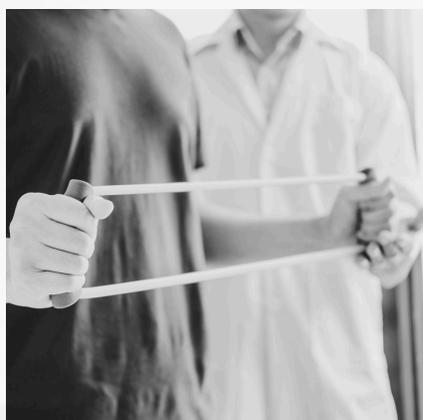


2026 ELECTIONS

NOMINATIONS SLATE



APTA
Academy of Education.

2026 ELECTIONS

PRESIDENT-ELECT:



APTA
Academy of Education.

PRESIDENT-ELECT



Marisa Birkmeier, PT, DPT, DHSc

Biography:

Marisa Birkmeier earned her MPT in physical therapy (2000) and tDPT in physical therapy (2005) at Saint Louis University. She earned her DHSc in Leadership in Clinical Practice and Education in 2022 at The George Washington University (GW). In 2025, she graduated from the APTA Academy of Education Fellowship of Higher Education and Leadership program. She currently is the director for the GW University Physical Therapy Program and previously served as the Program's director of clinical education from 2009 to 2023. She co-teaches multiple courses throughout the DPT curriculum that focus on professional formation, clinical reasoning, practice readiness, and pediatric physical therapy practice. Dr. Birkmeier has practiced pediatric physical therapy since 2001 in the acute care and outpatient settings. She earned her Specialist Certification in Pediatrics from the Board of Physical Therapy Specialists in 2009 and re-certified in 2019. Her research centers on the scholarship of teaching and learning with a focus on assessment, pediatric physical therapy education, and clinical education. Dr. Birkmeier has presented nationally and internationally on physical therapy education research and clinical education and is a Level 1 and 2 APTA Credentialed Clinical Instructor Program trainer. She is an active member and leader in multiple APTA academies (Education, Pediatrics, Acute Care) and the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT). Since 2013, she has served in multiple national leadership and committee roles inclusive of but not limited to the Mid-Atlantic Clinical Education Consortium co-president, APTA Academy of Education Clinical Education SIG Academic Co-Chair, APTA Pediatrics Clinical Reasoning Theater Chair, APTA Pediatrics Academic and Clinical Education SIG Chair, the Journal of Physical Therapy Education digital media editor (2019-2025), and ACAPT Nominating Committee.

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Candidate Statement:

I am honored to be considered as a candidate for the APTA Academy of Education (“the Academy”) President-Elect position. I have a long track record of leadership in physical therapy education and if elected, I will leverage my leadership skills and abilities to continue the positive momentum of the Academy in the achievement of the strategic goals to advance, connect, elevate, and lead.

I value collaboration and believe we can only be successful if we support each other in our pursuit of excellence. My leadership journey afforded me opportunities to embody servant leadership to support our education community to have the resources and opportunities to thrive. I led the creation of the Pediatric Clinical Instructor Toolkit, an online resource for clinical instructors to support their development as clinical educators and led a work group of physical therapist and physical therapist assistant educators from the CE SIG, PTAE SIG, and ACAPT that resulted in the online Physical Therapy Clinical Education Glossary. As program director of the George Washington University DPT Program, I initiated a program level faculty development program to support faculty in their achievement of their annual and long-term professional goals.

As President-Elect, I will prioritize expanding partnerships and relationships with organizations to create new avenues for the development of physical therapist and physical therapist assistant educators. I will also build upon the strength of the Academy’s organizational structure to support the work of the Academy’s special interest groups, committees, task forces, and work groups. Additionally, I will listen to membership and foster an inclusive environment to ensure diverse voices are heard within the Academy.

I believe I am well qualified to lead the Academy through the lens of servant leadership as well as inspire membership to embrace the Academy’s mission and vision to the advancement of physical therapist and physical therapist assistant educators.

PRESIDENT-ELECT



René Thomas, PT, DPT, DHSc, CLT-LANA

Biography:

Dr. Thomas is an Assistant Professor and Director of Clinical Education in the hybrid Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program at the Medical University of South Carolina. She is a graduate of the APTA Fellowship in Higher Education and an ABPTS Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Board-Certified Physical Therapist. She is actively involved in professional development and leadership within the physical therapy education community.

Dr. Thomas is a member of the APTA Academy of Education's Clinical Education Special Interest Group and currently serves as co-chair of the Clinical Educator Pathway to Excellence Taskforce. She is passionate about faculty development and enjoys teaching in the Virtual New Faculty Development Workshop, where she supports early-career educators in developing their teaching skills.

In addition to her academic and leadership roles, Dr. Thomas is a certified lymphedema therapist, holding advanced certification through the Lymphology Association of North America, where she serves as a board member. Her clinical expertise informs her teaching and mentorship, particularly in areas related to patient care and clinical education.

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Candidate Statement:

I am excited for the opportunity to serve as President-Elect of the APTA Academy of Education. Throughout my career, I have been inspired by the impact that passionate, collaborative educators can have on our students, our profession, and the patients we ultimately serve.

My experiences as an educator, Program Director, Director of Clinical Education, and mentor have deepened my commitment to advancing innovation and excellence across all areas of physical therapy education. I have worked with hybrid and residential DPT programs, co-chaired national task forces, and supported new faculty through mentorship and development initiatives. These roles have taught me that true progress happens when we listen, connect, and grow together.

If elected, I hope to continue building a strong, inclusive community that values creativity, compassion, and collaboration. Together, we can continue to move physical therapy education forward and prepare the next generation of clinicians, scholars, and leaders to thrive in an ever-changing healthcare landscape.

2026 ELECTIONS

SECRETARY:



APTA
Academy of Education.

SECRETARY



Carrie Clark Hawkins, PT, DPT, PhD

Biography:

Carrie Clark Hawkins, PT, DPT, PhD has enjoyed the role Secretary for the Academy of Education for the past two years, contributing to the goal of providing service, community and a voice for the Academy's members, by assisting with the development of new communities within the Academy, attending all meetings to lend a voice and record minutes at formal meetings, and working with the Awards committee. She is the founding director of the Whitworth Doctor of Physical Therapy program in Spokane, Washington. Prior to Whitworth, she served as the Director of Clinical Education at Bellarmine University from 2014 to 2022. She received her transitional DPT from Regis University 2007, her PhD in Leadership in Higher Education from Bellarmine University in 2020 and completed the APTA Fellowship in Education Leadership in 2022. Dr. Hawkins' research interests focus on holistic admissions processes and fostering student resilience in physical therapy programs.

Dr. Hawkins has an interest in facilitating growth in others, strategic planning in organizations, and innovation. Her research has included qualitative and quantitative analysis, to use both data and lived experiences to create the "whole picture" and drive change.

Candidate Statement:

Like many others, I have been in multiple roles in academia, as a clinical instructor for PT and PTA students, an adjunct, a Director of Clinical Education, and now as Program Director, allowing me to experience the PT education from multiple lenses. Serving as Secretary for the Academy of Education the last two years has allowed me to play a broader role, contributing to the goals of the Academy to provide service to its members. I have been part of new initiatives, like the Education Impact Initiatives and revision of old ones, such as the awards process. I have attended all meetings to lend a voice and record minutes, completing the documentation and requesting feedback in a timely manner (usually <48 hours). I wish to continue in this role for one more term, to continue to contribute to our Academy members and our professions as physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and educators.

SECRETARY



Will Conrad, PT, DPT, EdD, MS, MTC, CMTPT, CLT-LANA

Biography:

Dr. Will Conrad earned dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Clinical Dietetics and in Nutrition/Fitness/Health from Purdue University in 1995. He completed his Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree at the University of Saint Augustine for Health Sciences in 2004, followed by a master's degree in Exercise Science and Health Promotion (Rehabilitation Science track) from Pennsylvania Western University in 2007 (formally California University of Pennsylvania). In 2016, he earned his Doctor of Education (EdD) from the University of Saint Augustine for Health Sciences. His doctoral dissertation examined the effectiveness of Team-Based Learning in improving comprehension in Applied Anatomy and as a method of interprofessional education for Doctor of Physical Therapy and Doctor of Occupational Therapy students.

