

ANNUAL

**Advances and Innovations in Endoscopic Oncology  
and Multidisciplinary Gastrointestinal Cancer Care**

# **Maximizing Impact: Harnessing the Full Potential of APPs in Multidisciplinary GI Oncology Teams**

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# Disclosures

- I do not have any relevant financial relationships.

*This presentation and/or comments will provide a balanced, non-promotional, and evidence-based approach to all diagnostic, therapeutic and/or research related content*

# Cultural Linguistic Competency (CLC) & Implicit Bias (IB)

## STATE LAW:

The California legislature has passed Assembly Bill (AB) 1195, which states that as of July 1, 2006, all Category 1 CME activities that relate to patient care must include a cultural diversity/linguistics component. It has also passed AB 241, which states that as of January 1, 2022, all continuing education courses for a physician and surgeon **must** contain curriculum that includes specified instruction in the understanding of implicit bias in medical treatment.

*The cultural and linguistic competency (CLC) and implicit bias (IB) definitions reiterate how patients' diverse backgrounds may impact their access to care.*

## EXEMPTION:

Business and Professions Code 2190.1 exempts activities which are dedicated solely to research or other issues that do not contain a direct patient care component.

**The following CLC & IB components will be addressed in this presentation:**

- Fostering inclusivity amongst multidisciplinary teams.
- How implicit biases among multidisciplinary team members could affect the recognition and utilization of APPs' skills and expertise.

# Objectives

- Explore the history APPs and current healthcare landscape
- Define multidisciplinary care teams (MDTs) and highlight key benefits in GI oncology
- Discuss the critical role of APPs within GI-Oncology teams
- Examine strategies for effective implementation of APPs in GI oncology teams
- Present best practices for optimizing APP impact within MDTs
- Explore future directions for evolving role of APPs

# Advanced Practice Practitioners (APPs)

- Licensed non-physician healthcare professionals
- Includes:
  - *Nurse Practitioners (NP) / Advanced Practice RN*
  - *Physician Assistants / Physician Associates (PA)*
  - Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM)
  - Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS)
  - Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA)





# Physician Assistants



Dr. Eugene Stead

1965 → 2025

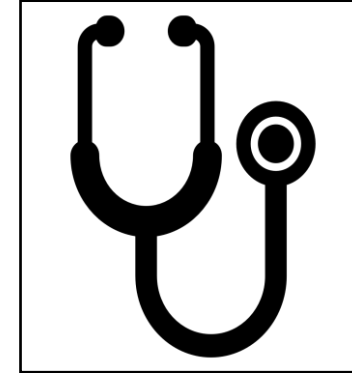
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# 2025: Rising Demand in the Face of Physician Shortages



- Increased **demand for services**
  - Aging population
  - Greater number of insured patients
  - New therapies, procedures, medications → **sub-specialization**



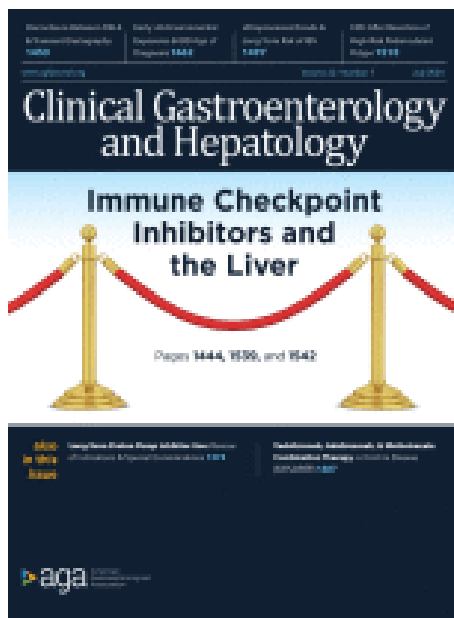
- **Physician Shortage**
  - Aging physician population (>1/3 of physicians will be  $\geq 65$ yo by 2028)
  - Increasing demands on physicians
    - Increased burnout
    - Early retirement

