



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

- ELC 2025 | Submissions are Open!
- Volunteer for the Academy!
- PT Academic Leadership: *Survey*
- NEW Member Benefit - Online Community
- March 6 & April 3 | Webinar Registration Open!
- ***Congratulations!*** Academy Award *Winners!*
- Academy Bestows Grants
- Abstract Reviewers Needed!
- Clinical Education SIG Educational Initiatives
- NEW! Education Impact Initiative Project
- SIG Spotlight
- ***Save The Date:*** GAMER 2026

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELC 2025

October 17-19 • Kansas City, MO

ELC Submissions Are Open

Submit Your Education Session, Platform, or Poster Today!

Choose from two types of Educational Sessions:

Standard Educational Presentations (90 min):

Standard educational presentations are scheduled for 1.5 hours and occur any of the three days of the conference.

MicroLearn Educational Sessions (25-30 min):

MicroLearn sessions are compact, focused sessions designed to deliver quick insights, practical skills, and actionable takeaways. Whether you're a seasoned attendee or a first-timer, prepare for a dynamic learning journey! Stay tuned for the *MicroLearn lineup* – it's knowledge in a nutshell! Authors will be paired with two other MicroLearn submissions of similar topics to make up a complete 90-minute session.

Or choose an abstract session:

Posters are displayed for an entire day during the conference, with presenters scheduled for 45-minute time slots either in the morning or afternoon.

Platform presentations are 15-minute oral presentations schedule throughout the three days of the conference.

**Submission portal for ELC 2025 opens March 5 and closes April 18.
Please see the submission links below.**

[Abstract Submissions](#)

[Educational Submissions](#)

For technical and non-technical questions about submission requirements, or the submission process, contact info@pteducationleadershipconference.org.

Sign up using the form below to receive informational updates about the 20th Annual Physical Therapist Education Leadership Conference.

[Sign Up](#)

VOLUNTEER FOR THE ACADEMY!

Contribute to the Academy of Education by becoming a volunteer!
The following position terms that begin on July 1, 2025
are now available.

- Awards Committee Member
- Social Media Coordinator
- JoPTE Social Media Coordinator
- Finance Committee Member
- Professional Development Committee PTA Member
- Two Research Committee Members
- JoPTE Journal Club Chair, Vice Chair, and Board Liaison
- Two Webinar Committee Members



For more information on the positions, please review the Policies & Procedures manual or email volunteerscoordinator@aptaeducation.org.

Apply
Here

PT Academic Leadership Forum: Exploring Support for Higher Ed Transitions



The APTA Academy of Education is exploring interest in establishing a designated space for physical therapists who have transitioned from PT academic program roles into higher education leadership positions (e.g., chairs, deans, provosts, and presidents). Currently, there is no formalized group within the Academy for these leaders, yet some have expressed a desire for mentorship, networking, and shared resources to support their evolving roles. This brief survey aims to assess interest in such a community, what structure would be most beneficial, and what resources would support members in these leadership roles. Your input will help guide the

Take Survey

NEW Member Benefit - Online Community

The Academy of Education is excited to announce it has launched an online community to help our members better connect with each other. All members have already been added to the general member community, and those who are members of SIGs have been added to the SIG communities.

Access the
Community

Your login will be the same as your login for the Academy of Education website. Here are a few simple steps to get acquainted with the new platform:



1. Start a discussion or respond to someone else. If you have questions you'd like to ask your peers, [click here](#) and watch the responses come in! You can also use the "post message" link in the discussion emails you'll receive. Share your expertise and connect with peers by responding to other people's posts.
2. **Set your messaging, email, and privacy preferences.** If at any time you'd like to change your preferences, go to your profile -> Update Your Profile -> My Account.
3. **Update your profile.** Your profile is already loaded, but feel free to update as you see fit on the profile page.

We hope you enjoy this new tool to help you connect with your peers!



Don't Miss Out! Register Today!

