

## Director at Large Platform Statement

My name is Tatiana Emanuel. Thank you for your consideration for the Director-at-Large Position on the SEMPA Board of Directors. I am very excited about this opportunity to help advance my chosen profession.

I have been a Physician Assistant since 2014. Since that time, I have worked in the Emergency Department (ED) at UT Health San Antonio and local community hospitals and seen the stark differences in the care provided between the community and university setting. Recently I was deployed by South Texas Regional Advisory Council to take care of Covid-19 patients in a border town in Texas where the limits of my practice skills and license were tested. This experience helped me to gel some already strong sentiments about where the PA practice should be headed.

I am currently the lead PA at UT Health San Antonio, ED where we employ 28 APPs. In addition to my daily responsibilities as a clinician, I conduct interviews for new hires, plan scheduling, supervise clinical operations and actively participate in academics and research. Since my tenure began as lead PA for the Department of Emergency Medicine employee retention rates have gone from 50 to 60% per year to nearly 100%. I hope that this is in part because of my capacity to give the APPs a voice in the decisions affecting them.

I have obtained two grants: One for the improvement in diagnosis of Breast Cancer in the ED and the other for HIV testing in the ED. I have developed several clinical pathways for unfunded patients in the ED. My work on behalf of unfunded patients put me in contact with administrative staff for specialty groups and hospital administration. I found that in contrast to NPs who often have administrative positions that are well established physician assistants do not. I faced many obstacles. Ultimately, the cooperation I obtained from subspecialty groups and the savings involved to the hospital won the day. My experience made me a proponent of the development of administrative pathways for PAs at UT Health San Antonio.

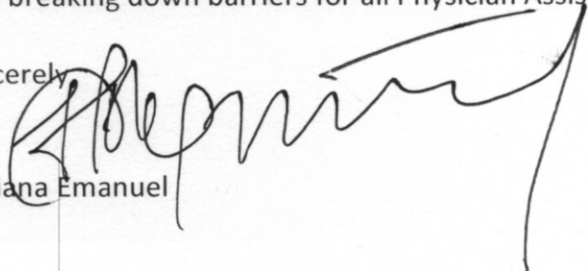
I am currently being promoted to Assistant Professor, a first for PAs in the School of Medicine at UT Health San Antonio. I am an Assistant Professor Clinical with the Department of Physician Assistant Studies.

I believe we need to start recognizing PAs not as just providers, but as capable people limited only by their interest and skill set and not the letters after their name; with emphasis on courses designed for continuous advancement. I am currently the lead in the process of developing a PA Fellowship program in Emergency Medicine starting in July next year. This will be the first PA fellowship program in the UT Health San Antonio system. I have relied on the SEMPA web site to help guide me on this.

The PAs I work with in the trauma center lead on the majority of cases seen. They would like to and have earned the right to teach ATLS. Close collaboration with the American Academy of Surgeons will be needed. I would like to see the name of the profession changed. I believe that the Physician Assistant title does not accurately express our role in the practice of Medicine. I would like to see PAs have, at the least, the same rights to independent practice as NPs for those willing to advance their competency through training.

SEMPA has positioned itself extremely well and has a strong voice regarding many of the challenges that face the profession and I would very much like to be part of that voice in advancing and expanding the profession and breaking down barriers for all Physician Assistants.

Sincerely,

  
Tatiana Emanuel