APTA Academy of Education
A Component of the American Physical Therapy Association

ACADEMY ROUNDUP

The Official Newsletter for the APTA Academy of Education

A source of news, announcements, and upcoming events for physical therapy educators.

Newsletter Highlights

- **Announcements:**
  - Call for Academy Leadership Positions Open
  - CSM Registration is Open!
  - Sign Up to Volunteer for Academy Exhibit Booth at ELC 2026
  - We Want to Hear from You!
  - Flash Action Strategy
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - ELC 2026
    - **Online Registration Ends TODAY!**
    - Education Research Consulting (Scholarship of Education Special Interest Group - SoESIG)
    - **NEW!** Share Calls for Research Participation at ELC
    - Meet GRJ Forum Speaker
    - **Call for Volunteers at ELC 2026**
    - Sign Up for One of Our Pre-Conference Workshops
  - Foundations of Simulation Series
  - FHEL 2027-28 Cohort
    - **Registration Open!**
- **Upcoming Webinars:**
  - RFE SIG Journal Club - Dec 8, 2026
  - JoPTE Journal Club Session - Save the Date
- **SIG Spotlight**
  - Residency/Fellowship Education Special Interest Group (RFESIG)
- View Our Member Benefits

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Academy Leadership Positions Open

Hone your leadership skills as an Academy or SIG leader.
Nominations are open now through November 15.
Learn more

Positions Open For Nomination Include the Following:

Academy
- Treasurer
- Director for Scholarly Engagement
- Nominating Committee Member

Academic Faculty SIG
- Secretary/Treasurer

Anatomy Educators SIG
- Chair (serves on Board of Directors)
- Recording Secretary
- Nominating Committee Member

Clinical Education SIG
- Academic Co-Chair (serves on Board of Directors)
- Member Secretary
- Nominating Committee Member

Interprofessional Education and Practice SIG
- Secretary
- Research Chair
- Nominating Committee Member

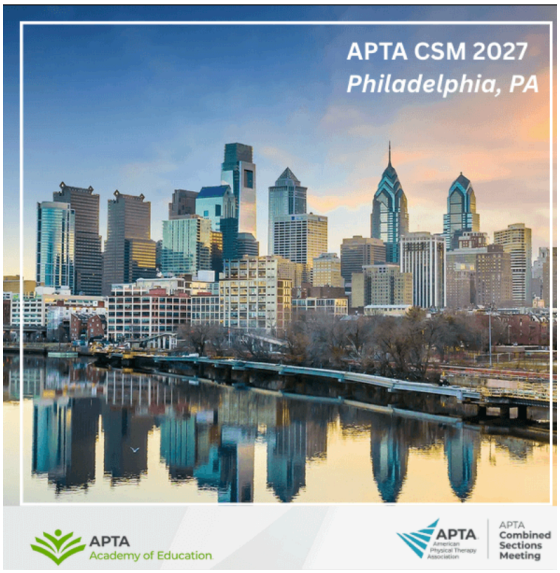
PTA Educators SIG
- Vice Chair
- Nominating Committee Member

Residency/Fellowship Education SIG
- Chair (serves on Board of Directors)
- Treasurer/Secretary
- Nominating Committee Member

Scholarship of Education SIG
- Vice Chair
- Nominating Committee Member

Nominate A Leader

Registration Now Open for CSM 2027!



February 4-6, 2027
Philadelphia, PA

Early Bird Registration ends on November 4, 2026!

Learn More!

Register Now!

ELC 2026 Volunteer Sign Up for Academy Exhibit Booth



Volunteering at the booth is a fun, easy way to provide service to the Academy as you get to know fellow attendees who stop by the booth. You don't have to be an Academy "expert", as we'll provide answers to FAQs from other years. Consider signing up with a colleague or PT/PTA school classmate - it's a great way to find an hour for catching up during the busy ELC schedule.

This year, the Academy's exhibit booth will be located near registration.

Sign Up to Volunteer

We Want to Hear from You!

Share your Story. Shape the Future of Physical Therapy Education.

The APTA Academy of Education is launching a series of member spotlight and educational videos, and we want to hear from you!

