

FALL 2012 GENERAL BODY MEETING #3
PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDENT ORGANIZATION 2012-13
TUESDAY, NOV 27 between 7:00 p.m. and 8:20 p.m.

Bone Marrow Transplant PA: Lindsay Kozicz

- **Background:**
 - From Massachusetts, moved to SD a year ago. Has been a PA for 4 years now.
 - Worked in CATH lab, was a certified EMT and was a tech before PA school
 - She didn't know what a PA was in HS. Mother was a NP and suggested PA.
 - Shadowed a PA in HS, went to **Entry-level Master's PA program right after HS** → Quinnipiac University's PA School, CT (Graduated 2008)
- **PA School:** 27 months long. 1 year didactics, 1 year rotations [4-6 week rotations in every department (oncology, surgery, family practice, OB/GYN, etc.)]
 - Rotations:
 - Experience depends on the doctors you work with and your personality
 - Sutured patients everyday in trauma center, did CPR in the ER, took histories and did physical examinations for patients. Delivered 7 babies her first day in Birth Center rotation, 52 in her whole rotation.
 - **Most PA schools will accept 1,000 hours (even if they ask for 2,000 hours). They mostly want someone who is certain about becoming a PA.**
 - Although there were more experienced students who were ER techs, PTs, and nurses, entry-level students had an advantage since they were used to studying. However, everyone's skills evened out over time.
 - **East Coast has a lot more PAs/PA programs compared to the West Coast.**

Working as a PA: Worked 50 hours in the last 4 days! But usually works 40 hours a week.

- Worked at Yale University for mid-level providers to take care of patients that residents could not take care of. Each physician was assigned a PA or NP. Lindsay worked with a physician to come up with plans for the day and see patients. Work was autonomous.
- No way to learn everything you need to know in PA school, so even routine things were very helpful. **You learn on the job.**
- Now works at UCSD Medical Center. Sees 40 patients a day, and works with 3 other NPs and 6 physicians.
- **Advice:** Get any kind of hospital experience, including volunteer experience. Get your foot in the door and learn how to interact with patients. Don't settle for mediocrity. Learn about the different medical laws in different states during rotations. Drive yourself and make connections. Send your PA job application to the director if you can't find a job! **Most importantly, take care of your needs: eat well, hydrate yourself, and exercise.**
- **Working in a Hospital vs. Clinic:** If you prefer a high-stress environment, go to a hospital. If you prefer flexibility in a job (a 8-5 work day), go to a clinic.
- **Problems with being a PA:** Some jobs are mostly charting instead of being by the bedside, but not true for every hospital. **Not a lot of jobs for PAs on the West Coast. There are 150 NPs, but 26 PAs, at UCSD Medical Center. There are lots of jobs and**

money for PAs in orthopedics and surgery, but for those who want to be in acute care it is difficult to find jobs. Animosity between nurses and PAs in California. Hospitals are more liberal in what PAs can do in the East Coast while those in the West Coast are more confined. Patients can be adamant about seeing a doctor and not a PA.

- **Why PAs are awesome:** Most are very passionate about what they do. There is a lot of room for experience since PAs do everything a doctor does, just work underneath the supervision of a doctor. PAs can do different specializations.
- **PA Profession Origin:** The American Nurses Associations brought the PA profession to fruition since more primary caregivers were needed without making everyone go through medical school. Essentially, they smushed medical school into 2 years, and PA students were trained to think like physicians.
- **NP vs. PA:** NPs MUST choose a track and are stuck in it, especially for training. NP does not have as much versatility and flexibility as a PA. NPs, however, have longer rotations. A NP and a PA practice exactly the same, but have minor nuances.