

NATIONAL APP WEEK

UVA HEALTH | MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE SYSTEMS BEHIND PROGRESS

FROM WORKFORCE DESIGN TO
SPECIALTY TRAINING, APPS ARE BUILDING
THE FUTURE FROM EVERY ANGLE.

THE PULSE OF PROGRESS

**THE WORK IS WIDER THAN THE ROLE.
APPS PROVE IT EVERY DAY.**

FROM ROCHESTER'S PROFESSIONAL LIFECYCLE MODEL TO PEDIATRIC GI
INNOVATION, SPECIALTY TRAINING, AND NEW BRIDGES BETWEEN PRACTICE
AND EDUCATION, THIS ISSUE FOLLOWS HOW APPS TURN EXPERTISE INTO
SYSTEMS THAT LAST.

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From The Desk

A MESSAGE FROM APP LEADERSHIP

Each month, this newsletter finds more remarkable work happening in advanced practice than it is able to cover. That's not coincidence. Rather, it's the reality of where our profession stands right now, and how far we've come.

Prior editions of this brief emphasize the growing volume of APP-provided care, the importance of a broad understanding of Advanced Practice in that context, and why amplifying visibility plays a key role today and in the future. We have presented this both in the context of celebrating existing achievements, and as opportunities for continuing growth.



Mike Little

Now in its fourth issue, the newsletter continues to fill with stories underscoring how contributions from diverse areas are ensuring APPs meet the moment.

Additionally, I'm reminded that advancements don't happen simply because a profession asks for them. Instead, they manifest when a profession earns them, case by case, patient by patient, outcome by outcome. Every story featured here is part of why progress is happening and trust in APPs is expanding. They also afford us moments for individual recognition, and a unique chance to design the architecture for our profession a decade from now.

National APP Week marks how far our profession has come, take stock of where it stands today, and point to where it's headed. These stories, like the ones before them, aren't just worth celebrating. The standards set by these APPs doing exceptional work in hospitals, clinics, EDs, ORs, and health centers around the country are also benchmarks the rest of us should be measuring ourselves against. It matters for patient safety, the responsibility inherent in the work we do, and for our momentum as a profession.

The future is brighter than ever. Let's keep building toward it.

ON THE GROUND

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER MEDICINE ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

BUILDING THE APP LIFECYCLE

Some institutions support APP practice through individual programs. At the University of Rochester Medical Center, that support has become a full professional lifecycle model.

Across a workforce of more than 1,200 APPs, URM is building systems that connect access, education, retention, advancement, and leadership development. In ambulatory care, more than 150 APPs across 16 specialty groups are engaged in workflow redesign to improve patient access while preserving time for clinical administrative work. More than 60% of participating APPs are already meeting target utilization.

Education is built into the model as well. In the past year, URM APPs partnered with 22 academic institutions to support 336 clinical rotations and contributed more than 47,000 hours of precepting. APP-focused continuing education, mentorship, and leadership development help support growth across career stages.

URM's fellowship programs extend that pipeline further. Since launching in 2015, the programs have expanded across multiple specialties, with an 85% completion rate and 86% retention at two years.

The results are visible. In 2025, URM welcomed 182 new APPs while reducing attrition from 14.2% to 8.6%. A redesigned three-tier advancement model created new growth opportunities, with 20 APPs advancing this year alone.

At URM, APP support is not a side project. It is part of the operating model.



FAST FACTS

- More than 1,200 APPs
- 150+ APPs in ambulatory optimization
- 22 academic partners
- 47,000+ precepting hours
- 85% fellowship completion rate
- 86% retention at two years
- Attrition reduced from 14.2% to 8.6%



APP SPOTLIGHT



ELIZABETH "LIZ" YARGER

**MSN, APRN, CPNP-PC Pediatric
Gastroenterology Nurse Practitioner and APP
Supervisor at Dayton Children's Hospital**

Elizabeth "Liz" Yarger has spent more than two decades in pediatric healthcare, but her impact reaches far beyond individual patient encounters.

At Dayton Children's Hospital, Liz developed and sustained the institution's first APP-led Inpatient Gastroenterology Consult Service. The model improves access to specialty care, strengthens continuity between inpatient and outpatient settings, and helps optimize physician resources while demonstrating the value APPs bring to complex care delivery.