Dr. Conrad is a Full Professor at the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education, where he leads courses across the foundational sciences which include Clinical Gross Anatomy, Exercise Physiology, Applied Biomechanics/Kinesiology, Cardiopulmonary and Lymphedema content areas.

Dr. Conrad's clinical career includes experience in outpatient orthopedics, acute care, and home health physical therapy.

Dr. Conrad has published and presented on topics in anatomy, biomechanics, women's health, and teaching and learning at state and national conferences in Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and health professions education. He is also a co-author of an Anatomy Synopsis series, consisting of six online anatomy textbooks and one biomechanics text. His current scholarly work is exploring the relationship between spatial aptitude and anatomical understanding as well as comparing outcomes of various physical therapy anatomy education models.

Dr. Conrad currently serves as Chair of the APTA Anatomy Educators Special Interest Group (since July 2022), as well as on the Academy's Board of Directors. Prior to this appointment, he held multiple leadership positions within the Florida Physical Therapy Association, including Vice Chair, Chair, and Regional Director of the West Central District beginning in 2018.

SECRETARY

Candidate Statement:

I am honored to be considered for the role of Secretary of the APTA Academy of Education. As the current Chair of the Anatomy Educators Special Interest Group (SIG) and member of the Academy Board of Directors, I have led initiatives that mirror the responsibilities of the Secretary—developing and maintaining documentation, ensuring transparent information flow, supporting governance processes, and strengthening communication across committees. My work includes authoring Academy and SIG bylaws, expanding online/digital resources, establishing research and liaison committees, enhancing national collaboration among SIG members, and coordinating outreach across PT and PTA programs to increase SIG membership and thus enhance potential SIG and Academy resources.

As a Professor at Arkansas Colleges of Health Education, I have extensive experience serving as Chair of the Faculty Promotions, Student Conduct, and Student Handbook/Policy committees. I have authored anatomy textbooks, published peer-reviewed journal articles, and delivered both state and national presentations. These roles demand attention to detail, integrity in record-keeping, and consistent follow-through—core expectations of the Secretary position.

If elected, I will ensure accurate records, timely reporting, and clear communication that supports the work of the Board, committees, and membership. I will also actively support the Awards Committee and contribute to maintaining current and transparent policies and procedures for the Academy. I am committed to providing dependable service, maintaining clear and accurate documentation, and strongly advocating for Physical Therapy educators across our profession.

Thank you for your consideration and support!

2026 ELECTIONS

**NOMINATING
COMMITTEE
MEMBER:**



APTA
Academy of Education.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER

Gauri MacDonald, PT, DPT, PhD



Biography:

Gauri MacDonald, PT, DPT, PhD, serves as a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of Physical Therapy at Binghamton University. She plays a vital role in shaping the mission, curriculum, and admissions process of the Doctor of Physical Therapy program. A Board-Certified Orthopedic Clinical Specialist and licensed physical therapist in New York State, Dr. MacDonald brings more than twenty years of experience in orthopedic and sports rehabilitation, clinical management, and healthcare leadership.

Her research examines health disparities in rehabilitation access and outcomes, promotes inclusive and equitable healthcare leadership, and investigates the use of technology and data analytics for fall prevention and community health. Her work has been showcased at numerous national and international conferences, including the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Combined Sections Meeting, the International Society of Biomechanics Congress, and the Education Leadership Conference.

Dr. MacDonald's teaching portfolio includes courses in musculoskeletal examination, psychosocial aspects of rehabilitation, healthcare systems, and evidence-based practice. She also mentors students in capstone projects and serves as Director of Admissions, where she has led her Division's implementation of holistic admissions. Recently, Dr. MacDonald was accepted into the Fellowship of Higher Education Leadership and is seeking opportunities to become more involved in leadership across the profession.

Dedicated to advancing innovation in physical therapy, Dr. MacDonald combines her clinical expertise, research background, and leadership training to prepare the next generation of practitioners for the changing needs of patients and communities. She aims to support the APTA and the Academy of Education's mission to advance the physical therapy profession.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER

Candidate Statement:

I am honored to submit my candidacy for the Academy Nominating Committee. As a developing leader within the Academy, I am eager to become more actively engaged in advancing our mission and supporting the growth of physical therapy education. I look forward to contributing fresh perspectives, learning from experienced colleagues, and helping to identify and encourage the next generation of Academy leaders.

As a Fellow in the APTA Fellowship in Higher Education Leadership (FHEL), I have had the opportunity to strengthen my leadership skills, deepen my understanding of academic administration, and engage in projects that promote innovation and excellence in physical therapy education. In my role as Director of Admissions for the Division of Physical Therapy at Binghamton University, I collaborate with faculty, students, and university leadership to develop strategic enrollment initiatives, foster diversity and inclusion, and support the success of future professionals. These experiences have provided me with valuable insight into leadership development, mentorship, and organizational growth—skills I hope to bring to the Academy's Nominating Committee.

I believe a strong, diverse leadership pipeline is essential to the Academy's continued success. If elected, I will bring a thoughtful, equitable, and mission-driven approach to every aspect of the nomination process.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. It would be a privilege to serve our Academy and its members in this important role.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER



Laurie Neely PT, DPT, EdD

Biography:

Laurie Neely PT, DPT, EdD is a Clinical Associate Professor and Chair of the Division of Physical Therapy at the University of Central Florida. She received a BBA from the University of Mississippi in 2002, her DPT from Old Dominion University in 2007, and her EdD in 2025 from the University of Central Florida. Dr. Neely is board certified in Neurologic Physical Therapy and has over 10 years of clinical experience working with medically complex patients in the acute care setting. She is involved locally and nationally with interprofessional education and clinical education directives, as well as advocacy initiatives. She is currently the chair of the new ACAPT IPE Committee and a member of the ACAPT Education Research Committee. She has previously served as a Delegate to the House of Delegates for Florida and Maryland, as well as the Director of Government Affairs for APTA MD and on the APTA Academy of Education's Clinical Education SIG Nominating Committee. Dr. Neely has served on the Examination Development Committee for the National Physical Therapy Examination at the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy and was inducted into their Academy of Advanced Item Writers in 2019. She received the APTA Acute Care Katherine Harris Educator Award in 2022, FPTA Excellence in Academic Teaching in 2024, and was inducted as a Distinguished Scholar Fellow into the National Academies of Practice in 2024.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER

Candidate Statement:

My goal is to serve the physical therapy profession through teaching, scholarship, and service. I have been involved in physical therapy education since 2008, working across both clinical and academic environments. In 2014, I transitioned into fulltime academia as a Director of Clinical Education and currently serve as a Division Chair.

I have a passion for fostering strong academic and clinical partnerships, promoting student success, and advocating for the advancement of our profession. Throughout my career, I have prioritized mentorship, inclusive leadership, and the development of supportive professional communities. In my roles as Director of Clinical Education and Division Chair, I have had the privilege of mentoring students, collaborating with colleagues across multiple disciplines, building sustainable academic and clinical partnerships, and engaging in scholarship that enhances educational and clinical practice. These experiences have reinforced my belief that the continued success of our profession relies on identifying and empowering leaders who demonstrate passion, integrity, and a commitment to service.

I would be honored to serve the APTA Academy of Education and am grateful to be considered for the Nominating Committee. I am confident that my dedication to service, strong organizational skills, and collaborative approach allow me to engage and support future leaders of the Academy.

2026 ELECTIONS

**ANATOMY
EDUCATORS
VICE CHAIR:**



APTA
Academy of Education.

ANATOMY EDUCATORS SIG VICE CHAIR



Cameron Bassett, PT, DPT, PhD

Biography:

Cameron Bassett, PT, DPT, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. Dr. Bassett currently teaches Human Anatomy to DPT students and provided multiple education sessions and anatomical courses for the practicing clinician. He has recently taught a neurodynamic course for the lower quarter and will present at CSM 2026 Neurodynamics of the Upper Quarter. Dr Bassett has taught dissected human anatomy and functional anatomy for 5 years at the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock, TX and 4 years at the DeSales Doctor of Physical Therapy Program in Center Valley, PA.

Dr. Bassett currently works as a PRN outpatient physical therapist with Physical Therapy at St. Luke's, and PRN acute care with Lehigh Valley Health Network and is on their Advisory Board of Research and Rehabilitation (ABRIR). Dr Bassett is on the FSBPT Item Writing Task Force, a member of the Campus Environment and the Budget Advisory committees at DeSales University, and is a board member with the nonprofit organization "The Storyteller and the World".

