



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 Closes Today!
 - Applications Now Open for the Catherine Worthingham Fellows CSM Student Scholarship Award
 - Sign Up to Volunteer for Academy Exhibit Booth at ELC 2026
 - Call for Research Grant Proposals Now Open Until Sept 30
 - PTA Honor Society Nominations Now Open Until Oct 1!
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - ELC 2026
 - Registration is Open! **Early Bird Discount Ends Sept 16**
 - **NEW!** Share Calls for Research Participation at ELC
 - **Call for Volunteers at ELC 2026**
 - Sign Up for One of Our Pre-Conference Workshops
 - Foundations of Simulation Series
- **Upcoming Webinars:**
 - Empowered by Accommodations **Tomorrow** | Sept 3 | 7PM EDT
 - RFE SIG Journal Club Sept 8 | 8PM EDT
 - **Save the Date:** Admissions Network Combined Event with the ACAPT Admissions and Retention Task Force Sept 23
- **SIG Spotlight:**
 - Physical Therapist Assistant Educators Special Interest Group (PTAESIG)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Academy Merch Store Closes Today!

Just in time for ELC! Order Academy tees, pullovers, sweatshirts and backpacks for a limited time only. Closes today, don't miss out!

A promotional banner for the APTA Academy of Education's online merchandise store. The banner features the APTA logo (a green stylized leaf) and the text "APTA Academy of Education." on the left. In the center, there is a green rectangular area with the text "ONLINE STORE NOW OPEN!" in white. To the right of this area, there are images of four items: a black long-sleeved shirt, a white zip-up pullover, a black backpack with a white Nike swoosh, and a grey polo shirt. Below the green area, there is a green line and the text "Time is running out! Order your Academy Merch now through September 2!" in green.

**ONLINE STORE
NOW OPEN!**

Time is running out! Order your Academy Merch now through September 2!

[Order Now!](#)

Catherine Worthingham Fellows CSM Student Scholarship

The Catherine Worthingham Fellows CSM Student Scholarship helps physical therapist students attend APTA Combined Sections Meeting. A minimum of 15 recipients will receive complimentary APTA CSM registration and a \$1,000 stipend to support travel and housing costs.

- Applicants must be current APTA members in good standing
- Applicants must be enrolled in the second or final year of a CAPTE-accredited DPT program by APTA CSM.



Students may self-nominate; no separate nomination is required.

For Questions Contact
honorsandawards@apta.org

[Learn More!](#)

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](#)

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](#)

PTA Honor Society Nominations Are Open

Submit by October 1



The Phi Tau Alpha Honor Society recognizes physical therapist assistant students who have not only demonstrated high academic standards, but have embodied the core values of the physical therapy profession. Students meeting the requirements outlined below should contact their program faculty to determine the next steps for applying for possible induction into the honor society.

REQUIREMENTS:

Nominations to the honor society are only open to students in programs in which at least one member of the faculty is a current member of the Academy of Education.

Applicants must complete and provide proof of ALL items on [Applicant Checklist](#), including:

- GPA - 3.5 minimum for all applicants (This GPA calculation is limited to PTA coursework ONLY)
- [Recommendation Form](#):
- Students must have two Recommendation Forms submitted to be considered for the PTA Honor Society. To be considered for the Honor Society, all ratings should be in the "Exemplary" or "Superior" categories. All recommendation forms must be from a PTA Program Stakeholder, including clinical or academic stakeholders. Examples include:
 - Clinical Instructor during a full-time clinical experience
 - Clinical partner who held primary responsibility for assessing the student applicant
 - Full time or part time faculty
 - Adjunct instructor
 - Lab assistant or adjunct clinical proctor
 - PTA club advisor
 - PTA program Advisory Committee Member

NOMINATIONS PROCESS:

- Institutions will determine when students can apply for the PTA honor society at their individual institutions. It is recommended that this be after a full-time clinical experience to allow for clinical partners to participate in the recommendation process.
 - Applicants will retrieve all required forms from the APTA Academy of Education website and then will submit all required forms to their institutional selection committee.
 - [Applicant Checklist Recommendation Form](#)
 - Each institution will be responsible for nominating, reviewing, selecting, and honoring inductees. To nominate students to the honor society, at least one faculty member of the institution must be a current member of the APTA Academy of Education. Institutions shall either create a specific internal committee, or utilize a current selection committee, to receive and review all applications for the PTA National Honor Society. Institutions are encouraged to utilize the PTA Honor Society applicant checklist in their selection process to ensure consistency of selecting candidates.
 - Each institution is responsible for screening and ensuring that all applicants have completed all items in each category of the application checklist.
 - Each institution may notify the inductees in whatever manner deemed appropriate.
 - The faculty member (holding a current membership to the APTA Academy of Education) will submit the names of the students to be inducted into the APTA Academy of Education PTA Honor Society. To do this, please complete a [submission form](#) for each student who the faculty member determines meets the minimum requirements. To coincide with graduations, due dates for applications each year are as follows:
 - March 1
 - June 1
 - October 1
- The APTA Academy of Education will send out certificates of membership to the Honor Society and lapel pins to each institution for distribution to student honorees.

