

European Educators of physician assistants networking internationally

On November 20th 2019, PA educators and physician assistants from various European countries met in Utrecht, following the invitation of the Dutch Association of Physician Assistants (NAPA) to attend the event “**PA Invest: Physician Assistants Around the Globe**”.

Prof. Dr. med. Heistermann, Chairman of the German University Association Physician Assistant e.V. (DHPA) participated in the “International Session” with colleagues from the Netherlands, Great Britain, USA and Germany as well as PA students, active physician assistants and numerous representatives from various other educating organizations.

Together, on the initiative of Prof. Heistermann, those present adopted a letter of intent that decided to found a “European Academy of PA Educators” (EAPAE). Colleagues from Switzerland and Israel had previously approved the letter of intent, as had the DHPA.

Members of this European Academy can become European institutions and organizations that deal with the training and further education of physician assistants, physician associates, medical assistants in surgery and comparable academic medical professions.

Since a formal standardization of the degree programs does not seem possible due to the different educational pathways in Europe, alternatively, the comparability of the quality of the degrees, can be achieved e.g. through (standardized) certified final exams. This would also facilitate international mobility.

Other topics that EAPAE will address in future include: recommendations on core standards for the accreditation of degree programs, the certification and re-certification of graduates, educational modalities, admission requirements or examination standards.

However, national specific requirements remain that are also respected. The aim of EAPAE is to draft recommendations and offer advice. Statutory regulations are not affected.

Attachment: Letter of Intent of the DHPA