**Personal Statement – Michelle Chapman**

I graduated as a Physician Associate in 2014 and began my career at Surrey and Sussex Healthcare Trust (SASH), within elderly medicine. Since then, alongside my clinical role I was fortunate to undertake a variety of opportunities from organising our in-house weekly PA teaching programme to becoming the interim Lead PA for SASH and the Kent, Surrey and Sussex (KSS) School of PAs, and latterly being appointed to the permanent Lead PA for the School.

In 2016, I moved within the Trust to Acute Medicine and commenced the role as Lead PA for the School. The School supports the local university PA programmes, PA students and qualified PAs across the region. I am regularly presenting, introducing and promoting the PA role to potential employers of PAs and meeting with those employers that have recently offered student placements or appointed PAs within their organisation to help support and offer advice. I have been involved in the development and facilitation of a number of different educational events from ward-round training simulation for students, a student careers fair, a number of regional CPD events for qualified PAs and PA Supervisor training. Alongside promoting the PA profession within the region and often further afield, I enjoy mentoring and supporting PA students and PAs, often newly graduated. The difficult transition from PA student to entering the workforce, can be challenging for a variety of reasons. Offering support at this time can be crucial to a PAs health and well-being and professional development.

From November 2016, I spent 15 months as the interim Lead PA for SASH during that time I was involved in PA recruitment within the Trust, shortlisting and interviewing candidates and supporting the new recruits when appointed. I have been involved in PA governance within the trust and regularly advising individuals from other organisations around implementing governance policies and structures to protect patients and PAs.

I have recently completed a 1-year multi-disciplinary leadership course within SASH. I developed skills in ‘lean’ working and contributing to a culture change of continuous improvement putting the patient first.

In March 2016, I became a PA member of the Faculty of Physician Associate Board, leading on the Post Registration education work stream which is responsible for the national conference. Alongside a subgroup of PAs, I have contributed to the organising of the 2017 conference and led the subgroup organising the 2018 FPA Conference held at the Royal College of Physicians, London. In 2018, the largest PA conference to date, we were able to bring together both qualified and student PAs. We developed a varied programme, introducing workshops alongside clinical updates in the format of several educational streams, offering more choice to delegates.

Within the role as FPA Board member, alongside accrediting other PA educational events as external CPD, I helped create the FPA Career Development document looking at career structure, appraisal and developing a portfolio. I was also the key board member producing the FPA response to the Patient and Carer Network (PCN) review and have represented the faculty at HEE Medical Associate Professional (MAPs) meetings.

I enjoy a challenge and feel passionate about equipping PAs to be pioneers, shaping their careers and the profession. The FPA plays a vital role, advancing education and knowledge and supporting the PA workforce to provide high quality, safe and effective healthcare, putting the patient at the centre. To have the opportunity to work on your behalf as Vice President generating a culture that enables PA excellence, would be a privilege.