Liz is also a driving force behind the division's APP-led multidisciplinary Inflammatory Bowel Disease Annual Visit Program, which has been sustained for nearly ten years. As the lead APP for the institution's partnership with ImproveCareNow, she helped shape a visit model that looks beyond disease control alone.

Mental health, nutrition, school performance, social wellbeing, preventive care, and transition readiness are all part of the conversation.

That transition work is central to her impact. Liz helps adolescents and young adults with IBD understand their disease, manage medications, navigate healthcare systems, and become advocates for their own health as they prepare for adult care.

Colleagues describe her as someone who hears what patients, families, and teams need, then turns those needs into action. Whether advocating for a family, mentoring a colleague, leading quality improvement, or chairing the Advanced Practice Provider Council, Liz follows the same pattern: identify the gap, gather the right people, and build something better.

KEY IMPACT

First APP-led Inpatient GI Consult Service at Dayton Children's

APP-led IBD Annual Visit Program sustained nearly 10 years

Lead APP for ImproveCareNow

Transition readiness focus for adolescents and young adults with IBD

SPECIALTY LEADERSHIP



BRAD HORNBERGER

PA and Faculty Associate Department of Urology at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

BUILDING THE SPECIALTY PIPELINE

Brad Hornberger has been practicing as a Physician Assistant in the Department of Urology at UT Southwestern Medical Center since 2003. Over more than two decades, his work has extended beyond clinical care into mentorship, specialty education, and the development of future APP leaders.

A major focus of Brad's career has been advancing the role of APPs in urology. He founded one of the nation's first APP fellowships in the specialty, and the Garry Weber APP Fellowship in Urology continues to train four APPs each year. The program gives APPs a structured pathway into a complex field that requires clinical judgment, technical knowledge, and strong interdisciplinary collaboration.

Brad also helps lead a team of Urology APPs across multiple practice settings, clinical sites, and hospitals. His leadership is grounded in the belief that professional growth often comes from stepping into unfamiliar spaces. His advice to APPs is simple: have a "yes" mentality, because growth happens outside of your comfort zone.

His influence also reaches beyond UT Southwestern. Brad has held leadership roles within the Texas Academy of Physician Assistants, is a core member of the Urological Association of Physician Assistants, and currently serves on an American Urological Association taskforce focused on workforce trends and the growing role of APPs in urologic care.

What Brad values most is the combination of patient care and mentorship. He cares for patients during some of the most personal and challenging moments of their lives, while also helping APPs develop into confident clinicians and leaders.

SPECIALTY GROWTH DOES NOT HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT. SOMEONE HAS TO BUILD THE PATHWAY.

KEY IMPACT

Founded one of the nation's first APP fellowships in urology

Garry Weber APP Fellowship trains four APPs per year

Leads Urology APPs across multiple sites and practice settings

Serves on national workforce efforts focused on APPs in urologic care

EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT



AMANDA WADE

**Nurse Practitioner Akron Children's
Emergency Room at The University of Akron
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program**

BRIDGING PRACTICE AND EDUCATION

When Amanda Wade steps into her new dual role between Akron Children's Emergency Room and The University of Akron's Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program, she will be doing more than balancing two jobs. She will be connecting real-world pediatric care with the next generation of APPs.

Amanda began her nursing career in 2010 in an adult and pediatric emergency room in Michigan. Early exposure to pediatric patients helped shape the direction of her career. She found meaning not only in caring for children, but also in teaching and collaborating with families during moments that could affect the rest of a child's life.

Mentorship also shaped her path. Amanda credits an early mentor with helping her see what was possible in advanced practice. Now, that same belief in professional development is part of the role she is stepping into.

The position was intentionally designed through collaboration between Akron Children's and The University of Akron. The goal is to strengthen the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner program, improve the student experience, and help prepare highly trained clinicians who can meet pediatric care needs.

