



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:**
 - Academy Merch Store Open Now through September 2
 - **Congratulations to Our 2026 Foundation Doctoral Scholarship Recipient**
 - New! Physical Therapist Assistant Educators SIG Fall 2026 Teaching & Networking Communities
 - Check Out the Latest Research from EduPulse!
 - ***Call for Award Nominations Open Now Until Oct 1***
 - Call for Research Grant Proposals Now Open Until Sept 30
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - ELC 2026
 - Call for Volunteers at ELC 2026
 - Registration is Open!
 - Sign Up for One of Our Pre-Conference Workshops
 - Foundations of Simulation Series
- **Upcoming Webinars:**
 - Empowered by Accommodations | Sept 3 | 7PM EDT
 - **Save the Date:** Admissions Network Combined Event with the ACAPT Admissions and Retention Task Force | Sept 23
- **Welcome New Members!**
- View Our Member Benefits

ANNOUNCEMENTS

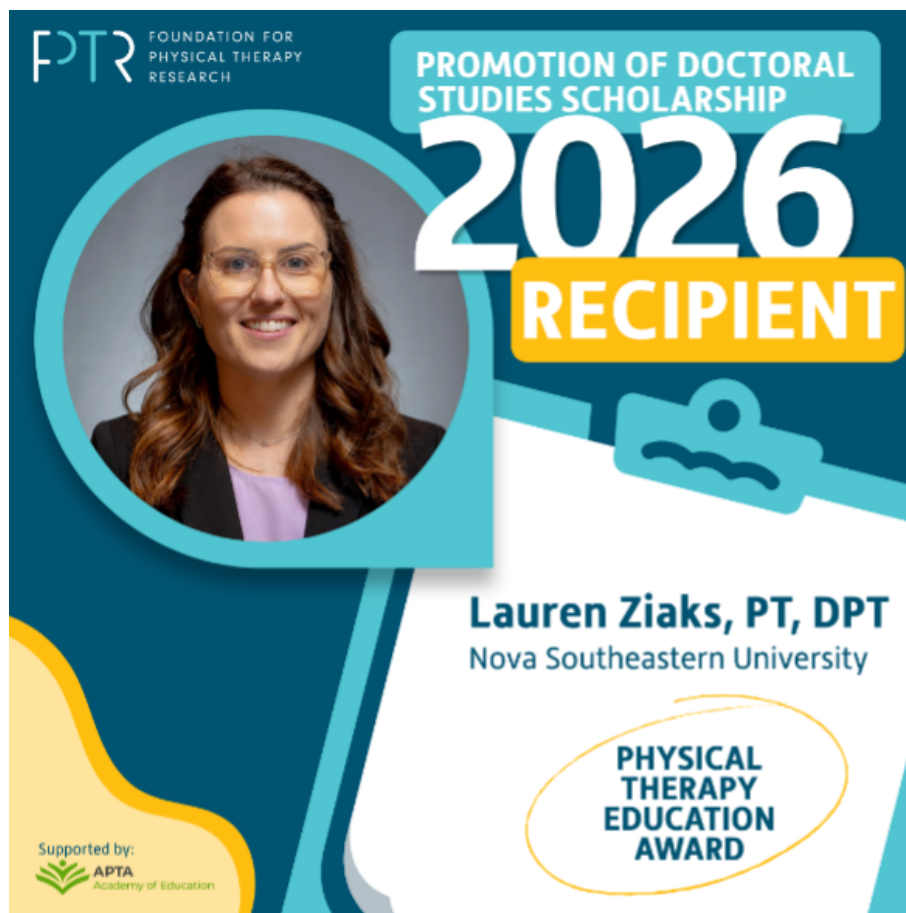
Academy Merch Store Open *Now through September 2*

Just in time for ELC! Order Academy tees, pullovers, sweatshirts and backpacks for a limited time only. Store is open now through September 2.



[Shop Now!](#)

**Congratulations to Our 2026 Foundation
Doctoral Scholarship Recipient!**



The APTA Academy of Education is proud to support the Physical Therapy Education Award, a 2026 Promotion of Doctoral Studies Scholarship from the Foundation for Physical Therapy Research.

