

Paul Chelminski, MD, MPH, FACP

Director and Clinical Professor of Allied Health-PA Program and Clinical Professor of Internal Medicine at UNC-Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC, US

Expert in pain-management with a focus on deprescribing opioids while finding what works best for each individual patient.

Dr. Paul Chelminski is a professor of medicine and an experienced educator of medical students and resident physicians at the UNC School of Medicine. Since 2001, Dr. Chelminski has practiced primary care in the UNC Internal Medicine Clinic. This clinic is recognized nationally for the high quality team-based care that it provides to patients with chronic illnesses. He has extensive experience in collaborative practice with physician assistants, clinical pharmacists, and nurse practitioners. In this setting, he has been engaged in inter-professional education and mentorship as well. Prior to a career in medicine, Dr. Chelminski graduated from Duke University with a degree in Medieval and Renaissance Studies. He then served in the United States Peace Corps in Mali, West Africa. This experience led him to choose medicine as a career. Returning from the Peace Corps, he completed post-baccalaureate premedical courses at the University of Pennsylvania at night while working a daytime job. He attended medical school at UNC-Chapel Hill and then completed a combined residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at UNC Hospitals. After residency, Dr. Chelminski worked for two years in rural Siler City, North Carolina, in a primary care practice with family practitioners where he also staffed the emergency department. Dr. Chelminski subsequently completed a primary care fellowship at UNC and received a master's in public health. At UNC, Dr. Chelminski has been a member of the Academy of Educators. He was one of two inaugural recipients of the Charles Sanders Clinician Scholars Award, which recognizes master medical educators devoted to personalized care. Dr. Chelminski used the award to undertake a home visits curriculum and embed the humanities in clinical teaching. Dr. Chelminski relishes the opportunity to bring his broad experience in inter-professional practice and education to physician assistant education. "The strength of UNC as a leader in educating a broad spectrum of health professionals insures that the UNC Physician Assistant program is on trajectory to becoming a premier program nationally," he said.

Primary Care, Resident Education, General Internal Medicine, Pain Management, Opioid Management, Substance Abuse, Quality Improvement

Physician Assistant Program Director, Associate Professor of Medicine

University of North Carolina School of Medicine
M.D. Medicine

Duke University
B.A. Medieval and Renaissance Studies

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Public Health
Masters Public Health

Co-Founder and Director: UNC General Medicine Pain Service
Helped create the UNC General Medicine Pain Service

Founding Program Director: UNC Physician Assistant Program
Founded the UNC Physician Assistant Program

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