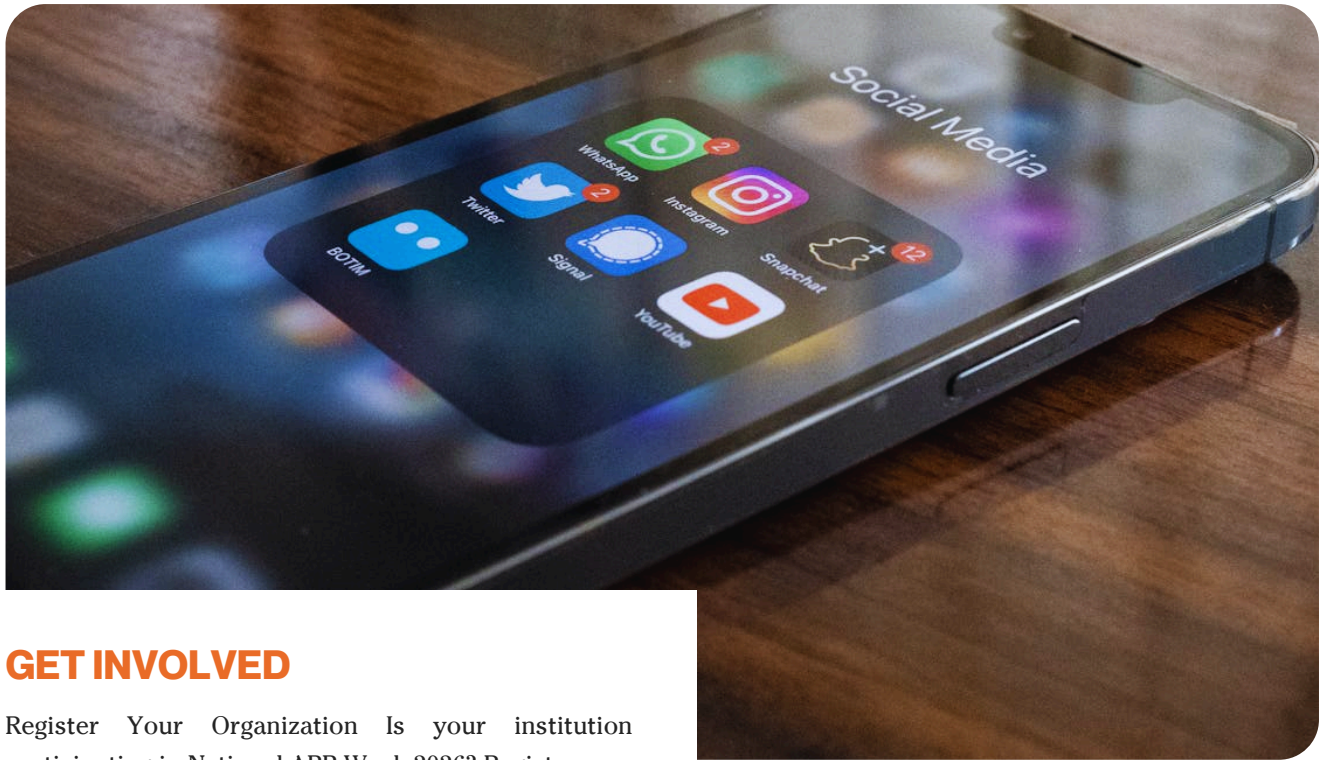
Amanda sees the role as a two-way bridge. Clinical practice will keep her teaching grounded in real patient care, while the academic environment will keep her current on evolving guidelines, treatments, technology, and the questions future APPs are asking.

For students, that matters. They will not be learning pediatric advanced practice from a distance. They will be learning from someone still active in the work.



The classroom gets stronger when the clinical work is still alive inside it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY



GET INVOLVED

Register Your Organization Is your institution participating in National APP Week 2026? Register now to be listed as an official participating organization and have your logo featured on the National APP Week website.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

SHARE YOUR STORY

Every edition of this newsletter features APPs driving measurable impact. If you have a story - a quality improvement initiative, a program you built, an outcome worth documenting - submit it for consideration.

[SUBMIT HERE](#)

SUBMIT YOUR CONTENT

Photos and videos from your institution celebrating National APP Week are welcome. Share what your team is doing.

