

## About PASHA

The Persian American Society for Health Advancement (PASHA) is a non-profit organization founded in 2004 by students at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA in conjunction with Dr. Mohamad Navab, professor of Cardiology.

PASHA's mission is threefold:

- *Improve* health and well-being among Iranians by providing health education, offering health services, and developing sustainable health programs.
- *Engage* the Iranian community in global health efforts.
- *Empower* individuals interested in addressing global health problems through training and mentorship programs.

Since its inception, PASHA has aimed to realize its mission through ongoing projects and activities. We have held numerous health education seminars at UCLA given by expert physicians on topics ranging from heart disease and cancer to vision care. Through health screening programs at local Iranian events, we have raised awareness about healthy living. More recently, under the supervision of healthcare professionals, trained PASHA students have provided educational information on the detection and prevention of disease at Iranian senior citizen centers. In conjunction with the UCLA School of Public Health, we are studying the knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of Iranian-American youth about sexuality and sexual health with the goal of delivering programs to promote safe sex in this community.

PASHA's bone marrow committee has worked diligently with the Persian American Cancer Institute to create a bone marrow registry for Iranians and find appropriate matches for those in need of a bone marrow transplant. Finally, through our collaboration with organizations like the International Society for Children with Cancer and Relief International we have raised funds and provided medical therapy for cancer stricken children in rural Iran. In addition we have been actively involved in raising funds to support the relief efforts for victims of Haiti's devastating earthquake in 2010 and Japan's tsunami in 2011.

## PASHA Board

Overseen by an advisory and executive board comprised of faculty, staff and public health professionals, PASHA's programs are implemented by the dedicated student body that serve on the two boards. The PASHA graduate board is comprised of graduate students or alumni with extensive previous leadership experience. If you hold a graduate degree or will be enrolled in a graduate program in the coming academic year, you are eligible to apply. Individuals who hold a Bachelor's degree and have extensive previous leadership experience are also eligible to apply. PASHA currently has two undergraduate chapters based at UCLA and UCSD. Undergraduate students at these institutions are eligible to apply for positions on the undergraduate PASHA chapter at their respective universities. If you are an undergraduate student at another institution and would like to become involved, please email us and learn how. PASHA seeks to have a diverse body of students. ***You do not need to be a science/health major to serve on the PASHA board. We encourage individuals from a diverse set of majors and from various ethnicities/nationalities to serve on our board.***

## **Expectations of PASHA Board Members**

PASHA Board members are expected to attend meetings on a weekly basis. In addition, all board members are expected to attend scheduled committee meetings several times each quarter. Board members are allowed a total of 3 excused absences per academic year. Attendance is taken very seriously and missing more than 3 meetings per academic year will lead to your dismissal from the organization. While time commitments can vary from week to week, board members should expect to devote an average of 5 hours a week to PASHA. There will be no PASHA meetings on the week of finals.

## **Benefits of Being Involved in PASHA**

Through your involvement in PASHA, you will have the opportunity to gain unique leadership experience and learn valuable skills including health education, health promotion, survey conduction, research methods, and program development. Former PASHA board members continue to serve as leaders in their communities. Many are in graduate programs (medical school, dental school, law school, and graduate school) at first-tier universities (UCLA, UCSF, UCSD, USC, NYU, and University of Pittsburgh). Those individuals who excel and demonstrate leadership receive letters of recommendation from PASHA faculty for their graduate applications. Moreover, through involvement with PASHA, board members and interns have the opportunity to network regularly with graduate students, medical students, dental students, residents and faculty.

## **Roles of Board Members**

### ***Graduate Board Members***

Graduate board members are expected to attend weekly meetings and participate in meetings of the committees in which they serve. They are expected to participate in weekly conference calls with the executive board, and president and vice-president of the undergraduate chapter. The role of graduate board members is to supervise, assist, and mentor the undergraduate board members in activities/projects.

### ***Undergraduate Board Members***

- **President:** The main job of the president is to be an organizer and manager. This individual is responsible for running weekly meetings, and ensuring that all events, projects, meetings, and calls take place at their designated date and time. The president must send out reminders for activities/events. It is the responsibility of the president to ensure that undergraduate board members are fulfilling their duties. The president is expected to serve as a liaison between the undergraduate board and the executive board.
- **Vice President:** The vice president is expected to assume the role of the president, in the latter's absence. The vice president must actively assist the president in organizing and managing the activities of the organization. When workload demands are heavy, the vice president will be asked to solely manage components of the organization's functioning. The vice

president is expected to check the PASHA email twice weekly, and respond to emails or ask for the assistance of the graduate board when unsure as to a response.

- **Secretary:** The secretary is the book-keeper of the organization. This individual is expected to record minutes at ALL general weekly meetings and take roll at these meetings. The secretary must email all board members with meeting minutes within 24 hours of each meeting. The secretary is also expected to keep track of contact information for all PASHA members, compile a list of these individuals, and form email list-serves. It is the secretary's responsibility to place all PASHA documents on the web on a weekly basis for executive board members and the president to access.
  
- **Program Coordinators:** The program coordinators will be responsible for one PASHA program. The program coordinator serves as president and shall assume all roles of president for his or her program. This involves setting up meetings with the committee and ensuring the committee makes timely progress to meet its objectives. He or she is expected to attend general PASHA weekly meetings and update the board on the activities of their program.
  
- **Current PASHA Programs:** Below is a list of current PASHA programs. We expect to add an additional 3- 4 programs for the coming year. Your input on the PASHA application will be used in devising new programs.
  - Bone Marrow Project
  - Health Education Project
  - Global Health Project
  - Sexual Health Survey/Education
  - Campus Activities
  
- **Interns:** Interns will serve on committees related to projects that they are interested in. Their responsibility is to attend all committee meetings and participate actively in events/projects. Interns are expected to attend quarterly meetings with the board.
  
- **Selection Process:** Applicants will be selected to interview after applications are submitted. For those who are not in Los Angeles over the summer, interviews will be conducted over the telephone. We expect to have the board finalized by the middle of summer.

## PASHA Board Application 2011-2012

Applications are due to [info@pasha4health.org](mailto:info@pasha4health.org)

APPLICANT INFORMATION			
Last Name	First	M.I.	
Street Address		Apartment/Unit #	
City	State	ZIP	
Phone	E-mail Address		
Are you currently a (check one that applies):  <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Student  <input type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate  <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	If you are applying for the undergraduate PASHA board, in what capacity would you be interested in serving on this board (Please rank your preferences in order)?  <input type="checkbox"/> President __ <input type="checkbox"/> Vice President __  <input type="checkbox"/> Program Coordinator __  <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary __ <input type="checkbox"/> Intern __		
EDUCATION			
Name of College/University	Dates Attended	Major	Degrees Earned
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES			
(List all activities including community service, volunteer work, and research or attach a copy of your CV/Resume)			
Name of Organization /Activity	Dates Participated	Brief Description of Activity (Please limit to 50 words or less)	

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

(If you have received any honors or awards please list them below or attach a CV/Resume)

Name of Award	Date Received

**PLEASE RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS**

**How did you hear about PASHA?**

**What experiences/skills do you possess that make you a suitable candidate for the position you are applying for on the PASHA board (Please limit your answer to 250 words or less).**

**Two main areas where PASHA works are global health and health education. Propose a hypothetical project that you would implement either to provide health education or to address a health problem in an underdeveloped country. Please be succinct and focused in your description. (600 words or less)**

**Optional: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself? (Examples: special talents, previous work in health education/global health, etc. Please limit your response to 200 words)**