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# Evolving Healthcare Landscape



- Growing patient population
- Increased medical complexity
- Personalized medicine
- Value-based care
- Technology, AI, data analytics
- Health equity
- Sustainability / cost
- Policy and regulatory changes



# PRACTICE MANAGEMENT: THE ROAD AHEAD

*Lukejohn Day, Section Editor*

## The Role of Advanced Practice Providers in Modern Gastroenterology Practice

Sarah Enslin, PA-C and Vivek Kaul, MD, AGAF

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- Team-based care
  - Sub-sub-specialty practices
- Comprehensive patient management
- Quality improvement and patient outcomes
- Independent and collaborative billing models
- Continuing education and professional development

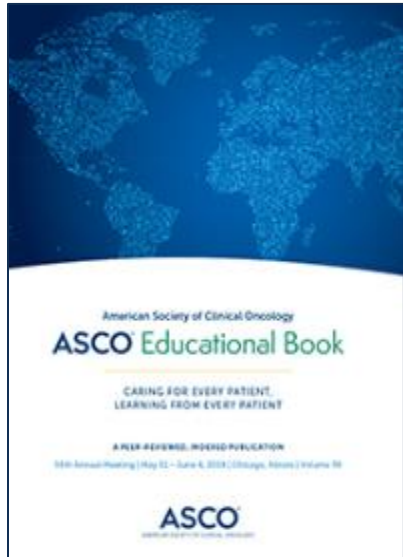
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*Clinical Gastro and Hep 2024; 22(7): 1349-1352*

# MEDICINE *of* THE HIGHEST ORDER



estinal Cancer Care



#### CARE DELIVERY AND REGULATORY POLICY

# Team-Based Care in Oncology: The Impact of the Advanced Practice Provider

Todd Pickard, MMSc, PA-C, DFAAPA, FASCO<sup>1</sup>; Stephanie Williams, MD<sup>2</sup>; Eric Tetzlaff, PA-C<sup>3,4</sup>; Camille Petraitis, DNP, FNP-BC<sup>4</sup>; and Heather Hylton, MS, PA-C, FASCO, DFAAPA<sup>5</sup>

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# Role of APPs in GI-Oncology Teams

- Patient evaluation, diagnostic work-up
- Peri-procedure / peri-operative optimization / management
- Systemic therapy ordering
- Toxicity management
- Procedures
- Survivorship and long-term care
- Advocacy, education and family support
- Clinical trials and research
- Participation in MDT discussions / communication / documentation

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# Benefits of Incorporating APPs in the GI-Oncology Team

## Clinical Care

- Improved patient care
  - Continuity of care
  - Patient outcomes
  - Patient satisfaction
- Efficient workflows
  - Increased team efficiency
- Collaborative care

## Business ROI

- Cost efficiency
  - Reduced hospital admissions
  - Optimized resource utilization
- Revenue growth
- Improved compliance and risk management

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*"The key to success in healthcare is the same as in any other system: working together as a team."*

— Dr. Atul Gawande

# Team- Based Care



## You and Your Care Team

Welcome! In this paper, we will talk about how all of us – including you! – work together toward better health.

### What is a “Care Team”?

When you are a patient at Strong Memorial Hospital, you enter a partnership with us. While you know your own body and your needs, we have the medical knowledge and resources to help. We use a combination of education, science, and technology to improve your health.