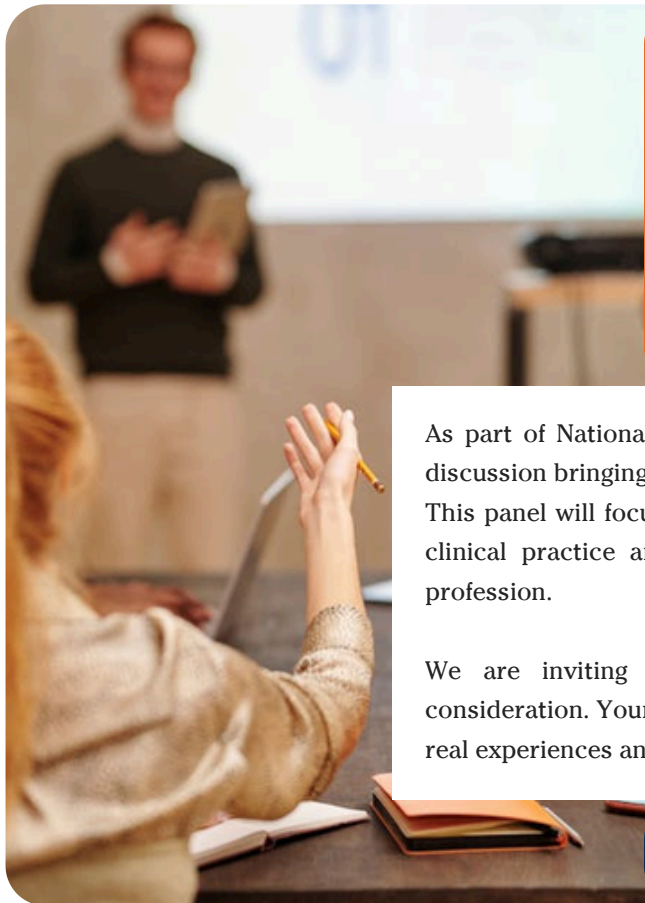
[SUBMIT HERE](#)

STAY CONNECTED

Stay Connected Follow National APP Week on social media and share your participation using the official hashtags. Tag your institution, your team, and your stories.



MEET THE PRESIDENT'S PANEL



*Submit your questions to help
shape the National APP Week
2026 President's Panel.*

As part of National APP Week 2026, we will be hosting a President's Panel discussion bringing together national leaders across Advanced Practice. This panel will focus on the questions that matter most to APPs today, from clinical practice and workforce challenges to the future direction of the profession.

We are inviting APPs across organizations to submit questions for consideration. Your input will help shape the discussion and ensure it reflects real experiences and priorities from across the field.

SUBMIT YOUR QUESTION

Bringing together leaders from across national Advanced Practice organizations, the President's Panel reflects a collective voice shaping the direction of the profession. Each panelist represents a distinct perspective within the APP landscape, contributing insight, experience, and leadership at both the clinical and system level.

PANEL

VALERIE FULLER

American Association of Nurse Practitioners

JACKELINE ISELER

National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists

DAVID BUNNELL

American Academy of Physician Associates

TRACY YOUNG

American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology

EMILY MYCYK

American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants

PETER JOHNSON

American College of Nurse Midwives

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

NOMINATION WINDOW: JULY 1 - JULY 31, 2026

National APP Week 2026 award nominations are now open. This year's Awards Program recognizes Advanced Practice Providers whose work is advancing care, strengthening teams, and shaping the future of the profession. Six categories. One nomination window. One month to submit.



**AWARDS NOMINATIONS
NOW OPEN!**

[SUBMIT A NOMINATION](#)

AWARD CATEGORIES

RISING STAR AWARD



0-5 YEARS

EMERGING LEADER AWARD



6-12 YEARS

APP OF THE YEAR AWARD



13+ YEARS

APP TEAM OF THE YEAR AWARD



**MINIMUM 3 APPS, EXECUTIVE
ENDORSEMENT REQUIRED**

APP MENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD



MINIMUM 10 YEARS

APP LEGACY BUILDER AWARD



MINIMUM 10 YEARS

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Contact Questions, story submissions, or newsletter feedback: **CUK7UB@uvahealth.org**

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www.nationalappweek.com