



Randall Lee Owen AAE '83

I am a surgically-trained Physician Assistant (PA-C) and a Research Fellow in Bioethics at the Harvard Medical School. My ethics research is focused on whether, and to what extent, empowered autonomy, conflicts-of-interest, transparency, and justice in diagnosis and treatment might be influenced by the context of the clinician-patient relationship within large government or commercial organizations, such as NASA or the military, when both parties are employed by the same organization. An understanding of these issues might be used to formulate more efficient, equitable, and cost-effective healthcare policies and delivery systems within these organizations, both terrestrially and during exploration-class space missions.

The Harvard Extension School provided me with the educational foundation for virtually all of my current professional interests and activities. As an engineer who subsequently trained and has practiced as a PA, I was the first PA to be selected for the Aerospace Medicine Fellowship at the NASA Johnson Space Center, due in no small part to the initial education I received at Harvard Extension. I subsequently completed my PA surgical residency at Norwalk Hospital and the Yale School of Medicine. My current research interests are at the intersection of ethics, technology and medicine, the foundations of which were likewise developed while I was a student at the Harvard Extension School.

I would treasure the opportunity to contribute and give back as a HEAA Board member. I would especially enjoy developing programs for Harvard Extension students and graduates who are interested in pursuing, as I have, cross-disciplinary careers. I would also like to help advance the mission of Harvard Extension by developing programs for communicating with prospective students, employers and sources of scholarship support.