Lauren Ziaks, PT, DPT, a doctoral student at Nova Southeastern University, received the Physical Therapy Education Award, supported by the APTA Academy of Education Endowment Fund, for her research titled *Bridging the Access Gap in Dysautonomia Care: Using Implementation Science to Evaluate and Scale a Standardized Competency-based Training Model*.

These scholarships are given to highly qualified doctoral students who are pursuing physical therapy education research to better meet the needs of patients, families, and communities, and we are grateful to help fund the beginning of her research journey.

Please join us in celebrating this well-deserved achievement. To learn more about the scholarship recipients and awards, [click here](#).

Help support the continued growth of physical therapy education researchers. To contribute to the Physical Therapy Education Endowment Fund, [click here](#).

**Physical Therapist Assistant Educators SIG Fall
2026 Teaching & Networking Communities**
Sign-up ends on September 16

Are you ready to make connections and build your network?

Sign up for the PTA Educators SIG Fall 2026 Teaching & Networking Communities. The networking sessions will begin October 6, 2026.

Networking topics for PTA Educators include:

- Administration/Clinical Education
- Teaching and Learning

Don't miss this great opportunity!

[Sign Up Now!](#)



Please note: Registrants must be AoE AND PTAE SIG members and PTA Educators (academic and clinical)

Check Out the Latest Research from EduPulse!



The Academy of Education's Research Committee has released its newest curated list of hot research articles published April - June 2026.

[Access EduPulse](#)

Call for Award Nominations Now Open Until October 1



The Awards Committee is pleased to announce the call for nominations for APTA Academy of Education Awards. Members are urged to consider these opportunities for themselves and for their colleagues.

Adopt-A-Doc Scholarship Award

Reflects the Academy's commitment to increase the number of doctoral prepared faculty teaching in PT and PTA education programs.

Award for Leadership in Education

The Academy's highest honor, this award recognizes a nationally prominent educator for their outstanding leadership and contributions to physical therapy education.

Polly Cerasoli Lectureship Award

Acknowledges an individual who exemplifies the passion and commitment to the advancement of physical therapy education modeled by Dr. Polly Cerasoli.

Distinguished Educator in Physical Therapist Education Award

Honors an individual who exemplifies excellence in academic or clinical teaching.

Distinguished Educator in Physical Therapist Assistant Education Award

Honors an individual who exemplifies excellence in academic or clinical teaching.

Distinguished Mentor in Residency/Fellowship Education Award

Recognizes excellence in Residency/Fellowship mentoring.

Education Professional Service Award

A high honor used to recognize significant service to the APTA Academy of Education.

Outstanding Clinical Instructor Award

Recognizes an outstanding clinical instructor who demonstrates exceptional skills in teaching, communication, interpersonal relationships, professional competence, mentoring, modeling, and professionalism.

Outstanding Site Coordinator for Clinical Education Award

Recognizes an outstanding Site Coordinator for Clinical Education (SCCE) who consistently demonstrates exceptional skills in the supervision and education of Clinical Instructors through mentoring as well as serving as a role model for Clinical Education.

President's Award

Honors an individual who has provided exemplary service or noteworthy contributions in advancing the vision, mission or goals of the APTA Academy of Education.

Individuals who are current members of the APTA Academy of Education Board of Directors, the APTA Board of Directors, or APTA Staff are not eligible for these awards and may not participate in the nomination process.

[View Award Homepage and Nominate Now!](#)

Call For Research Grant Proposals Now Open Apply by September 30



Research grants are available to assist APTA Academy of Education members in conducting research that investigates a question of importance to the advancement of education in physical therapy. In addition to research related to physical therapy education (DPT, PTA), questions related to the education of patients/clients, licensed PTs/PTAs or PT/PTA students will also be considered.

Small Research Grants: The small grants are intended to support the work of early career researchers and emerging researchers new to education research who are pursuing small or pilot projects that require financial resources of up to \$5,000. These grants are not intended for established researchers in need of small amounts of financial support; those proposals should be directed to the Large Research Grant. Grant applicants should demonstrate how the proposed project is 1) investigating a question of importance to the advancement of education in physical therapy, 2) situated within a larger research agenda or plan, and 3) can be completed within the 18-month grant period.

Large Research Grant: The large grants are intended to support the work of more experienced researchers and research teams who are pursuing larger projects that require financial resources of up to \$25,000. Proposals for the large grant must demonstrate that the project can be completed within the 18-month grant period and that the research team has the requisite experience and expertise to achieve success by completing all deliverables outlined in the proposal.