Integrating Evidence into the Development of Clinical Reasoning for Physical Therapy Learners: Systematic Review Results



Thursday | March 6 | 7-8PM EST

[Register](#)

Learning Objectives

1. Discuss the quantitative and qualitative results from the systematic review that investigated the effects of educational interventions designed to develop physical therapist learners' clinical reasoning across the full continuum of professional development.
2. Identify valid and reliable outcome measures to evaluate changes in clinical reasoning among physical therapist learners.
3. Describe elements of rigor needed for high-quality research projects focused on educational interventions for clinical reasoning.

Speakers:

Tobi Baldwin, PT, DPT, EdD;

Vicki LaFay, PT, DPT, PhD;

Mark Erickson, PT, MA, DScPT, OCS, CFP, CSCS;

Kara Kobal, PT, DPT, DHSc, PCS; Jacklyn Brechter, PT, DPT, PhD

EMPOWER: The Impact of Mentorship on a Student's Professional Journey



Thursday | April 3 | 7-8PM EST

[Register](#)

Learning Objectives

1. Describe common challenges of DPT and PTA students who are from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds or are considered academically "at-risk" upon admission to the program.
2. Summarize the structure of one paid mentorship model aimed to support DPT and PTA students from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds.
3. Explore if this Program, or a similar Program, can be implemented on your own campus.

Speakers:

Angela Spontelli Gisselman PT, PhD, DPT ;

Melissa Burgemeister, PT, DPT, ATC

**Congratulations Academy of Education
Award Winners!**



Adopt-a-Doc Award Winner:
Kylie Elders Scott, PT, DPT, EdD,
OCS



Adopt-a-Doc Award Winner:
Rudie Spigarelli, PT, DPT, PhD
candidate



Adopt-a-Doc Award Winner:
Lindsey Kojich, PT, DPT, Board-Certified
Clinical specialist in Orthopaedic Physical
Therapy



Stanford Award Winner:
Matthew Nuciforo, PT, DPT, PhD



Feitelberg Founder's Award Winner:
Brianna Chesser, PT, MPT, EdD



**Distinguished Educator in
Physical Therapist Education:**
Rebecca Edgworth Ditwiler, PT, DPT,
PhD



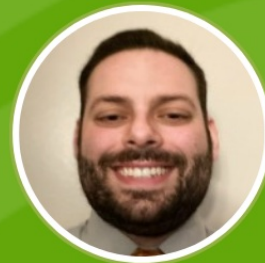
**Distinguished Educator in
Physical Therapist Assistant
Education:** Justin Berry, PT,
DPT, PhD



Outstanding Clinical Instructor:
Ujjwal Shakya, DPT, DMT, SCS,
FNCP



**Distinguished Mentor in Residency/
Fellowship Education:**
Ryan Vickers, PT, DPT, OCS,
FAAOMPT



**Outstanding Site Coordinator
for Clinical Education:**
Richard S. Haybarger, PT, DPT



Pauline Cerasoli Lecturer for 2026:
R. Scott Ward, PT, PhD, FAPTA



Award for Leadership in Education:
Barbara Sanders, PT, PhD, FAPTA



President's Award:
Diane U. Jette, PT, DSc, FAPTA

**The Academy of Education is Pleased to
Announce its 2025
Research Grant Award Recipients**



Heather Knight, PT, DPT, Creighton University for her research, "Implementation of a Clinical Reasoning Blueprint for Physical Therapy Educators Through a Professional Development Series Grounded in a Knowledge Translation Framework: A Multisite Study."



Denise Romano, MPS, PT, EdD, CHSE, CSCS, Binghamton University, for her research, "Development of a Competency-Based Assessment Data Dashboard for Physical Therapist Education: B-Competent."



Mary Derrick-Manis, PT, DPT, PhD, OCS, FAAOMPT, University of Utah, for her research, "Analysis of Learning Environment and Outcomes in Multiple Instructional Models of DPT Education."

Abstract Reviewers Needed for CSM 2026

Help create an excellent roster of speakers for CSM 2026 – volunteer to review abstracts. Volunteers will review 10-15 abstracts in April and May of 2025.