Dr. Bassett completed a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Physiology with sub-minors of Spanish and Psychology at Brigham Young University - Idaho in Rexburg, ID, and then concurrently enrolled in and completed his Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree (2016) and his Doctor of Philosophy in Rehabilitation Sciences with an emphasis on Clinical Anatomy (2021) from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock, TX. Dr. Bassett has a passion for teaching anatomy and believes if you understand your anatomy, you can treat any patient, as evidenced by his research interests, including movement analysis, neurodynamics, ultrasonography, and anatomy education. When he is not at work, he spends all his time with his cherished wife of 15 years and 5 kids. He loves being with them in all of their own endeavors in life.

ANATOMY EDUCATORS SIG VICE CHAIR

Candidate Statement:

I am Dr. Cameron Bassett, PT, DPT, PhD, and my educational journey has always centered on anatomy education. During my undergraduate education, my anatomy professors had the most impact on me with their teaching style, which emphasized a memorization-based approach to synthesizing content. During my PT education, Anatomy education was enhanced as I was able to dissect an entire donor with my group. Then, for six years, I served as an adjunct faculty member at TTUHSC, assisting with anatomy every summer to support the first-year DPT 1 students. During this time, I was working on my PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences with an emphasis on clinical anatomy until I completed it in 2021.

Since then, I have created an immersive anatomy education curriculum that spans over three semesters and is in conjunction with the musculoskeletal courses of the curriculum. I have now had multiple avenues of learning and teaching anatomy, which leads me to the next chapter, and that is helping the anatomy education of the Physical therapy profession. I believe we can do better than we are now. I believe we can focus more effectively on structures that impact our patients and establish connections for learners.

I would like to become the Vice Chair of the Anatomy Educators Special Interest Group. Becoming the Vice Chair of the AESIG would provide me with an opportunity to observe how anatomy is taught throughout the nation and help me identify where disconnects may occur in our learners. I would like to be a part of a change that will progress anatomy education, not leave it as a basic science course, but evolve it to a clinical science course.

2026 ELECTIONS

**ANATOMY
EDUCATORS SIG
MEMBERSHIP
SECRETARY:**



APTA
Academy of Education.

ANATOMY EDUCATORS SIG MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY



Colleen Krambeck PT, DPT, OCS

Biography:

My name is Colleen Krambeck and I currently serve as Director of Assessment and Assistant Professor at Lewis University's Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. I received my Bachelor's degree from University of Illinois Chicago and Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Midwestern University. My training has included Certified Manual Physical Therapist through the Institute of Manipulative Physiotherapy and Clinical Training (IMPACT, James Meadows). Advanced clinical training includes dry needling and treatment of both vestibular and TMD conditions. I am a board-certified orthopedic clinical specialist and currently working towards completing a Doctor of Science in Physical Therapy with Andrews University.

I have been involved in academia since 2020, in which I began as an Adjunct Faculty member at several institutions both undergraduate and graduate levels, assisting in coursework focused in Anatomy, progressing to Exercise Science, and Evaluation in Physical Therapy. I currently lead both lab and lectures in Anatomy education within Lewis University DPT. I continue to be a member of the American Physical Therapy Association (Illinois Chapter, Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy, Academy of Education and Academy of Orthopaedics) and American Association of Anatomy. I have served the profession as an East Central District Representative for the Illinois Physical Therapy Association as well as an item writer for the FSBPT.

Candidate Statement:

I am honored to have been nominated for the role of Secretary within the Anatomy SIG. I feel I am well suited for this role as my strengths include communication and documentation given my roles as Director of Assessment within Lewis University DPT as well as my previous responsibility in leadership roles (multi-site manager of outpatient clinicals). I have spent time committing to my professional growth and remain eager to be involved with APTA community, especially the Academy of Education. I am invested in what the Anatomy SIG brings to the academic community and realize the potential for advancing the vision of Anatomy education among DPT programs.

Throughout my academic career, I have had many roles including curriculum building which has allowed me to exercise my attention to detail and focus. I am particularly passionate about Anatomy given my current teaching responsibilities within the DPT program. If elected, I will focus my energy on committing to encourage open communication and offering support to the Executive Board as they see fit. I would be grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the bigger picture of Anatomy education.

ANATOMY EDUCATORS SIG MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY



Dr. Eryn Milian, DPT, PhD

Biography:

Dr. Eryn Milian, DPT, PhD, is a physical therapist, anatomy educator, and scholar within a Doctor of Physical Therapy program. In her academic role, she teaches gross and neuroanatomy with an emphasis on applied learning, clinical integration, and the development of higher-level reasoning beyond memorizing structures. She is passionate about helping students connect anatomical knowledge to movement analysis, dysfunction, and patient care decision-making.

In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Dr. Milian engages in scholarly activity focused on anatomy education, innovative pedagogy, and strategies that enhance clinical reasoning in entry-level physical therapy students. She is committed to advancing anatomy education through collaborative research, educational scholarship, and the dissemination of teaching innovations.

Dr. Milian is also actively involved in professional service and volunteer initiatives within the physical therapy education community. She values mentorship, peer collaboration, and contribution to professional organizations that support anatomy educators and academic faculty.

Beyond her academic role, she develops and teaches continuing-education dissection courses to enhance clinicians' anatomical insight and clinical application. Her professional interests include innovative anatomy pedagogy, integration of structure and function, and advancing clinical reasoning with entry-level and post-professional education.

ANATOMY EDUCATORS SIG MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Candidate Statement:

I am honored to be considered for continued service as Membership Secretary for the Anatomy Educators Special Interest Group of the American Physical Therapy Association Academy of Education.

I currently serve in the role and have greatly valued the opportunity to support member engagement, communication, and organizational continuity within our SIG. Through this experience, I have developed a deeper appreciation for the importance of consistent outreach, responsive communication, and fostering meaningful connections among anatomy educators across institutions.

As a physical therapist and now an anatomy educator, my professional focus is on advancing how anatomy is taught, understood, and applied in physical therapy education. I teach gross anatomy and neuroanatomy within a DPT program and lead continuing education courses for licensed clinicians. Across these roles, I am deeply invested in strengthening the bridge between structural knowledge and clinical reasoning.

Anatomy educators occupy a unique and powerful position in physical therapy education. We do not simply teach structures; we shape how future clinicians conceptualize movement, dysfunction, and patient care. I believe our SIG has an opportunity to further cultivate collaboration, innovation, and engagement among anatomy educators at all career stages.

If elected to continue serving as Membership Secretary, I would focus on:

- Sustaining and expanding member engagement initiatives
- Supporting onboarding and connection of new anatomy educators
- Enhancing communication to ensure members are aware of opportunities for involvement
- Encouraging collaboration and sharing of innovative teaching strategies
- Supporting the overall mission of the SIG and other leadership

Thank you for your consideration.

2026 ELECTIONS

ANATOMY EDUCATORS SIG NOMINATING COMMITTEE:



APTA
Academy of Education.

ANATOMY EDUCATORS SIG NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Rachel Gleason, PT, MS, DPT

Biography:

Rachel Gleason, PT, MS, DPT is an Associate Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation, Exercise and Nutrition Sciences at the University of Cincinnati. Rachel earned a BS in Physical Therapy from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, an MS in Health Sciences from the Ohio State University and a DPT from Arcadia University. Rachel has been a faculty member at UC since 2014 where she teaches a variety of undergraduate and graduate level anatomy courses. Active in service, Rachel has held many leadership positions at the university and college. She currently serves as Chair of the University Elections Committee and as an at-large Senator for the University Faculty Senate. She also serves the profession as a State Co-Advocate for APTA Geriatrics. Rachel is a Certified Exercise Expert for the Aging Adult (CEEAA), holds a full Pilates certification and is an Instructor Trainer with STOTT Pilates, and maintains a clinical practice.

Candidate Statement:

I am eager to serve the Academy of Education's Anatomy Educators SIG as a Nominating Committee Member. My area of content expertise is anatomy. I teach anatomy, including cadaver dissection, to a broad range of students, undergraduate health science students as well as graduate Physical Therapy and Athletic Training students. I am enthusiastic about the courses I teach because as an educator and a clinician, I recognize a solid foundation in anatomy is essential for success in health science academic programs and as a healthcare provider. I value innovative pedagogy that enhances the student experience and mastery of the content. This is what drives my interest in engaging with and contributing to the Anatomy Educators SIG.

