President's Award: John Trimbath, PA-C
A NEW Malpractice Solution
For PAs Who Rely On Employers’ Insurance:

**PA EmployeeGuardPlus®** $365

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who Is Protecting You Against?</th>
<th>What Happens IF...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Licensure Defense $25,000</td>
<td>- Your employer agreed to provide you with insurance but failed to fulfill that obligation due to Administrative Error or Fraudulent Activity?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIPAA Defense $10,000</td>
<td>- Your employer’s insurance company files for bankruptcy?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposition Defense $5,000</td>
<td>- Your employer’s self-insurance fund or Risk Sharing Agreement becomes insolvent?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss Of Earnings $2,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Samaritan Defense $100,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Such failures are common and illustrate why having your own policy can be so important to your career. With **PA EmployeeGuardPlus®** you’ll enjoy ALL of the coverages listed above (up to $100,000) to settle lawsuits against you - if and when - “IF” happens to you. All for the VERY affordable cost of $365* per year.

American Academy of
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

OFFERED BY AAPA INSURANCE SERVICES

99 Hudson Street, 12th Floor
New York, NY 10013-2815
Tel: 1-646-613-3233 Fax: 212-233-8919
Email: info@cmfgroup.com
[www.PA-Protect.com](http://www.PA-Protect.com) VISA/MasterCard

---

Does this coverage replace your Personal Liability Insurance Policy through the AAPA? **Absolutely Not!** PA EmployeeGuardPlus® offers protection for those PAs who rely solely on their employer’s malpractice insurance policy.

**APPLY ONLINE** [www.PA-Protect.com](http://www.PA-Protect.com)

PA EmployeeGuard Plus® is being offered exclusively to AAPA Members during its initial launch. This valuable member benefit is currently available in: *GA, ID, IA, PA, TN, TX, VA & CA*. If your state is not listed above, it will be in the coming months. For periodic availability updates please visit: [www.PA-Protect.com](http://www.PA-Protect.com).
Longtime Leader Continues to Influence Profession

Trimbath: A Key Player on Any Stage

BY CHRISTOPHER DOSCHER

JOHN TRIMBATH, PA-C, HAD GOOD REASON TO SPEND SOME TIME AWAY FROM ADVOCACY BETWEEN 2008 AND 2009. He had been paralyzed from the chest down in a fall from a mechanical bull, and he needed to focus on his recovery and rehabilitation. But a year later, he was back home and back in his familiar role of advocating to make Ohio more friendly to PA practice.

"I thought there were still some things I had to offer," said Trimbath by phone from his home in Cleveland, Ohio had long been a thorn in the side of state and national PA advocates for being slow to allow PA prescribing authority and other elements that have prevented PAs from maximizing their practice abilities. "There were issues here in Ohio that were my responsibility before I got injured," he said. "When the Ohio Association of Physician Assistants (OAPA) chose to involve me based on my understanding of the law and what we had gone through, I understood the law and what we had done, I realized the importance of my role in being able to help PAs in Ohio physician-delegated prescriptive authority to make things that I can do, even being quadriplegic," he said. "My wife, my family and my friends will tell you that staying involved helped me get through this major change in my life."

As Trimbath is unable to practice clinically, involvement in the policy side of the profession is a major focus of his days. As soon as he's in his wheelchair, he begins reading the news out of AAPA and OAPA. He's often tapped to do research on OAPA legislative efforts and takes phone calls from PAs in the state who have questions about policy and legislation. He has given lectures at The Cleveland Clinic

Trimbath with other members of the AAPA Board of Directors at the 2006 Annual Conference.

PHOTOS: FRED GREAVES | HARLIND FITZGERALD
and stays current on the latest clinical and medical news. He also looks for professional opportunities.

“IT doesn’t get paid for a lot of this, but I try to keep myself up-to-date as much as I can,” Trimbath says.

Trimbath was recently voted president-elect of OAPA and will assume that office in July. The OAPA Board of Directors met in January and laid out what Trimbath calls a “pretty ambitious” two-year legislative agenda. “There’s a lot of work to be done in Ohio for us to achieve the Six Key Elements of a Modern PA Practice Act,” Trimbath says. “We’re working toward those.” Trimbath also serves on the OAPA Nominating Work Group and hopes to continue in that capacity.

“I’m making sure the profession moves forward,” he says.

Outside his professional involvement, Trimbath tries to stay as active as possible. “My health has been very good,” he says. “I’ve come very far, much further than anybody originally thought I would. I have a lot of strength back. I have things to do on a daily basis. I was able to go to a few fundraisers and get a [wheelchair-accessible] van. I’ve been doing well. There’s a mall about a mile down the street where I’m able to go and do some shopping. I’ve had no major setbacks.”

Trimbath is grateful to the Veterans Health Administration benefits he’s received for allowing him access to the care and equipment that has helped his recovery.

His colleagues at OAPA are thankful to have Trimbath’s knowledge to rely on, said OAPA Executive Director Beth Adamson. “John is basically my go-to person because he has a long history as a PA and as a PA in Ohio,” she says. “He has been there from the beginning, watched the profession grow and witnessed the roadblocks. He remembers everything, and that is just wonderful.”

Adamson credits Trimbath as a key player in the recent legislation that gave Ohio PAs the ability to prescribe Schedule II substances. “He has been a steady and knowledgeable presence for decades,” she said.

“PAs in Ohio are well aware of who he is, and he’s very highly respected,” Adamson says. “His year in recovery following his accident was the only time we didn’t have much communication. Then right away, he was back as he always was.”

Christopher Doscher is a freelance writer, editor and executive speechwriter. Contact him at cdoscher1975@gmail.com.