

Melissa Sanko PA-C

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Education

Master of Science, Physician Assistant Studies 2008

Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

GPA: 3.85

Post Graduate Coursework, Prerequisite Fulfillment 2004

University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Bachelor of Science, Biopsychology and Cognitive Neuroscience 2000-2004

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

GPA: 3.41

Work Experience

Covenant Community Care (CCC), June 2008-present, Detroit, MI

- Provided comprehensive health services for predominantly uninsured or underinsured patients, 40% of whom are Spanish- speaking, in Southwest Detroit.
- Administered all aspects of patient care with specific focus on prevention, chronic disease management and patient education.
- Developed curriculum focused on preventing and managing Diabetes.
- Encouraged workplace wellness through a staff walking group and Biggest Loser Covenant Challenge.
- Organized CCC's community outreach involvement in health fairs and community events
- Precepted medical, pharmacy and physician assistant student volunteers

Wayne State University, September 2008-present, Highland Park, MI

- Assisted with the development of a sustainable partnership between Wayne State University's **Live Smart Street Smart** health fair and a University of Michigan sponsored free health screening clinic focused on patient education and prevention of diseases prevalent in Highland Park.
- Precepted Wayne State University Physician Assistant students and University of Michigan Pharmacy students at the Walgreens health screening clinic.

Research Experience

Laboratory Manager, 2001-2004, UM Positive Emotions and Psychophysiology Laboratory,

Ann Arbor, MI, Dr. Barbara Fredrickson.

- Major research areas included psychophysiology of positive emotions and human flourishing.
- Managed laboratory time, experiment design and administration, and participant recruitment.
- Analyzed behavioral and psychophysiological data.
- Responsible for records and data management, and general upkeep of psychophysiological equipment.

Research Assistant, 2001-2003, UM Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience Laboratory

Ann Arbor, MI, Dr. Patricia Reuter-Lorenz.

- Major research areas included the cognitive neuroscience of attention, working memory, object perception and eye movement control.
- Involved in experiment design and administration, data analysis and participant recruitment.

Research Assistant, 1999-2001, U of Iowa Department of Neuropsychology,

Iowa City, Iowa, Dr. Ralph Adolphs.

- Major research areas included effect of neural damage on social perception and emotional recognition.
- Assisted in administering experiments with both research volunteers and patients.
- Analyzed and prepared data for presentations to department chiefs and project sponsors.

Posters Presented

- Sanko, M., McKinney, S. Physician Assistant Students Working to Promote Health Advocacy and Disease Prevention in the Heart of Detroit. Association for Prevention and Teaching Research, Austin, TX, 2007.
- Fredrickson, B.L., Brown, S., Cohn, M.A., Conway, A., Crosby, C., McGivern, M., & Mikels, J. Finding positive meaning and experiencing positive emotion builds resilience. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Austin, TX, 2004.
- Cohn, M.A., Fredrickson, B.L., Brown, S., Conway, A., Crosby, C., McGivern, M., Mikels, J. Speaking of personal growth: Linguistic markers of cognitive broadening and social support. Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Austin, TX, 2004.

Volunteer Experience

- **Live Smart. Street Smart. Health Fair**, Detroit Children's Center, Detroit Public Schools. 2007-2008. As part of the Paul Ambrose Scholars Program, reorganized the Wayne State University Physician Assistant Studies program curriculum, organized two 14 booth health fair presented by Year I PAS students targeting areas of low health literacy in Detroit.
- **Center for Disease Prevention and Health Promotion**, Henry Ford Health System, Detroit, 2008. Assisted in developing an instructional and educational guide to assist nurses and patients involved in health screenings
- **Cass Health Care Clinic**, Detroit. 2006-2007. Worked extensively with the lead physician to establish a rotating schedule of WSU Physician Assistant students to support the clinic in their mission to provide affordable care to Detroit's medically indigent population.
- **St. John Specialty Clinic**, Detroit. 2006-2007. Assisted physician with patient histories, physical examinations and documentation to provide free HIV and AIDS services for uninsured residents of Detroit.
- **Habitat for Humanity**, Detroit and Collegiate Challenge Projects in Oklahoma, Kentucky and North Carolina. 2001-present. Led and organized a six day, six person trip to Tahlequah, OK Area Habitat for Humanity to build a single family home for an underprivileged family.

Affiliations

- Association for Prevention Teaching and Research, Member since 2007
- Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants, Member since 2006.
- American Academy of Physician Assistants, Member since 2006.

Awards Received

- Best of the Safety Net Award, Detroit Community Health Connection, 2009.
- Paul Ambrose Scholar, Association for Prevention Teaching and Research 2007.
- E. Adeline Curtis Award, Gamma Phi Beta 2003.
- Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Summer Fellowship, UM 2002.
- University Honors, UM 2000, 2002.
- Order of Omega Honor Society, UM 2001, 2002.
- Distinguished Scholar Athlete, UM Women's Crew 2000-2001.
- Summer Biomedical and Neuroscience Fellowship, University of Iowa 2001.
- National Society of Collegiate Scholars 2000-2004.

Leadership Positions Held

- Secretary, Interview and Orientation Committee, WSU PAS program 2005-2006.
- Secretary, Volunteer Committee, WSU PAS program 2005-2006.
- President, Students for the Advancement of Neuroscience, UM 2002-2003.
- Philanthropy Chair, Gamma Phi Beta, UM 2001-2003.