In my service as Chair of the University Elections Committees, it is my responsibility to solicit candidates to run for various university positions, generate a strong ballot and run annual elections for the university. This aligns directly with the role of the Nominating Committee Member, and I will bring this practical experience to the SIG Nominating Committee. I appreciate that the nominating committee plays a significant role in ensuring robust leadership for an active and progressive SIG. I will be dedicated to collaborating with the committee chair and members of the SIG to populate a strong ballot of individuals for the SIG leadership positions. I am committed to providing leadership that will move the SIG forward in providing a strong network for exchange of information; in fostering innovative and best practices in anatomy education; in collaborating with other anatomy professional organizations; in fostering mentoring relationships and in synthesizing anatomy education research. I would appreciate your support.

ANATOMY EDUCATORS SIG NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Craig Vecchiarelli, PT, DPT

Biography:

Dr. Vecchiarelli has been practicing for over 20 years with 15 years of managerial experience in outpatient orthopedic practices along with co-owning a franchise fitness center and running a workers' compensation-based outpatient practice. He began with academic instruction in 2018 first as adjunct faculty and for the past 3.5 years as an assistant professor at the University of South Florida (USF). He is the course director for human gross anatomy, musculoskeletal/orthopedic clinical practice classes, and teaches the imaging modules threaded throughout the curriculum. Dr. Vecchiarelli also teaches and mentors in the orthopedic residency program at USF. He is passionate about instilling the importance of the basic sciences as it applies to the clinical practice curriculum. Dr. Vecchiarelli is board certified in orthopedic physical therapy and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Physical Therapists.

Candidate Statement:

Although I have not previously served in the AESIG, I am eager to contribute my experience and passion for the importance of the basic sciences within our profession. I believe it important for educators to collaborate and generate discussion around the teaching and learning of basic sciences. I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to support the AESIG by helping identify and encourage leaders who share a vision for excellence in anatomy education. I am ready to serve and contribute meaningfully to the AESIG.

2026 ELECTIONS

ACADEMIC FACULTY SIG CHAIR:



APTA
Academy of Education.

ACADEMIC FACULTY SIG CHAIR

Rebecca Leugers, PT, MS, PhD



Biography:

Rebecca Leugers, PT, MS, PhD, has three decades of experience as an academic faculty member and is the recipient of several teaching awards at the University of Cincinnati. She has served as a faculty mentor to many new faculty. She is currently the Chair of Admissions and the Curricular Chair for the UC DPT Program. She has served as Co-Chair of the CSM Programming Committee for the Academy of Education (2022-2026).

Candidate Statement:

I am interested in serving the Academy of Education as Chair of the Academic Faculty SIG. Having served the Academy as CSM Programming Co-Chair for the past four years, I have gained an appreciation for the work of Academy Board members. I would like to continue to contribute to the Academy of Education in service to our membership and I believe I would be able to lead the Academic Faculty SIG effectively. I believe my organizational skills and my 29 years of experience as a faculty member could be beneficial for the advancement of the objectives of the AFSIG.

2026 ELECTIONS

**ACADEMIC FACULTY
SIG ENGAGEMENT
SECRETARY:**



APTA
Academy of Education.



Megan Kim, PT, DPT, ATC, LAT

Biography:

Megan Kim (she/her) currently serves as an Assistant Professor for the Elon University Department of Physical Therapy Education. She is a board-certified geriatric clinical specialist with nearly 13 years of professional experience across multiple settings. She previously served as a member of the Nova Southeastern University - Fort Lauderdale DPT faculty from 2020-2025. Prior to the full-time transition into academia, she completed NSU's ABPTRFE accredited Faculty Development Residency Program. Additionally, she received her Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree in 2013 and bachelor's in athletic training in 2010 from NSU. She is an avid supporter for the advancement of excellence in physical therapy education and active member of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). She is a 2024 ACAPT Empowering the Academic Physical Therapy Leadership Team Program and 2023 Grant Writing and Mentoring in Education Research (GAMER) Workshop participant. She currently serves as the Publicity & Networking Committee Chair for the PT Proud SIG under the Academy of Leadership & Innovation. She teaches DPT courses related to Management of Cardiopulmonary Dysfunction, Clinical Reasoning and Therapeutic Exercise, and Motor Control, Motor Learning, and Reflexes. Her research interests currently include interprofessional education, cardiopulmonary simulation, belongingness in PT education, and admissions strategies. Outside of the classroom, she enjoys traveling, live music, and checking baseball stadiums off her bucket list

Candidate Statement:

Thank you for considering me for the opportunity to serve as the next AF SIG Member Engagement Secretary! I value the community this SIG has developed to connect PT and PTA educators around the country. As we all work toward a vision of excellence in PT education, I am especially passionate about building open dialogue about the trials and tribulations of the current academic climate. Empowering and supporting each other has proven to be more important than ever as we strive for a sustainable future as educators. Earning your vote of support would provide me with the privilege of leveraging my advocacy, networking, and communication skills to elevate your ideas within the APTA and with partners like ACAPT, PTLI, and more. Let's work together to build something amazing for ourselves, our students, and our profession!

2026 ELECTIONS

ACADEMIC FACULTY SIG NOMINATING COMMITTEE:



APTA
Academy of Education.

ACADEMIC FACULTY SIG NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER



Dr. Nicole Clark, PT, MSPT, PhD

Biography:

Dr. Nicole Clark, PT, MSPT, PhD, earned her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Physical Therapy from Springfield College and her PhD in Physical Therapy from Nova Southeastern University. Her doctoral dissertation examined the neurophysiological effects of dry needling in individuals with low back pain.

Dr. Clark joined the University of Saint Mary Stefani Doctor of Physical Therapy Program in 2020. Prior to this appointment, she served as an adjunct faculty member at Marymount University. She has brought more than 20 years of clinical experience in outpatient orthopedics and has been certified in dry needling since 2009. Within the DPT program, she teaches in both the orthopedic and research curricula and oversees student research practicums.

Dr. Clark currently serves on the board of APTA Kansas and is an active member of the APTA Academy of Research, Academy of Education, and Academy of Orthopedic Physical Therapy. Her research interests include the remote effects of manual therapy and physical therapists' attitudes and beliefs regarding research engagement across entry-level education and professional practice.

Candidate Statement:

I am looking forward to the opportunity to help our SIG continue to grow and provide resources to help other faculty members through effective programming and general guidance.

2026 ELECTIONS

**CLINICAL
EDUCATION SIG
CLINICAL CO-CHAIR:**



APTA
Academy of Education.

CLINICAL EDUCATION SIG CLINICAL CO-CHAIR

Julie Gruden, PT, MPT, DPT



Biography:

Julie Gruden, PT, MPT, DPT is a senior Physical Therapist with the Cleveland Clinic. She has been employed with the Cleveland Clinic since 2003 and works primarily in an outpatient orthopedic setting and has acute trauma care experience with Hillcrest Hospital. Julie obtained her Masters in Physical Therapy in 2002 from Cleveland State University and her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Arcadia University in 2015. Julie is an APTA credentialed clinical instructor and has been a Site Coordinator of Clinical Education (SCCE) since 2007. Julie's role as a SCCE has led her to coordinate 16 outpatient sites since 2015. She is an APTA Credentialed Clinical Trainer for the Level 1 Clinical Instructor Program. She was awarded the 2017 Cleveland Clinic Health Sciences Educator Award. She has presented at The Ohio State University, Cleveland State University and Youngstown State University on topics related to clinical education along with national presentations at APTA ELC on various topics within clinical education. Julie is an active member of Cleveland State University and Kent State University physical therapy and physical therapy assistant program advisory board committees. She has been on the admissions committee for University of Cincinnati physical therapy program and is currently adjunct faculty at Walsh University in North Canton, Ohio. Julie has been an active board member of APTA clinical education special interest group as membership secretary and currently Clinical Co-chair.

