document to assist athletic trainers and physician assistants who are working together on the sidelines. “This type of collaboration has been going on for years on many high school sidelines, it is the hope of all in attendance that the document that was created from this meeting will help those currently working together and those who are investigating the possibility understand the roles of each profession.” Yvette Ingram, PATS President.

The Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society, Inc. is a progressive organization of licensed health care professionals who work under the direction of a licensed physician. Our society continues to increase public awareness and education regarding Athletic Trainers and the Athletic Training profession while serving as the premier source of information for public safety, injury and illness prevention, early intervention, patient care, and healthcare delivery for the physically active in the Commonwealth.

“The Keystone to a Healthy and Physically Active Life”

For more information regarding this topic or to schedule an interview with PATS President Yvette Ingram, PhD, LAT, ATC, please contact Linda Mazzoli MS, LAT, ATC, PATS Executive Director at [patsexecutivedirector\(at\)gopats\(dot\)org](mailto:patsexecutivedirector(at)gopats(dot)org)



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