[Volunteer Sign Up](#)

Clinical Education SIG Educational Initiatives



EDUCATION IMPACT
INITIATIVE

As part of the Academy of Education's Education Impact Initiative (EI²), the CE SIG is offering additional opportunities to sponsor CESIG members as follows:

- **Three attendance scholarships – up to \$1000 for ELC (applications will open in May of 2025)**
- **Three registrations for a CCIP course – up to \$500 (members can apply by clicking on the following**

link: <https://forms.office.com/r/xV5cVfP2cz>)

- Three ELC pre-conference course registrations – up to \$500 (application will open in May of 2025)
- Three CSM pre-conference course registrations – up to \$500 (application opened at ELC '24 and the deadline was 11/8/24)

The SIG also sought out nominations at ELC '24 for Outstanding SCCE/CI. Recipients of these awards will be recognized at CSM. These individuals will receive funding for registration to CSM/ELC up to \$750.

NEW! Education Impact Initiative Project



Steven G. Lesh and Michele Valencia are collaborating on a project through the APTA Academy of Education's Education Impact Initiative to highlight innovative DPT/PTA collaborations and professionals with diverse disabilities excelling in education or clinical practice.

We're seeking interested participants in two key areas:

- 1) Unique and innovative DPT/PTA partnerships in education or clinical settings.
- 2) DPT/PTA professionals with diverse disabilities who've mastered educational or clinical environments.

Interested? Share your story by completing the form in the link below. Questions? Reach out—we'd love to connect!

[Share Now!](#)

SIG SPOTLIGHT



APTA
Academy of Education.

Academic Faculty
Special Interest Group

The Academic Faculty SIG shall serve as a resource and forum for individuals who are or have an interest in academic faculty. The Academic Faculty SIG will facilitate networking, mentoring, and sharing of resources for all individuals interested in the roles, responsibilities, teaching, scholarship and service of academic faculty.

AF SIG Objectives:

- Provide a mechanism for encouraging and enhancing communication among academic faculty and those interested in academic faculty.
- Facilitate and increase opportunities for academic faculty development and

- mentoring.
- Create and promote mechanisms for academic faculty to participate in the APTA Academy of Education.
- Serve as a resource body on issues related to academic faculty.
- Promote cooperative efforts among academic faculty.

For more information on the RFE SIG, please get in touch with the Chair: [Derek Liuzzo PT, DPT, PhD](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars for our Annual GAMER Workshop:

GAMER

Grantwriting and Mentorship in Education Research

January 22-24, 2026

(Travel days are January 21 and 25, 2026)

Charleston, South Carolina

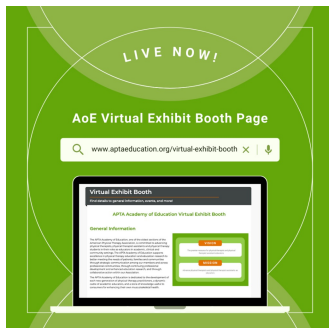
We bring together a nationally recognized multidisciplinary group of mentors and consultants as faculty, including representatives from potential funding sources to support participants work. The workshop provides guidance in developing robust, clear and theoretically grounded research questions, grant proposals and career research agendas. The workshop will also facilitate inter-professional, and intra- and inter-institutional collaborative research networks and projects for education researchers in *Audiology, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology.*

Our wonderful sponsors!



Please contact [Rick Segal](#) if you have any questions.
segal@musc.edu | www.gamereducationresearch.com

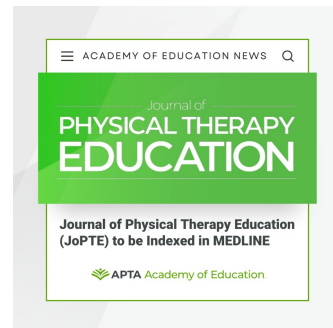
QUICK CLICKS



Check out our Virtual Exhibit Booth!



Participate in your Colleagues' Research



Journal of Physical Therapy Education to be Indexed in MEDLINE

[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](#)



Try email marketing for free today!