CLINICAL EDUCATION SIG CLINICAL CO-CHAIR

Candidate Statement:

With over two decades of clinical and academic experience, I bring a dynamic blend of leadership, mentorship, and innovation to physical therapy, education and practice. I have been an active Academy of Education (AoE) board member as interim Membership Secretary and elected Membership Secretary. Currently serving as Clinical Co-Chair of the APTA Clinical Education Special Interest Group (CESIG), my Academic Co-chair and I have championed initiatives that directly support the profession's future—securing budget approval for 11 yearly opportunities for awarded scholarships. Collaborating with the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy Clinical Education (ACAPT CE) Commission, serving as liaison to both the SCCE Networking Mentoring Group and the Clinical Educator Pathway to Excellence Taskforce has provided multiple opportunities that align with the Academy's strategic plan and goals. In addition, I have been able to provide updates and work closely with the CESIG board members, AoE board members, and CESIG members. I believe these roles are important for continued growth for members and the SIG.

Being a Senior Physical Therapist at The Cleveland Clinic and Site Coordinator of Clinical Education across 16 outpatient sites and adjunct faculty at Walsh University has led me to cultivate a deep commitment to developing future clinicians and clinical instructors. My commitment to presenting information at national conferences and being a trainer in credentialed training programs along with roles on physical therapy program advisory boards and admission committees has also contributed to my commitment to education. I aim to elevate clinical education nationally through collaborative leadership, research, and advocacy—driven by my goal to serve as Clinical Co-Chair of the APTA Clinical Education Special Interest Group.

2026 ELECTIONS

**CLINICAL
EDUCATION SIG
RECORDING
SECRETARY:**



APTA
Academy of Education.

CLINICAL EDUCATION SIG RECORDING SECRETARY



Lori Hochman, PT, PhD

Biography:

Lori Hochman, PT, PhD, is an Associate Professor and Director of Clinical Education in the Department of Physical Therapy at the New York Institute of Technology. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Tulane University, Master of Science in Physical Therapy from Long Island University-Brooklyn Campus, and PhD in Physical Therapy from Nova Southeastern University.

With over 15 years of experience as a DCE, Dr. Hochman has established herself as a leader in clinical education scholarship and practice. Her research agenda focuses on improving clinical education experiences, with recent publications examining clinical site visits and shared clinical instruction. She has published in the Journal of Physical Therapy Education (JOPTE) and Journal of Clinical Education in Physical Therapy (JCEPT), and presents original research annually at national conferences. Dr. Hochman serves in multiple leadership roles, including Chair of the NYPTA Long Island District (2018-present), former Co-Chair of the NY-NJ Clinical Education Consortium (2019-2023), and appointed member of ACAPT committees focused on student success and interprofessional education. She is an APTA Credentialed Clinical Instructor Trainer and serves as a reviewer for JOPTE, JCEPT, and the Educational Leadership Conference.

As an APTA board-certified Neurologic Clinical Specialist, Dr. Hochman maintains an active clinical practice specializing in Parkinson's Disease and spinal cord injury. She is an LSVT® BIG Certified Clinician, Certified Rock Steady Boxing Coach, and provides pro-bono services through Empower SCI. Her commitment to clinical education is driven by a desire to "do better and be better" for the next generation of students and to support the profession through excellence in education.

CLINICAL EDUCATION SIG RECORDING SECRETARY

Candidate Statement:

I am honored to submit my candidacy for Recording Secretary of the Clinical Education Special Interest Group. With over 15 years of experience as Director of Clinical Education (DCE) and active leadership in clinical education at local and state levels, I am committed to advancing the mission of our SIG through meticulous documentation, clear communication, and accessible information sharing.

My experience uniquely positions me to excel in this role. As DCE, I have managed complex communication systems coordinating hundreds of clinical placements annually, maintained detailed records for accreditation, and ensured timely dissemination of critical information to students, faculty, and clinical partners. My research on clinical site visits and clinical education relationships has reinforced my understanding of the importance of clear, consistent communication among all parties.

Serving as Chair of the NYPTA Long Island District (2018-present) and Co-Chair of the NY-NJ Clinical Education Consortium (2019-2023), I have extensive experience managing meeting minutes, maintaining organizational records, and ensuring transparent communication with diverse membership groups. I am comfortable with digital platforms and committed to maintaining an accessible, current SIG webpage that serves as a valuable resource for our members.

My scholarship focuses on improving clinical education practices, which includes exploring interested parties' perspectives on site visits and examining shared clinical instruction models. I understand the challenges clinical educators face and am passionate about ensuring our SIG serves as an effective vehicle for communication, problem-solving, and resource dissemination.

If elected, I will ensure accurate, timely minutes and notices; maintain comprehensive records of our SIG's initiatives; and work collaboratively with the Academy Website Committee to sustain and update a dynamic, user-friendly webpage that reflects our commitment to excellence in clinical education. I would be honored to serve our SIG in this capacity and contribute to strengthening the community of clinical educators who shape the future of our profession.

CLINICAL EDUCATION SIG RECORDING SECRETARY



Rachel Skolky, PT, MSPT, DPT, GCS, CEEAA

Biography:

Rachel Skolky, PT, MSPT, DPT, GCS, CEEAA earned her Bachelor's degree in Clinical Science and Physical Therapy from Ithaca College in 2006, followed by both her Master's and Doctorate degrees in Physical Therapy from the same institution in 2007. Since entering clinical practice in 2008, she has worked across a variety of settings including acute inpatient rehabilitation, geriatric psychiatry, and currently serves older veterans with mobility limitations.

Rachel has a strong background in clinical education, having served as a clinical instructor for numerous physical therapy students and as a mentor to neurologic physical therapy residents. She currently holds the position of Assistant Professor and Director of Clinical Education at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science—a role she has held since 2017.

Her professional service includes two terms as Secretary for APTA Maryland, where she gained valuable experience in organizational communication, record-keeping, and collaborative leadership. She is currently completing her term as President of the Midatlantic Consortium of Clinical Education, further demonstrating her commitment to advancing clinical education through regional collaboration.

In 2023, Rachel earned her Credentialed Clinical Instructor Program (CCIP) Level 1 Trainer credential, and she continues to actively contribute to the ClinEd community by sharing knowledge and supporting the development of clinical educators.

Rachel brings a combination of clinical expertise, educational leadership, and administrative experience that makes her a strong candidate for the Clinical Education Recording Secretary position.

CLINICAL EDUCATION SIG RECORDING SECRETARY

Candidate Statement:

I am excited to express my interest in serving as the Recording Secretary for the Clinical Education Special Interest Group (CESIG). As the Director of Clinical Education at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, I am deeply engaged in the daily processes of clinical education—from student placements and mentoring to collaboration with clinical partners. This role has given me a strong appreciation for the challenges and opportunities facing both academic and clinical educators.

My previous leadership experiences have prepared me well for this position. I served two terms as Secretary for APTA Maryland and am currently completing a three-year term as President of the MidAtlantic Consortium of Clinical Education. These roles have strengthened my skills in communication, organization, and collaborative leadership, and have provided valuable insight into both local and national issues impacting our profession.

I am particularly inspired by CESIG's commitment to strengthening communication among clinical educators, fostering collaboration between academic institutions and clinical sites, and advancing continuing education in clinical teaching and evaluation. I am eager to contribute to initiatives that support the growth and development of clinical faculty and promote evidence-informed approaches to addressing challenges in clinical education. These objectives align closely with my professional values and experiences, and I look forward to supporting CESIG's efforts to enhance the quality and consistency of clinical education nationwide.

Serving as Recording Secretary would allow me to further engage with the profession at a national level and support CESIG's efforts to disseminate resources and foster collaboration across the clinical education community. Thank you for considering my application. I welcome the opportunity to serve and support the important work of CESIG.

2026 ELECTIONS

CLINICAL EDUCATION SIG NOMINATING COMMITTEE:



APTA
Academy of Education.

CLINICAL EDUCATION SIG NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER



Lora Dingledine, PT, DPT, Cert. MDT

Biography:

Dr. Lora Dingledine is currently the Director of Clinical Education for the DPT and PTA students at the University of Indianapolis in Indianapolis, IN. In addition to this role, she teaches content in the basic skills track and content specific to prosthetics and amputee rehab.

Lora received her BS in Music Education from Ball State University in 2004 and her DPT from Indiana University in 2013 and is currently enrolled in the PhD in Health Professions Education program at the University of Evansville.