#### Your Care Team includes:

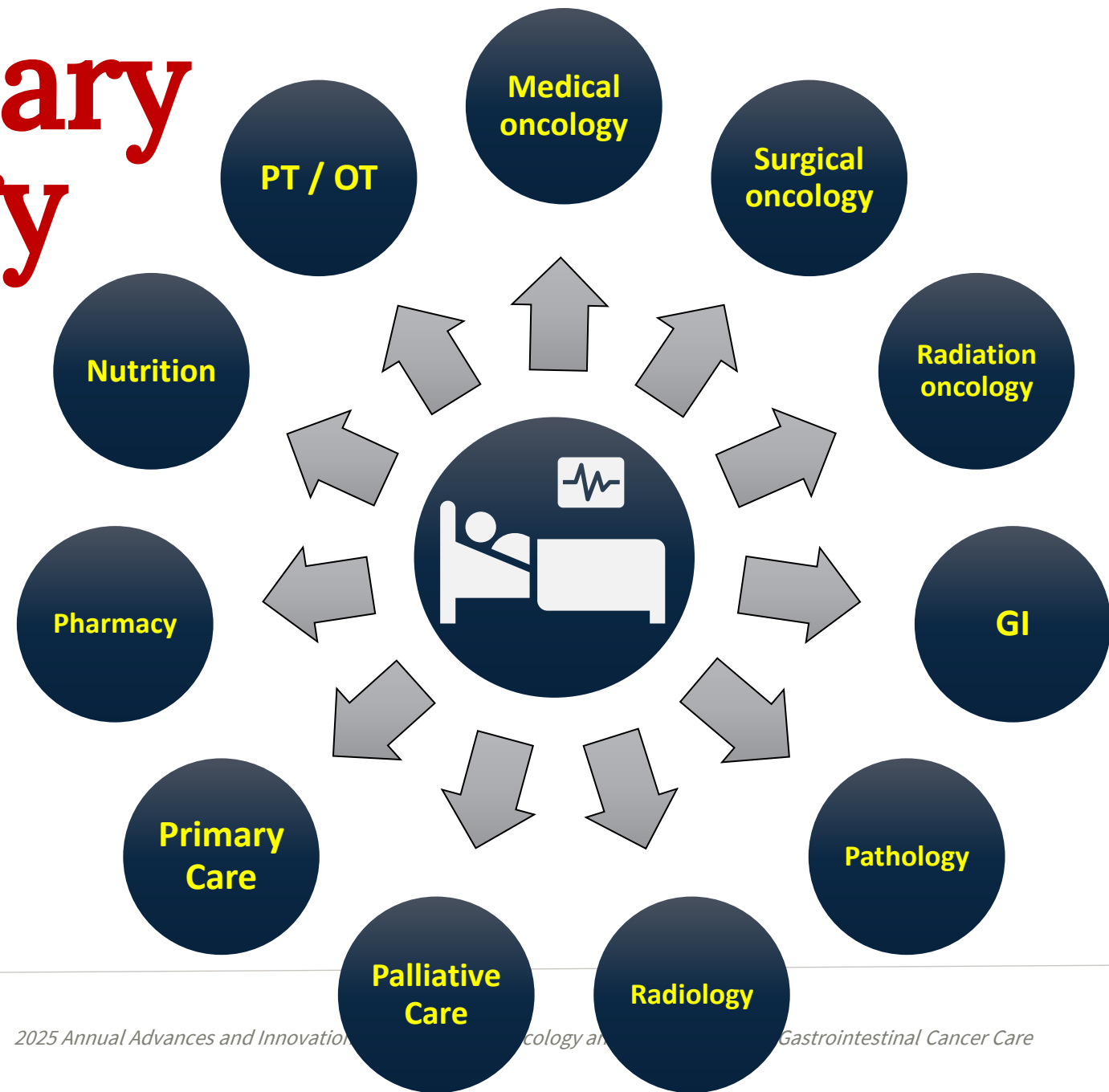
Doctor (M.D. D.O.), Physician Assistant (PA), Nurse Practitioner (NP), Registered Nurse (RN), Medical Students, Administrative Professionals, and others.



You will have one Physician overseeing all of your care, but you may meet with many medical professionals on our team including Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, and nurses. You may not always see the same team member.

