Introducing the Health Education England Thames Valley

Physician Associate Ambassadors, 2019 – 2020

Health Education England Thames Valley has appointed a team of Physician Associate [PA] Ambassadors for 2019/20. The Ambassadors are in post to support workforce development of the PA profession within primary and secondary care, with a particular focus on Primary Care, and Urgent & Emergency Care. Please do contact them directly if you would like to understand more about the PA profession, or if you have colleagues/teams you would like them to speak to. For general queries, contact details for HEE leads can be found at the end of this document.

Samantha Bautista, Physician Associate Ambassador, working across Health Education England Thames Valley samantha.bautista@nhs.net

Samantha Bautista is a qualified Physician Associate, working at the University Health Centre [Reading] and in Neurology at the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

Sam completed her Physician Associate studies PGDip at University of Reading in 2017, after earning a BSc in Biomedical Sciences. She thoroughly enjoys her work and continues to have a great passion for the profession. She is involved with organising shadowing opportunities for prospective PA’s, is a mentor at the University and has presented at various general practice meetings. Sam was appointed as a Physician Associate Ambassador for HEE in 2019 and is looking forward to providing increased support for PA employment, supporting individual PA’s and putting PA’s in the spotlight, highlighting their integral role in the medical workforce.

Sam is also the Physician Associate Ambassador Regional Lead for HEE South region, covering Thames Valley, Wessex, South West, and Kent, Surrey & Sussex.

Lesha Nair, Physician Associate Ambassador, working across Health Education England Thames Valley lesha.nair@nhs.net

Lesha Nair has been a Registered Physician Associate for almost four years, after gaining her BSc degree in BioMedical Science. Since her graduation from St George’s University of London in 2015, Lesha has been working at Farnham Road Medical Practice in Slough, with regular shifts at Northwick Park Hospital’s Emergency Department where she has three years part-time experience. This mix has enhanced Lesha’s clinical acumen and provided a broad spectrum across which to promote the role of Physician Associate.

At Farnham Road, Lesha helps run the anticipatory care planning project, promoting PAs as integral in caring for this population, and adapts and develops ideas to support GP colleagues. Lesha has experience of supporting student PAs, and those exploring the profession, including established clinicians and prospective students. She is passionate about maintaining the quality of the profession by focussing on further training, support and career development for Physician Associates.

Lesha is also a 2019/20 Thames Valley GP Fellow, focusing on improving dementia diagnosis and facilitating a multi-disciplinary team learning platform.
Francine Olivero, Physician Associate Ambassador, working across Health Education England Thames Valley Francine.Olivero@royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Francine Olivero is a registered Physician Associate currently working in the Emergency Department at the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

Originally from Gibraltar, she moved to the UK to read Biomedical Sciences followed by completion of postgraduate study. She has a keen interest in ensuring quality training of Physician Associates, as well as promoting and educating others about the role. She is involved with student admissions, is a mentor at the University and has presented at various medical grand rounds.

Together with colleagues she successfully applied for and obtained funding as part of the Collaboration Innovation fund between the University of Reading and the Royal Berkshire Hospital. Francine was appointed as a Physician Associate Ambassador for HEE in 2019, and hopes to build on this work with the help of HEE in order to ensure Physician Associates are a resounding success and a necessary part of the medical workforce for years to come.

Laura Taylor, Physician Associate Ambassador, working across Health Education England Thames Valley laura.taylor@royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Laura Taylor is a qualified Physician Associate (PA) and a registered Paramedic who has over 12 years of healthcare experience.

Laura was part of the first cohort of PAs to graduate from the University of Reading in 2017. Since graduating she has worked in Clinical Haematology at the Royal Berkshire Hospital (RBH) and has been a key driving force for the introduction and development of the PA profession within the Trust. She has worked with colleagues to launch a training programme for PAs within the RBH, has been involved with creation of PA specific policies and is involved with recruitment and mentorship across the trust and at the University of Reading.

Laura was appointed as Physician Associate Ambassador for Health Education England (HEE) in 2019. She enjoys networking and is a strong advocate for the PA profession. Laura will work with HEE to promote the PA role, ensure workforce integration and stability across urgent, primary and secondary care and also ensure current and future PAs are supported and working to their full potential.

For general enquiries about the Thames Valley Physician Associate Ambassadors, please contact Tessa Candy, Associate Workforce Transformation Lead, HEETV Tessa.candy@hee.nhs.uk