Clinically, Lora treated patients at Community Health Network in an outpatient general setting with specializations in Mechanical Diagnosis and Therapy (McKenzie Method) and amputee rehab. Here she also served as SCCE to ensure excellence in clinical placements for local and out of state DPT and PTA students.

When not on campus, Lora enjoys spending time getting lost in a good book, hiking, biking, boating, and performing in community choirs and bands with her wife Michelle. She also enjoys spending time with her three fur-babies.

Candidate Statement:

As the Director of Clinical Education at the University of Indianapolis, I am deeply committed to fostering meaningful connections between academic preparation and clinical practice. My role allows me to mentor Doctor of Physical Therapy students before, during, and after their clinical experiences, helping them develop not only their clinical reasoning skills, but also their confidence, professionalism, and capacity for lifelong learning. I believe that effective clinical education requires strong collaboration among faculty, students, and clinical partners, and I strive to create environments where each learner feels supported and valued.

My passion lies in advancing evidence-based teaching strategies that promote excellence in both the classroom and the clinic. I am particularly focused on integrating the principles of justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging (JEDI-B) into all aspects of physical therapy education, ensuring that every student and clinician has equitable opportunities to learn and thrive.

Serving on the Clinical Education Nominating Committee would provide an opportunity to collaborate with colleagues who share these values and to contribute to shaping the future of our profession. I am eager to advocate for innovative, inclusive, and ethical approaches that strengthen academic-clinical partnerships and empower educators and clinical instructors to deliver transformative learning experiences.

CLINICAL EDUCATION SIG NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER

Ashley Mason PT, DPT, ATC



Biography:

Ashley Mason PT, DPT, ATC and Board Certified Specialist in Pediatric Physical Therapy. Ashley is an Associate Professor and Co-Director of Clinical Education in the School of Physical Therapy at Marshall University in Huntington, WV. Ashley is an active member of the American Physical Therapy Association Academy of Education including the Clinical Education SIG, Academy of Pediatrics, and a member of the APTA- West Virginia Chapter. Ashley is a Trainer for the Level 1 CCIP Course. She has served as Co-DCE for 9 years and thoroughly enjoys this role. Ashley hopes to serve in the role of Nominating Committee Member for the Clinical Education SIG to further promote participation from both academicians and clinicians in the CE SIG. Also, she hopes to promote the CE SIG objective of facilitating scheduling efforts between academic institutions and clinical sites. She has an interest in improving efficiency in all aspects of clinical education. Finally, she has an interest in researching best ways to promote success in clinical education, specifically among those students who are struggling in clinical education experiences.

Candidate Statement:

I have been a member of the Academy of Education and Clinical Education SIG since 2017. I am also an active member of the Academy of Pediatrics as well as the APTA WV Chapter. I have served in many clinical education roles including but not limited to: ICEs coordinator, IPE Coordinator, DCE, CI, Trainer for the CCIP Course, and other roles. I thoroughly enjoy my roles in clinical education, and I have a desire to improve efficiency of processes in clinical education. Also, I have a strong desire to reach out to more clinicians and encourage their participation in the APTA as well as the CE SIG. I believe that my contacts as DCE provide a wide reach of potential contacts to engage in these roles. I look forward to serving if elected.

2026 ELECTIONS

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND PRACTICE SIG VICE CHAIR:



APTA
Academy of Education.

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND PRACTICE SIG VICE CHAIR

MINDY OXENFORD, PT, DPT



Biography:

Mindy Oxenford received her Bachelor of Science in Pre-Professional Studies from the University of Notre Dame in 1998 before completing her Doctor of Physical Therapy at Creighton University in 2001. Since then, she has worked in numerous settings and states, completing many work comp certifications, management and regulatory related certifications and training courses, and a variety of continuing education. Mindy began her formal work in academia in 2020 and now teaches full time as core faculty at Clarke University in Dubuque, IA, where she also continues to work in both outpatient and home health settings.

Since joining the world of academia (Mindy's goal since before she became a PT), she has completed her terminal academic degree by obtaining a PhD in Health Education from William Carey University this past August. Her interest areas for research include wellness, geriatrics, and student success. Mindy's educational philosophy focuses on far more than just content. "Foster interaction and engagement. Build trust and relationships. Appreciate and support the whole student, not just the student's understanding of the course material. All of these contribute toward retention, wellness, and the likelihood that a student will share the same compassion with someone else."

In addition to being an active member of the APTA, the IPE SIG of the Academy of Education, and a member of the Academy of Geriatrics, she also serves on the Board of Directors for the Iowa-Illinois Safety Council where she recently completed five years on the Executive Board. She continues to prepare and deliver presentations at employers, safety conferences, insurance and risk management companies, and work comp symposiums in Iowa as both an individual and co-presenter on topics such as Job Site Analysis, Work Comp Case Closure, Injury and Prevention, Home Office Setup, and Telehealth.

INTERPROFESSIONALE DUCATION AND PRACTICE SIG VICE CHAIR

Candidate Statement:

My name is Mindy Oxenford, and I am writing to state my interest in the position of Interprofessional Education & Practice SIG Vice Chair. As a new therapist in 2001, I didn't really see inter-professional collaboration as more than good communication. However, over the course of my career, as our profession has grown in both knowledge base and scope of practice, the need for communication has developed into an increasingly integral and active part of care coordination. Direct access and the increasing medical complexity of our patients has only accentuated this need.

When I joined academia full time in January 2023, one of the items I was tasked with was coordinating IPE events and tracking its location within our curriculum. Over the past few years, I have worked with multiple disciplines from different universities and within our university to plan and execute both formal and classroom-based IPE experiences with other students and professionals alike. One of the most challenging parts of these activities is choosing a format and the cases that will highlight the various professions while truly preparing the students for real life scenarios. I joined the IPE SIG one year ago when it was formed to learn more and help other therapists and educators with IPE events. Since joining, I have been the lead planner of two multi-disciplinary events and was a co-presenter at the Interprofessional Education Collaborative's (IPEC's) virtual conference last fall. I would be honored to advance my role and knowledge while continuing to serve the APTA community.

2026 ELECTIONS

**INTERPROFESSIONAL
EDUCATION AND
PRACTICE SIG
COMMUNICATIONS
CHAIR:**



APTA
Academy of Education.

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND PRACTICE SIG COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

Cheryl Babin PT, DHS, MHA, CAGS, FNAP



Biography:

Dr. Cheryl Babin is Associate Director of Clinical Education and Professor in the School of Physical Therapy at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS). A licensed physical therapist for over 40 years, she has served in clinical, administrative, academic, and national consulting roles across post-acute care and higher education.

Dr. Babin earned her Certificate in Physical Therapy, Master of Health Care Administration, and Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Health Professions Education from Simmons University, and her Doctor of Health Science from MCPHS. Her scholarly work focuses on interprofessional education (IPE), interprofessional collaboration (IPC), and clinical education. She has published peer-reviewed articles and book chapters and has presented nationally and internationally at venues such as Collaborating Across Borders, the NEXUS Summit, the Heartland IPE Conference, the World Physiotherapy Congress, and the APTA Educational Leadership Conference.

Dr. Babin serves as a journal reviewer for the Bulletin of Faculty of Physical Therapy and as an abstract reviewer for CAB, the APTA Educational Leadership Conference, and the National Academies of Practice (NAP) Annual Conference. A Distinguished Fellow of NAP, she is recognized for her leadership in advancing interprofessional care.

She is a founding leader of the MCPHS Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education (CIPE), coordinating IPE curriculum for more than 800 learners from nine health professions across three campuses. Within APTA, she has held roles at both state and national levels and has been actively engaged with ACAPT as a former NIPEC Board member and Task Force appointee on IPE and Collaborative Practice.

Dr. Babin has been an active member of the IPEP SIG since its inception, serving as Communications Committee Chair since December 2023.

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND PRACTICE SIG COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

Candidate Statement:

I am honored to be considered for the role of Communications Chair for the IPEP SIG. Throughout my career as a physical therapist, educator, and leader, I have been deeply committed to advancing interprofessional education (IPE) and collaborative practice (IPC) within physical therapy and across the health professions.

As Associate Director of Clinical Education and Professor in the School of Physical Therapy at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS), I have worked to integrate IPE and IPC principles into both the classroom and clinical settings. As a founding leader of the MCPHS Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education (CIPE), I help oversee curriculum development for over 800 learners across nine health professions and three campuses—an experience that has strengthened my ability to communicate effectively across disciplines and educational levels.