- Graduation honor cords and/or stoles can be purchased for student members to wear at their respective graduation ceremonies. Cords may be purchased from any website/dealer, but should be teal and gold colors combined into one cord. If a program wishes to provide students with stoles, the same colors of teal and gold are recommended.
- Please reach out to Coordinator@aptaeducation.org if you wish to obtain the seal for stitching onto the stole.

[Learn More and Nominate](#)

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!](#)

Don't Miss Early Bird Savings — Rates End September 16!

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!

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

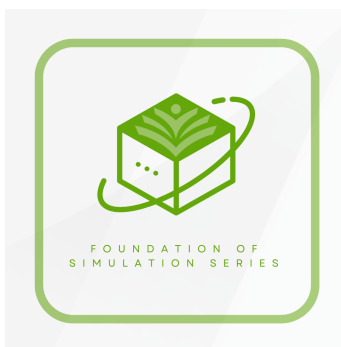
Rebecca Johnson, PT, DPT, PhD

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](#)



Tomorrow! | Thursday, Sept 3 | 7:00 - 8:00 PM EDT
[Empowered by Accommodations Webinar](#)

[Register](#)

Register | Thursday, Sept 8 | 8:00 - 9:00 PM EDT
[RFESIG Journal Club](#)

[Register](#)

Save the Date | Sept 23 | 7:00 - 8:30 PM EDT
[Admissions Network Combined Event with the
ACAPT Admissions and Retention Task Force](#)

[RSVP](#)

[Learn More!](#)

SIG SPOTLIGHT

Physical Therapist Assistant Educators Special Interest Group (PTAESIG)

The PTA Educators SIG serves as the advocate and expert resource for the education and role of the PTA. Members provide leadership, mentorship and expertise in teaching and learning to support all persons concerned with education that ensures PTAs are prepared for contemporary practice.

Objectives:

- Provide means to increase and improve communication among physical therapist assistant educators.
- Facilitate and increase opportunities for PTA faculty development and mentoring.
- Facilitate and improve mentoring opportunities for all persons involved in the education of physical therapist assistants.
- Advocate for the role of the PTA as the extender of care for the physical therapist within the profession of physical therapy.

- Promote existing and create additional opportunities for PTA Educator representation in leadership roles at the national level.
- Communicate and collaborate with physical therapist program educators.
- Create and promote ways for the PTAE SIG to impact the APTA Academy of Education's participation and responses to issues related (but not limited) to the education, scope of work, supervision and direction of the PTA at the national level.
- Serve as a resource body with any/all inquiries related to the education and/or utilization of the physical therapist assistant.

Leadership:

Chair: **Jordan Tucker, PT, DPT, EdD**

Vice Chair: **Deanne Yates, PTA, PhD**

Recording Secretary: **Angela Lippiello, PTA**

Membership Secretary: **Amanda Heilman, PTA, MHS**

Nominating Committee Chair: **Carolyn Shishler, PT, MEd**

Nominating Committee: **Beverly Labosky, PTA**

Webinar Chair: **Michele Valencia, PT, DPT**



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.

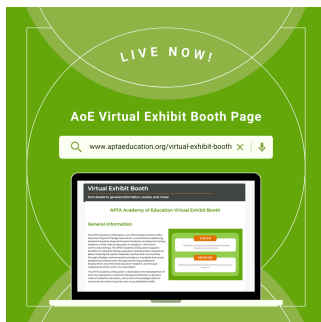
Top benefits of Membership in the Academy:

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



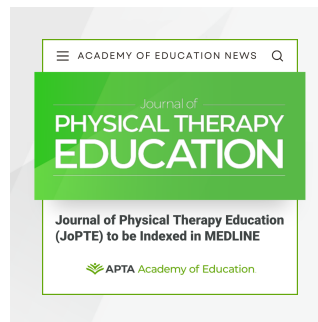
Check out our
Virtual Exhibit Booth!

[Learn More](#)



How to Post Research
Projects in EduSphere

[Learn More](#)



Journal of Physical
Therapy Education

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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!

[Read Journal](#)

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