Be sure to review our [updated guidelines](#) before submitting your proposal.

[Learn More](#)

[Apply Now](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

ELC 2026

REGISTRATION IS
NOW OPEN
ELC 2026

October 16-18 | Marriott Marquis | Washington, D.C.



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF
ACADEMIC PHYSICAL THERAPY



APTA
Academy of Education



Register!

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

Register for One of 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](#)



Sep 3 | 7- 8 PM EDT

[Empowered by Accommodations Webinar](#)

[Register](#)

Sep | 8 - 9 PM EDT

[RFESIG Journal Club](#)

[Register](#)

Save the Date | Sept 23rd | 7- 8:30 PM EDT

[Admissions Network Combined Event with the ACAPT Admissions and Retention Task Force](#)

[RSVP](#)

Welcome New Members!



- John B. Ahern, PT, DPT
- Serenity Akins, SPT
- Justin Kevin Aragon, SPT
- Trevon Bailey, SPT
- Samuel W Barrett, SPT
- Brandon Bell, SPTA
- Anna Clare Bouillet, PT
- Elizabeth Brown, PT
- Anna CholakisReese Clarey, SPT
- Leah Cooper, DPT
- Grace Elizabeth Corey, SPT
- Brianna Cowley, PT
- Jordan Davis, SPT
- Susan Brehmer DiMartini, PT
- Julius Edral, PTA
- Guershon Champ Exi, DPT
- Julie Christine Fagan, PT
- Natalie Ferrer, SPT
- Thomas Gordon Follett, SPT
- Regan Kylie Freas, SPTA
- Elizabeth Fulling, SPT
- Abigail Gardiner, SPT
- Ahsha C Gray, SPT
- Cameron Griffin, SPT
- Marcel Hansen, PTA
- Paetra Heeren, SPT
- Jacob T Hendricks, SPT
- Maggie L Hodnick, DPT
- Mary Clare Huff, SPT
- David Ali Assadzadeh Javidi, SPT
- Sharayu KadamOzzie Keil, SPT
- Kennah Keller, SPT
- Clare G Keppert, SPT
- Joonhyuk Andrew Ko, DPT
- Emmanuel Putu Kolleh, SPT
- Allison KosinskiBrian Lea, SPT
- Tiffany Linares, SPT
- Stephanie Luzhansky, PT
- Adolfo Martinez, SPT
- Katherine McCoy, DPT
- Alysia F McElvain, DPT
- Tyler Mulvey, SPT
- Zacharye Mustafa, PT, DPT
- Jillian Muther, DPT
- Alexis Newman, SPT
- Payton Nivala, SPT
- Edward J. Prince, SPT
- Vania Y Ramirez-Romo, SPT
- Averey Rennick, SPT
- Kaleb Richardson
- Callie Richerson, SPT
- Heather Robles, SPT
- Carlos Rodriguez, SPT
- Ainsley Rogers, DPT
- Lana Scott, SPT
- Brett Shelton, DPT
- Stephanie Stec, PTA
- Madeline Elizabeth Strobe, PT, DPT
- Alexis Surles, SPT
- Teresa Thomas, SPT
- Madison Trauth, SPT
- James Bennett Tsai, PT, DPT
- Avery E Urbanski, SPT
- Cade Weihrich, SPT
- Jason Patrick Yarber, DPT
- Jackson Younger, SPT
- Gabriella Kissinger, PT



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.

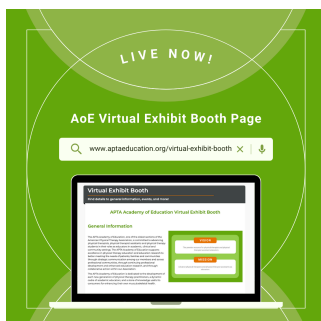
Top benefits of Membership in the Academy:

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>.

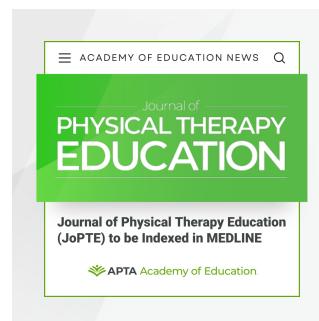
QUICK CLICKS



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

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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!

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