My service includes leadership within ACAPT's National Interprofessional Education Consortium (NIPEC), participation on ACAPT's Task Force for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice, and appointment as the current IPEP SIG Communications Committee Chair since its inception in December 2023. I have also served as an abstract and journal reviewer for national and international conferences and publications, reinforcing my commitment to scholarly communication and dissemination of best practices in IPE.

If re-elected, I will continue to support transparent, timely, and engaging communication within the SIG, foster collaboration among members, and promote the visibility of our collective work through digital platforms, newsletters, and professional outreach. My goal is to amplify our shared mission of advancing interprofessional education and collaboration within the Academy of Education and beyond.

2026 ELECTIONS

**INTERPROFESSIONAL
EDUCATION AND
PRACTICE SIG
NOMINATING
COMMITTEE:**



APTA
Academy of Education.

INTERPROFESSIONALE DUCATION AND PRACTICE SIG NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Maritza Dominguez PT, PhD, CBIST

Biography:

Dr. Maritza Dominguez is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy and a licensed physical therapist. She is a Certified Brain Injury Specialist Trainer from the Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists and credentialed clinical instructor through the American Physical Therapy Association

Dominguez completed a PhD in Physical Therapy from the University of Central Arkansas in August 2020, a Master of Physical Therapy from the University of Texas at El Paso in May 2009, and a Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies from the University of Texas at Austin in May 2001. .

Her clinical expertise centers on post-acute neurological rehabilitation and community re-integration for adults recovering from brain injury, complemented by experience with geriatric clients and youth athletes. As a member of the Interprofessional Education Committee, Dr. Dominguez designs and teaches foundational coursework in therapeutic exercise, rehabilitation, complex patient management, professional development, and research for first- and second-year DPT students

Dr. Dominguez’s research focuses on interprofessional education, artificial intelligence in healthcare, adaptive fitness for individuals with disabilities, and animal-assisted therapy. She is recognized for mentoring over 100 graduate students across physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, counseling, and medicine, and for expanding clinical partnerships to eleven universities. Her scholarship directly informs institutional policies, emphasizing teamwork and collaborative care to improve patient outcomes.

A passionate leader and advocate for inclusive, team-based healthcare, Dr. Dominguez drives community outreach initiatives—such as adaptive fitness for spinal cord injury survivors and brain injury support—and works to break down professional silos. Beyond academia, she enjoys CrossFit, triathlons, pickleball, and family biking, and aims to advance equitable, high-quality interprofessional collaboration in healthcare nationally.

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND PRACTICE SIG NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Candidate Statement:

As an advocate for interprofessional collaboration and inclusive healthcare education, I am committed to advancing team-based practice through evidence-driven initiatives. With experience in developing and evaluating IPE clinical curricula across PT, OT, and SLP graduate programs, leading community-based interprofessional service projects, and mentoring students from diverse health disciplines, I bring a proven ability to bridge clinical and academic environments. My roles as a clinical researcher, Certified Brain Injury Specialist Trainer, and faculty leader have equipped me to foster innovative partnerships, promote role clarity, and support equitable patient-centered care. I welcome the opportunity to serve on the IPE Nominating Committee and help shape the future of interprofessional education and collaborative practice.

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND PRACTICE SIG NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Soren Long Grieve, PT, DPT

Biography:

I have been active in interprofessional practice and education throughout the entirety of my 27-year career as a practicing PT and as a PT educator. I was director of the Center for Interprofessional Education, Practice and Scholarship at Briar Cliff University for five years from its inception until spring of 2025. I participated in the IPEC Faculty Development Institute in 2021 and the AIHC Mentorship Program in 2023-2024, among many other IPE professional development opportunities. My IPE scholarship includes contributing to the ACAPT IPE Compendium as well as co-authoring a book chapter on inter-professional reasoning in an OT textbook. Through my involvement with IPEC and AIHC I have met many individuals in the IPE realm. I now have time to contribute to the Interprofessional Education and Practice SIG and I would like to begin as a committee member on the Nominating Committee.

INTERPROFESSIONALE DUCATION AND PRACTICE SIG NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Candidate Statement:

As a practicing physical therapist, I worked in almost every setting possible from acute care to hospice, and the one constant theme in every job was that I worked on an interprofessional team. Whether I was the only PT or one of many, I always saw patients as a member of a team of caregivers that included many different disciplines who communicated and worked together for the best outcomes. Without any prior education on them, I lived the IPEC Core Competencies of shared values and ethics, respect for roles and responsibilities, interprofessional communication, and teamwork.

Since I started teaching in the Briar Cliff University DPT program in 2020 my role has been to teach about interprofessional practice and to develop the interprofessional competencies within the program. I also stepped into the role of director of the Briar Cliff Center for Interprofessional Education, Practice and Scholarship right away. In that position I participated in the IPEC Faculty Development Institute in 2021 and the AIHC Mentorship Program in 2023-2024, as well as many other IPE professional development opportunities. I became the BCU subject matter expert on IPEP, assisting the various disciplines in developing IPE curricula and opportunities. One result of our work was to publish our IPEC Day experience in the ACAPT IPE Compendium. Another outcome of my involvement with IPEC and AIHC is that I have met many individuals in the IPE realm, which will assist in this position on the nominating committee.

Because I have a passion for IPE and a broad fund of knowledge in it, I would like to contribute to the APTA and the Academy of Education by participating in this SIG. I believe that a position on the nominating committee is a good place to begin to contribute. I hope that as I learn more about the SIG and the needs of the Academy, I can become more involved and contribute in other ways in the future.

Thank you for your consideration of my application.

2026 ELECTIONS

**PTA EDUCATORS SIG
MEMBERSHIP
RECORDING
SECRETARY:**



APTA
Academy of Education.



Christina Howard

Biography:

Dr. Christina Howard is the founding Faculty Coordinator of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Lane Community College in Eugene, Oregon, where she has provided leadership in PTA education for more than 18 years. She earned her Master of Physical Therapy degree from the University of California, San Francisco/San Francisco State University in 1995 and her Doctor of Education from the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences in 2020.

A dedicated educator and lifelong learner, Christina brings a strong commitment to student-centered teaching, professional service, and program development. Her leadership experience includes multiple roles within APTA-Oregon (Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Director), the Lane Community College Education Association (Vice President and Grievance Chair), and numerous college governance and academic committees focused on student learning assessment and program review. She currently serves as a CAPTE Program Reviewer and PTA Panel Member.

Dr. Howard has been recognized for her contributions to interprofessional education and PTA faculty development, and she regularly presents at local, regional, and national conferences. Her areas of interest include innovative student learning activities and assessment, faculty and leadership development, disability and universal design in education, and strategies to support transition-age youth with autism spectrum disorder. She is passionate about advancing PTA education through collaboration, reflective practice, and inclusive teaching approaches.

PTA EDUCATORS SIG RECORDING SECRETARY

Candidate Statement:

I am excited to submit my candidacy for Recording Secretary and would be grateful for the opportunity to continue serving the PTA educator community in this role.

As the founding Faculty Coordinator of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Lane Community College, my work is grounded in communication, organization, and collaboration. Whether supporting faculty teams, guiding program development, or participating in accreditation and governance, I rely on clear and accurate documentation to keep work moving forward and to ensure shared understanding.

These experiences have prepared me well for the responsibilities of Recording Secretary.

My previous service in APTA-Oregon—including roles as Secretary, Treasurer, President, and Bylaws Taskforce Chair—has allowed me to contribute to the profession through careful recordkeeping, continuity of leadership, and support of committee and board work. I have also gained valuable perspective through college governance roles and my work as a Faculty Union Grievance Chair, CAPTE Program Reviewer, and PTA Panel Member, where accurate records are essential for quality, accountability, and collaboration.

I am motivated by a strong belief in the power of connection and community among PTA educators. I see the role of Recording Secretary as a way to help support a culture that is inclusive, supportive, and welcoming where all voices are heard and contributions are valued. Through thoughtful documentation and clear communication, I hope to strengthen our shared work and help advance PTA education together.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to serve.