Our members are the heart of the Academy, and these videos are designed to highlight the ideas, experiences, innovations, and perspectives that are advancing physical therapy education every day. Whether you have a favorite teaching strategy, exciting research findings, volunteer experiences to share, or insights from your Special Interest Group, your voice can inspire colleagues across the profession.

Current video opportunities include:

- Teaching Tip Tuesday: Share practical teaching strategies and educational pearls.
- Meet an Academy Member: Tell your professional story and how Academy membership has impacted your career.
- SIG Spotlight: Highlight the work, resources, and opportunities within your Special Interest Group.
- Research Highlight: Discuss your research and its implications for physical therapy education.
- Volunteer Spotlight: Inspire others by sharing your volunteer journey and leadership experiences.

Participation is easy. Selected participants will join a recorded 10-15 minute video conversation with an Academy representative. Videos may be featured on the Academy's YouTube channel and social media platforms.

This is your opportunity to connect with colleagues, amplify your work, and help strengthen our community of educators.

Ready to participate? Complete an interest form today and let your voice be heard.

Please contact marketing@aptaeducation.org with any questions.

Teaching Tip Tuesday Interest Form

Meet an Academy Member Form

SIG Spotlight Form

Research Highlight Form

Volunteer Spotlight Form

Flash Action Strategy



The APTA Flash Action Strategy occurred on September 23-24, with the focus being on the Physical Therapist Workforce and Patient Access Act (H.R. 5621/S. 4420).

Students participating in the FAS sent over 14,500 letters, far surpassing the initial goal of 10,000 letters. Please encourage your students to continue to participate in the APTA Student Advocacy Challenge!

Federal Grant Administration Rules:
Congress has delayed implementation of the proposed Office of Management and Budget rule that would significantly change the disbursement of federal grants until at least December 11. APTA remains concerned about the proposal and continues to monitor for additional legislative action. A similar proposed Department of Education rule would expand the department's authority to suspend or terminate grants. Due to potential impacts on programs serving children with disabilities and school-based physical therapy, APTA joined stakeholder organizations in opposing the proposal and requesting its withdrawal.

H-1B Sponsorship Fee Proposal:
APTA signed onto a joint comment letter opposing a proposed Department of Homeland Security regulation that would impose a fee exceeding $100,000 for certain H-1B sponsorship applications. Concerns include potential impacts on workforce shortages and reduced access to care resulting from decreased employer ability to hire qualified health care professionals.

Please see the attached briefing memo for an update on recent APTA actions, including sending letters to federal agencies and tracking legislation that would impact Medicare payment.

FAL Briefing Memo

UPCOMING EVENTS

ELC 2026



Heading to ELC next week? Today is the last day to preregister. Onsite registration fees are $100 more, so register TODAY to save!

Register!

Education Research Consulting (Scholarship of Education Special Interest Group - SoESIG)

Join the Scholarship of Education SIG at ELC for our Education Research Consulting Session:
An informal, interactive opportunity to connect with colleagues, exchange ideas, and get individualized guidance on your education research.

Friday, October 16 | 12:30 -1:45 PM | Marquis Salon 16

Think of it as speed mentoring for education research! Consultants with experience across a variety of education research areas will be seated at round tables, with their areas of experience clearly identified. Bring an idea, a question, a project in progress or simply a desire to learn and connect with someone who can help you think through your next steps.

We are looking for both consultants and participants!

Share Your Experience: Be a Consultant
You don't need to be the expert! If you have experience conducting, presenting, or publishing education research, you have something valuable to share. Volunteer to serve as a consultant and help support fellow education researchers.

Sign up to be a consultant:

Be a Consultant!

Bring Your Questions: Meet with a Consultant
Have a research idea you'd like to develop? Stuck on methodology? Working toward a presentation or publication? Whether your project is just beginning or already underway, sign up for some short-term mentoring and fresh perspective.

Sign up to meet with a consultant:

Sign Up for a Consultation

Questions?
Contact SOE SIG Chair Tricia Prokop at chair-SOESIG@aptaeducation.org.

Bring your ideas. Share your experience. Make connections. Move your education research forward.

