

September 12, 2020

Board of Directors  
Society of Emergency Medicine Physician Assistants  
4950 W. Royal Lane  
Irving, TX 75063-2524

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to you in support of my application for the Director at Large position that is currently open on the SEMPA Board of Directors.

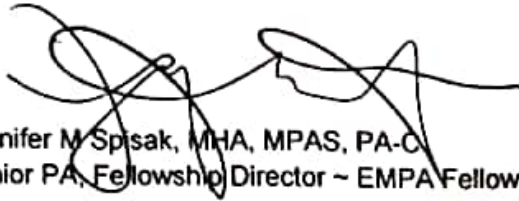
Briefly, I have maintained an active relationship with SEMPA since first joining as a new graduate in 2013. I have attended SEMPA 360 conferences annually and have been appreciative of how receptive the organization has been to feedback. At the 2018 conference in San Antonio, I was invited to the postgraduate education committee meeting as a very green program director, and was inspired to join the committee. I quickly became acquainted with Ann Verhoeven, who recommended this Director at Large position to me, and have enjoyed working with her over the past several years.

I am seeking this Director at Large position because it offers an opportunity for me to advocate for my profession. When I became involved in education several years ago, I thought it was because I wanted to teach, and I do love to teach, truly; to see a learner grow in their clinical acumen over the course of 18 months is deeply rewarding. What I have come to understand, however, is that education has served as a pathway to advocacy, and that I am, fundamentally, an advocate.

Starting a fellowship for postgraduate training of PAs at a traditional academic medical center was not without obstacles. Introducing the fellowship to the faculty and residency took finesse as well as honest and direct communication about logistics and expectations. It required creativity in seeking out rotation opportunities that satisfied the needs of our learners without threatening those of others. It has also demanded hard conversations that need to be navigated calmly and professionally. I feel that my experiences and development as a program director have prepared me well for the larger audience I would encounter as a SEMPA Board Member.

I recognize that my experience thus far has been localized to the postgraduate education forum but want to reaffirm that my advocacy extends beyond these borders. The current controversy inspired by the release of the joint statement regarding postgraduate education of PAs and NPs can certainly be generalized to our entire profession. I firmly believe that while our profession was founded in collaboration with our physician colleagues and that this foundation serves the best interest of our patients, PAs should be practicing to the fullest extent of our licensure and it is the responsibility of this Board, and myself, should I be welcomed into it, to push that agenda at the local and national levels.

As program director, I am my fellows greatest advocate, and will approach my position on the Board with the same fervor and tenacity. As a leader, I hope to inspire the same passion and enthusiasm on the Board, and look forward to engaging in progressive conversations. This is an exciting time to be a PA, and an exciting time to cultivate our profession. It is with great sincerity that I submit this application, and should I be elected to serve in this position, I will do so with my greatest effort and intention.



Jennifer M Spisak, MHA, MPAS, PA-C  
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