# Multidisciplinary GI-Oncology Team

- APPs
- Nurses / nurse navigators
- Genetic counselors
- Dietitians
- Psychologists
- Social Workers



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# Benefits of Successful Multidisciplinary Teams

## For Patients

- Improved outcomes
  - Survival
  - Disease-free interval
  - Recurrence rates
- Improved access
- Enhanced patient satisfaction
- Improved/expanded treatment options
- Reduced wait times

## For Healthcare Professionals

- Enhanced communication
- Improved patient outcomes
- Streamlined treatment pathways
- Expanded educational opportunities
- Streamlined workflow
- Resource optimization

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# Best Practices for Maximizing APP Impact

## Role clarity

- Scope of practice
- Align with experience / training

## Onboarding / Orientation / Integration

- Commitment from institution / practice

## Ongoing training / Professional development

- Specialized education
- Mentorship and support
- Encourage professional growth

## Effective communication / collaboration

- Open, transparent, frequent communication
- Regular team meetings
- Documentation

## Leverage APPs for their expertise

- Patient education
- Advocacy and support

## Foster team-based culture

- Inclusion, mutual respect
- Involve APPs in strategic planning (team structure, resource allocation, clinical priorities)
- Promote shared-decision making

## Measure impact

- Track outcomes
- Feedback loops

# Scope of Practice

- Statutory and regulatory standards
- Sets framework for how APP can function in the team
  - Permitted clinical activity
  - Level of physician collaboration
  - Can vary significantly from state to state and license to license
- Important to know and understand!
- Top of license practice

# Top of License Practice

- Each member of the team performs routine activities that use the full extent of their education, training, experience and competency
- Cost-effective
- Shaped by:
  - Federal law
  - State laws and regulations
  - Facility / institutional policy
  - Clinical privileges
  - Payer policy

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# Essential Components of Onboarding Programs

## Introduction to the Institution / Practice

- Practice's mission, values, culture
- Intro to care team, roles and responsibilities

## Clinical training and education

- Common conditions, procedures, surgeries
- Practice protocols / clinical guidelines
- Collaborative case reviews

## Integration in the care team

- Role clarification
- Collaborative practice model
- Communication strategies

## Administrative orientation

- EHR training
- Billing, coding, regulatory compliance
- Practice management, scheduling, patient flow

## Professional development / support

- Educational opportunities
- Mentorship
- Regular feedback and performance evaluations

# Opportunities for Professional Development

## Clinical Development

- Increased patient complexity
- Sub-sub-specialization
- Training in procedures / ancillary tests

## Scholarship & research

- Case reports / series
- Review articles
- Clinical research
- Editorial assignments, review boards

## CME opportunities

## Tuition benefits

## National Society roles

- Committee work
- Task forces
- Invited faculty / lectures

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# Challenges in Maximizing APP Potential

- Role ambiguity
- Lack of understanding of scope of practice
- Underutilization
- Inequitable workload distribution within teams
- Resource limitations (financial, administrative)
- Lack of structured support



# Collaboration, Not Competition!

- Teamwork, shared goals
  - ? Team based productivity metrics
  - Mentorship, professional development
- Breaking down silos
  - Open communication across specialties
  - Integrated care
- Leveraging diverse expertise
- Knowledge exchange
- Patient-centered approach



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# Future Directions and Evolving Roles of APPs in GI Oncology



- Expanding scope of practice
- Enhanced collaboration and integration of APPs into MDTs
- Key role in implementing and managing personalized treatment plans for GI cancer pts
- Research and clinical trials
- Focus on survivorship

# Take Home Points

- **APPs are essential to:**
  - advancing patient care,
  - boosting team efficiency
  - filling critical gaps in GI oncology teams
- **Effective integration and strategic optimization of APPs within MDTs**
  - Prioritized from the outset
  - Resource needs and operational details
- **Ongoing efforts to enhance team collaboration**
  - provide targeted training
  - maximizing utilization of APPs key to achieving sustained success

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**Thank you!**