We hope to see you in DC!

Calls for Research Participation at ELC 2026

ELC wants to support YOUR research project.



NEW this year! We will be providing a bulletin board for researchers to post calls for participation on the trade show floor.

Bring Your Research Announcement:
Researchers who wish to participate should bring a **printed 8.5x11 announcement** to ELC for posting on the bulletin board that should include:

1. **Lead researcher:** Name, contact info, and institution
2. **Project:** Title and brief description
3. **Ideal participant:** (ie PT, PTA, CI, SCCE, etc.)
4. **Deadline to participate**
5. **How to participate:** QR code and/or web address

Connect With Research Experts at ELC:
Additionally, research experts from the Academy of Education's Scholarship of Education SIG and Research Committee and ACAPT's Institute for Scholarly Inquiry will be available to answer questions:

Friday, October 16 | 12:30-1:45 PM
Education Research Mentoring and Networking with the Academy of Education's Scholarship of Education SIG

Friday, October 16 | 3:15-4:00 PM
Ask a Researcher

Saturday, October 17 | 9:45-10:30 AM
Ask a Researcher

Saturday, October 17 | 12:30-1:30 PM
Ask a Researcher

ELC is committed to physical therapy education research and looks forward to supporting our attendees' projects!

Meet This Year's GRJ Forum Speaker Sharon Dunn PT, PhD, FAPTA



Sharon Dunn, PT, PhD, FAPTA is the Dean of the School of Health Professions and Sciences, Professor of Physical Therapy, and Vice Chancellor of Academic Administration at LSU Health Shreveport. She graduated in 1987 with a BS in PT from LSU, a MHS in 1996, and she earned her PhD in Cellular Biology and Anatomy in 2006, also from LSU Health Shreveport.

Sharon's research interests include conservative clinical approaches to the management of common musculoskeletal conditions and translational research of applied mechanical loading to healing tissue to determine dosing effects on the ultimate functional and biomechanical tissue integrity. Dr. Dunn previously served on the PT faculty and as program director, teaching

professional issues, anatomy, biomechanics, and orthopaedic PT. Her clinical practice and emeritus ABPTS board specialty is in orthopaedics. Throughout her career, Dr. Dunn has been professionally engaged in efforts to promote public policies to enhance the public's access to high quality health services and excellence in practice delivery. Recently elected as a Catherine Worthingham Fellow, she is a past-president of the American Physical Therapy Association and has significant experience in health policy and collaborative approaches to health delivery. She advocates for a team-based approach and patient-centered management for better health outcomes in our communities.

Call for Volunteers at ELC 2026



As we gear up for this event, we are looking for volunteers to assist us with various activities throughout the conference.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- **Registration Assistance**: Help is needed on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning.
- **Microlearn Sessions**: Moderators are needed for sessions scheduled on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.
- **Platform Sessions**: Moderators are needed for sessions scheduled on Friday and Saturday.

If you are interested in contributing to ELC 2026 by volunteering, please take a moment to complete the following survey indicating your preferred activity and availability: **Survey Link**

The success of our conference heavily relies on the dedication and support of volunteers like you. Once you have completed the survey, a member of the ELC co-chairs group will reach out to you with further details regarding your assigned tasks and responsibilities.

Thank you in advance for considering this opportunity to be a part of ELC 2026. We look forward to working together to make this year's conference a resounding success!

Warm regards,

Tawna Wilkinson, Katie Meyers, and Janice Howman
ACAPT ELC Co-chairs

Ralph Utzman, Jennifer Howanitz, and Paul Ullucci
APTA Academy of Education ELC Co-chairs

Volunteer!

View Our Pre-Conference Workshops



How Did That Go? Mastering the Art of Challenging Debriefings

This pre-conference workshop equips physical therapy educators with advanced debriefing strategies to enhance clinical reasoning, reflection, and practice change across learning environments. Participants will develop skills to effectively facilitate emotionally complex and high-stakes debriefing conversations while maintaining psychological safety and learner engagement. Through interactive learning, attendees will gain tools to confidently navigate challenging moments and elevate the impact of debriefing applicable to simulation, classroom, and clinical learning environments.

