

Kelli Van Tassel

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Education

Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction, CO May 2024

Master of Physician Assistant Studies

Capstone Research: "Nutritional Insecurity in College Students and How to Improve Access"

Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction, CO May 2019

Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science | Minor: Sports Management

Research: "A Comparison of Vertical Jump Height Between Standing Two-Foot Jump, One-Foot Approach Jump, and Two-Foot Approach Jump"

Clinical Experience

Orthopedic Surgery- Hip Preservation Physician Assistant April 2025-Current

CU Sports Medicine- Boulder, CO

- Perform thorough history and physical exams to assess and treat acute and chronic orthopedic conditions with an emphasis on hip pathology
- First assist in complex orthopedic surgical cases including incision closure with multiple suture techniques
- Assist in providing pre-op and post-op care including providing appropriate orders, medications and consents for procedures

Ear, Nose & Throat Physician Assistant July 2024-April 2025

Peak ENT- Broomfield, CO

- Evaluate, diagnose, treat, and provide education to my own panel of diverse patient population (pediatric, adult, geriatric) for a wide variety of ear, nose and throat pathology
- Performed daily procedures including flexible and rigid endoscopies, biopsies, incision & drainage, chemical cautery, and cerumen/ foreign body removal
- Ordered and interpreted labs, CT scans, MRIs, allergy and audiology tests

Orthopedic Surgery (Clinical Rotation) 4 weeks

The Steadman Clinic- Aspen, CO

- Completed detailed history and physical exams on a multitude of orthopedic patients with an emphasis on knee, shoulder and hip pathology
- Assisted in a variety of surgeries including total knee, hip and shoulder arthroplasties; meniscus, ACL, rotator cuff and labrum repairs; clavicle, humerus and olecranon ORIFs; MACI, OATS, and Latarjet procedures
- Performed incision closure with multiple suture techniques as well as placement of splints and casts

Orthopedic Surgery (Clinical Rotation) 4 weeks

Valley Ortho- Glenwood Springs/Aspen, CO

- Performed history and physical exams, including special tests, with an emphasis on knee and shoulder pathology
- Interpreted lab, x-ray and MRI results to help develop plan of care, including surgical planning
- Assisted in pre-op informed consent discussions and assisted in surgical cases including joint arthroscopies, ORIF and total knee arthroplasty including skin closure with different suture techniques

Trauma Surgery (Clinical Rotation) 4 weeks

Colorado Surgical Affiliates-General Surgeons of Western CO- Grand Junction, CO

- Assisted in a variety of open, laparoscopic and robotic assisted surgical cases including exploratory laparotomy, cholecystectomy, Hartmann's procedure, appendectomy and ostomy reversal
- Assessed post-operative and in-hospital patients daily with physical exams and review of labs and imaging to be able to present in daily inpatient rounds with multidisciplinary team and re-evaluate treatment plans
- Assisted in multitude of inpatient procedures including chest tube thoracostomies, wound care and wound VAC management, suture/staple removal and performed ED consults and trauma assessments

General, Breast and Plastic Surgery (Clinical Rotation) 4 weeks

Surgical Associates of the Grand Valley- Grand Junction, CO

- Assisted in many different laparoscopic, robot assisted and microsurgery cases including hernia repair, Nissen fundoplication, lymph node biopsies, bariatric cases (roux-en-y, duodenal switch, sleeve gastrectomy), bilateral mastectomies, lumpectomies and TRAM flap reconstruction
- Completed detailed post-operative, in-patient and outpatient chart notes
- Advised and educated patients regarding post-operative instructions and possible complications

Women's Health (Clinical Rotation) 4 weeks

Women's Healthcare of Western Colorado- Grand Junction, CO

- Assisted in multiple surgeries including cesarian sections, hysteroscopies, tubal ligation and hysterectomies as well as closure of skin with various suture techniques including simple interrupted and subcuticular
- Performed history and physical exams with both gynecologic and obstetric focus including several pelvic and breast exams
- Analyzed several different organisms/cells under microscopy including clue cells, trichomonas and yeast to aid in diagnosis of common gynecologic infections

Professional Experience

OB/GYN Medical Scribe June 2021-January 2022

Women's Health Care of Western Colorado- Grand Junction, CO

- Accompany physician into patient exam room in order to transcribe the chief complaint, history of present illness, physical exam, diagnoses and follow up instructions to accurately document the physician's encounter with the patient
- Accurately record ultra sound and other laboratory results into the patient's chart
- Transcribe patient orders including laboratory tests, radiology tests and medications
- Assist physician in recalling patient's relevant test results and medical history documents

Lead Contact Tracer November 2020-May 2021

Colorado Mesa University- Grand Junction, CO

- Contact individuals with confirmed COVID-19 cases to gather information about symptoms, medical history, and close contacts and enter it into computer database, while ensuring to protect patient privacy
- Communicate important quarantine/isolation information and comfort those who are worried
- Correspond with other departments on campus, including athletics and residence life, with information about positive cases and contacts to ensure identified patients were following protocols and procedures, while maintaining patient privacy
- Communicate with Mesa County Public Health to ensure we are sharing the most current COVID-19 information; document positive cases that have been contacted for data entry into the county database

Professional Certifications & Memberships

- Colorado Physician Assistant License
- NCCPA Certified Physician Assistant
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support Certified
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support Certified
- Basic Life Support Certified
- First Aid & CPR Certified
- QPR Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention and Non-Accidental Trauma Training
- Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for Substance Abuse Training
- American Academy of Physician Assistants Member
- Colorado Academy of Physician Assistants Member

Scholarships & Awards

- AAPA Student Society of the Year Award 2023
- Bechtel Family Scholarship 2023 & 2024
- Distinguished Scholar Scholarship August 2014-May 2019
- CMU Women's Basketball Team (NCAA Division II) August 2014-May 2019

Volunteer Activities

- Special Olympics Health Screening “Fit Feet” Volunteer
- Good Samaritan Clinic Volunteer
- CSU Extension Garden Volunteer
- Challenger Baseball Volunteer