Thursday, October 15 | 8 AM - 5 PM

Authors:
Samantha Brown, PT, DPT, Board-certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist
Sharon Gorman, PT, DPSc, Board-certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist, Fellow National Academies of Practice
Kelly Macauley, PT, DPT, EdD, Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator
Susan Miale, PT, DPT, EdD, Board-certified Pediatric Clinical Specialist, Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator

Nicki Silberman, PT, DPT, PhD, Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator

---

Academic Leadership in Higher Education

This ½ day interactive workshop is designed to support academic leaders in Physical Therapy programs at all stages of their leadership journey. The purpose of the workshop is to provide a structured, supportive environment where participants can examine their leadership identity, learn from colleagues' experiences, and develop practical strategies to strengthen team engagement and growth. Through guided reflection, self-assessment activities, peer coaching, case discussions, and panel dialogue, participants will explore how personal leadership behaviors influence faculty dynamics, program culture, and educational outcomes.

Thursday, October 15 | 8 AM - 12 PM

Authors:
Dawn James, PT, DPT, DSc
Megan Donaldson, PT, PhDFAAOMPT
Brian Young, PT, DSc
John Heick, PT, DPT, PhD

Moving from Concept to Creation in Learning by Concordance (LbC)

Learning by Concordance (LbC) is an instructional strategy designed to develop clinical reasoning in uncertain situations where there is more than one reasonable course of action1-2. In LbC, learners and an expert panel work through an ambiguous case scenario with follow-up questions, and judge how new information influences a proposed hypothesis, decision, or action2. This half-day pre-conference workshop is designed for educators who want to create and refine LbC activities for use in their own courses and programs. The workshop uses brief direct instruction, guided practice, peer review, and feedback-based revision to support LbC development. Participants will leave with drafted LbC activities aligned with their own teaching contexts. The workshop will also include structured exploration of how artificial intelligence can support LbC development through ideation, question refinement, and feedback. Participants will leave with practical resources, greater confidence in designing LbC activities, and drafted materials to implement in their courses.

Thursday, October 15 | 1 PM - 5 PM

Authors:
Lindsey Kojich, PT, DPT, PhD
Rebecca Johnson, PT, DPT, PhD
Stephanie A. Miller, PT, PhD

Register Now! **Visit ELC Website**

Foundations of Simulation Series

Interested in Adding Simulation to Your Curriculum?
The Simulation Networking Community has developed the Foundations of Simulation Series of brief, free presentations designed to introduce physical therapy



educators and clinicians to core concepts in simulation-based learning. This series provides an overview of essential terminology, simulation modalities, delivery methods, pre-briefing and debriefing practices, and the Healthcare Simulation Standards of Best Practice. Participants will gain foundational knowledge and practical resources to support the design, implementation, and facilitation of simulation experiences across a variety of educational settings.

You can view the series through the Learning Center, access using the button below.

View Series

Hone Your Leadership Skills - Apply for the FHEL 27-28 Cohort!

APTA Academy of Education | Fellowship in Higher Education Leadership

Registration is now open for the Fellowship of Higher Education Leadership, a 13-month program designed for current and aspiring leaders in physical therapy education to:

- Improve and apply leadership skills
- Put theory into practice
- Build a network of peers and mentors to support their academic career

The fellowship combines asynchronous modules created by content experts, interactive live office hours and three immersive sessions to prepare PT and PTA faculty for leadership positions.

Learn More **Register Now!**



JoPTE Journal Club Session

Save the Date | Tuesday | November 3

Application of Competency-Based education with Anatomy.

Authors will present journal article findings: Clinical Anatomy in a Physical Therapist Competency-Based Education Course: Challenges and Solutions. Jeb Helms, Lindsay Conn, Austin Sheldon, Carl DeRosa, Kelly Macauley

Learn More!

Residency/Fellowship Education SIG Journal Club

Tuesday | December 8 | 8:00 - 9:00 PM EDT

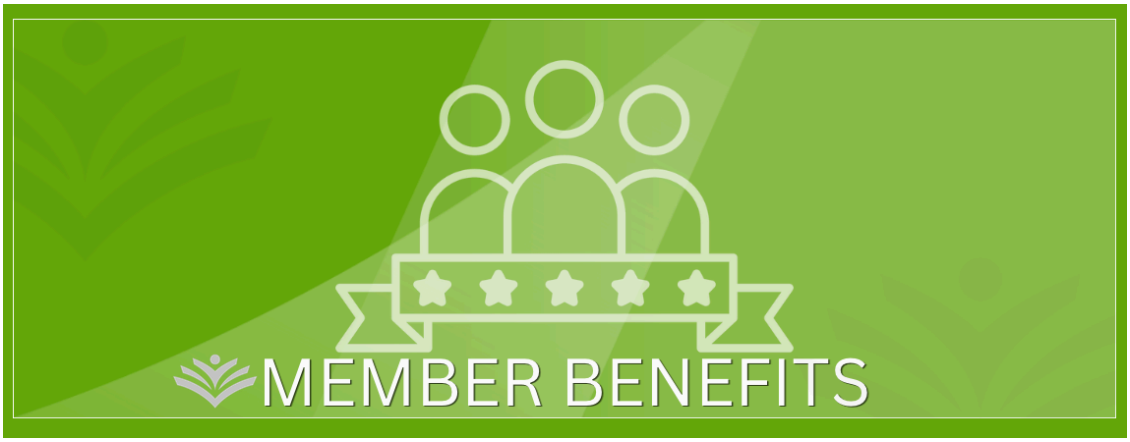
Bridging the GAP: Final-Year DPT Preferences

Adriaan Louw, PT, PhD, is an internationally recognized educator and researcher specializing in pain science and pain neuroscience education. He has more than 30 years of teaching experience and has authored or co-authored over 130 peer-reviewed publications.

Learn More! **Register**

Residency/Fellowship Education Special Interest Group (RFESIG)

The Residency/Fellowship Education Special Interest Group of the APTA Academy of Education provides a forum where residency/fellowship faculty including program directors, coordinators and mentors promote excellence in residency education by providing collaborative opportunities for educational research, exploring opportunities for curricular development, enhancing resident clinical reasoning skills and discussing resources available for assessment in residency education.



Welcome to APTA Academy of Education! We hope that through your membership, you'll find your place in a community of life-long learners dedicated to the education of patients, students, colleagues, and communities.

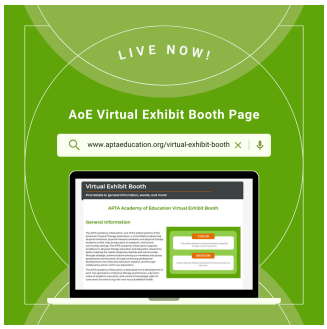
Top benefits of Membership in the Academy:

1. Discounts on section conferences like:
    - **Combined Sections Meeting**
    - **Education Leadership Conference**
    - **Physical Therapy Faculty Development Workshop**
    - **Academy Webinars**
2. Well established **Special Interest Groups** to meet member needs.
3. Networking and opportunity for Academy **funding and awards**.

Please know that we are here to serve you and are happy to assist you in any way possible. Education is the future of our profession and here in the APTA Academy of Education, "Every PT and PTA is an Educator."

Visit us at **http://www.aptaeducation.org**.





Check out our Virtual Exhibit Booth!



How to Post Research Projects in EduSphere



Journal of Physical Therapy Education

Learn More | Learn More | Learn More

Never miss the
APTA Academy of Education Newsletter

Learn More

CLASSIFIEDS

Find your next career opportunity on our classified page.

Search Jobs | Post Jobs

CURRENT LITERATURE

Check out the latest information and trends in physical therapy educational research on the JoPTE website and follow @JOPTEjournal on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to keep up with newsworthy educational content and publications!

Read Journal

STAY CONNECTED

Stay Connected By Following
APTA Academy of Education's Social Media Pages
#APTAAcademyofEducation

APTA Academy of Education | 2900 Delk Road Suite 700, PMB 321 | Marietta, GA 30067 US

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!