PTA EDUCATORS SIG RECORDING SECRETARY



Angie Lippiello

Biography:

I have been a Physical Therapist Assistant since 2003. My professional work experience includes working in skilled nursing and outpatient clinics. I began my journey in academia in 2009. Currently, I am a Clinical Assistant Professor and Program Director for the Physical Therapist Assistant program at Idaho State University. I have experience in leading the majority of the program courses. I am a Credentialed Clinical Instructor through the APTA and was the Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education for 9 years. In 2017, I completed a Master of Health Education degree. I have been an active member of the APTA ever since I was a PTA student. I was even awarded the Outstanding Physical Therapist Assistant Student 2003. I have served APTA Idaho through the nominating committee (2010-2013). I am a current member of the Academy of Education's PTA Educators SIG and serving as the Recording Secretary. I have served the state of Idaho as a PTA board member and a past board chair for the Idaho Physical Therapy Licensure Board from 2014 to 2021. In my personal time, I enjoy bowling, crafts, and attending cultural events.

Candidate Statement:

Thank you for the opportunity to be elected as the Recording Secretary for the Academy of Education's PTA Educators SIG. I would consider it an honor if I am able to serve in this role once again. I have over 22 years of experience as a PTA and over 16 years in PTA education which includes being an Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education. Through my APTA membership over the many years, I can attest to the value the APTA holds. I am especially grateful for the time I have spent as the Recording Secretary for the PTA Educators SIG. I have been able to experience firsthand the Academy of Education and the PTA Educators SIG's extraordinary resources. If chosen, I would like to continue to contribute to this section and special interest group. Personally, I strive to maintain a high level of integrity, respect, and professionalism. I know that my strengths match the requirements for the Recording Secretary position. I have an eye for details and great communication skills. Furthermore, I understand Robert's Rules of Order and follow customary procedures in a formal meeting. My physical therapy and educational experiences complement and enhance my Recording Secretary attributes making me a valuable PTA Educators SIG Leadership member. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve.

2026 ELECTIONS

PTA EDUCATORS SIG NOMINATING COMMITTEE:



APTA
Academy of Education.

PTA EDUCATORS SIG NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER



Carolyn Shisler, PT, M.Ed.

Biography:

Carolyn Shisler is an Associate Professor–Educator and Program Director for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at the University of Cincinnati Clermont College. She holds a Master’s in Education with a concentration in Curriculum and Instruction and a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy. Carolyn has over 30 years of experience in clinical practice and education, including leadership roles in clinical education and faculty development.

She is actively engaged in professional service with a current appointment to the APTA Collaborative for Physical Therapy Education and service from 2023-2025 on the APTA Academy of Education’s PTA Educators Special Interest Group (SIG) Nominating Committee. She continues to assist in coordinating the Teaching and Networking Communities for the SIG. Carolyn has contributed to national conferences through presentations on equity-minded teaching, PTA program leadership, and clinical education strategies. Her commitment to advancing physical therapy education is reflected her long-standing membership in the APTA and the Ohio Physical Therapy Association.

Candidate Statement:

I am an Assistant Professor and Program Director for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at the University of Cincinnati, Clermont, with over a decade of experience in PTA education. My teaching focuses on acute care and medically complex patients, and my recent work emphasizes collaboration within the PT–PTA team. My work has focused on advancing collaboration within the PT–PTA team, developing intraprofessional learning experiences with DPT programs.

I have served in leadership roles within the Academy of Education, including the PTA Educators SIG Board and Nominating Committee (2023-2025), the APTA Collaborative for Physical Therapy Education (2023-2026), and contributed to all phases of the PTA Education Summit. These experiences have allowed me to work closely with colleagues to advance educational initiatives and share outcomes nationally.

As PTA education continues to evolve, strong leadership continues to be essential to implementing and supporting the growth of our profession. This means a stronger PT-PTA team I would welcome the opportunity to serve on the Nominating Committee again, helping identify individuals who will guide our PTA Educators SIG with integrity and a commitment to collaboration and innovation.

2026 ELECTIONS

**RESIDENCY/
FELLOWSHIP
EDUCATION SIG
VICE CHAIR:**



APTA
Academy of Education.

RESIDENCY/FELLOWSHIP SIG MEMBERSHIP VICE CHAIR



David Nolan, PT, DPT, MS

Biography:

Dr. Nolan is an Associate Clinical Professor at Northeastern University in the Department of Physical Therapy, Movement and Rehabilitation Sciences in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Northeastern University. He is also a Lecturer at Harvard Medical School in the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Division. David is also a Clinical Specialist at the Mass General Sports Physical Therapy Service and the Director of the Mass General Hospital / Northeastern University Sports Physical Therapy Residency Program.

David is a board certified Orthopedic Clinical Specialist and Sports Clinical Specialist through the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties and a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist through the National Strength and Conditioning Association. In 2019 Dr. Nolan was the recipient of the Lynn Wallace Clinical Educator award from the American Academy of Sports Physical Therapy. He is a past recipient of the “Excellence in Clinical Teaching” award from the New England Consortium of Academic Coordinators of Clinical Education as well as the award for Outstanding Achievement in Clinical Practice by the Massachusetts Chapter of the APTA. In 2022, Dr. Nolan received the Richard Kessler Memorial Award from the APTA of Massachusetts. Dr. Nolan was also presented with the APTA Academy of Physical Therapy Education Distinguished Mentor in Residency/Fellowship Education Award in 2022.

Dr. Nolan has been a member of APTA for over twenty-five years and has held leadership roles within the APTA MA chapter in the Orthopedic, Shoulder, and Manual Therapy SIGs. He also served on the Nominating Committee and has served as a Central District Assembly Representative since 2016. At the National level he is active in the American Academy of Sports Physical Therapy and is part of the leadership in the Academy of Education Residency and Fellowship Education SIG currently serving as the Vice Chair. Dr. Nolan also serves on the American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education (ABPTRFE) Onsite Review Team.

RESIDENCY/FELLOWSHIP SIG MEMBERSHIP VICE CHAIR

Candidate Statement:

My career in physical therapy began as a clinician, but after several years of practice, I had the unique opportunity to serve as a lab assistant in a course at Northeastern University. I truly enjoyed working with students and found myself continually challenged to improve through teaching. It was deeply rewarding to see a concept “click” for a student after discussion or demonstration. Since then, I have continued to practice clinically while also serving as a faculty member in the DPT program at Northeastern University. Each role enhances the other, and the opportunity to teach has been one of the most fulfilling aspects of my career.

The creation and direction of the Mass General Hospital/Northeastern University Sports Physical Therapy Residency Program has allowed me to focus my passion for advanced clinical practice and post-professional education. I particularly value my experiences as a mentor and believe that developing and supporting mentorship is an essential objective of the SIG. As residency and fellowship programs continue to grow, this is a critical time to foster collaboration among all stakeholders to further advance post-professional education in physical therapy.

I have greatly enjoyed the collaborative work of the Residency and Fellowship Education SIG and the relationships built through service in leadership roles. During my two terms as Membership Secretary, our membership grew significantly, and we expanded resources and mentoring opportunities to support our members' evolving needs. Having also served one term as Vice Chair, I would be honored to continue contributing to the SIG's mission and to support our members in advancing residency and fellowship education.

Thank you for your consideration.

2026 ELECTIONS

**RESIDENCY/
FELLOWSHIP SIG
NOMINATING
COMMITTEE:**



APTA
Academy of Education.

RESIDENCY/FELLOWSHIP SIG NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER



Victoria Wilson Harris, PT, DPT, NCS

Biography:

Victoria Wilson received her Bachelor of Science in Nutrition Science from North Carolina State University in 2013 and her Doctor of Physical Therapy from The Medical University of South Carolina in 2017. She earned her Neurologic Clinical Specialist Certification in 2019 after completing the Medical University of South Carolina PT Neurologic Residency in 2018. She practices part-time in outpatient neurologic physical therapy at the Medical University of South Carolina and is now a full-time instructor at the university, as well as the current director of the Medical University of South Carolina's Neurologic Physical Therapy Residency program. She teaches in the neuromuscular course series as well as the applied physiology/therapeutics courses.

Candidate Statement:

I am honored to be considered for the APTA Academy of Education's Residency and Fellowship Special Interest Group Nominating Committee. I currently serve as an Instructor in the Neuromuscular and applied physiology/therapeutics curriculum at the Medical University of South Carolina and as Director of the Neurologic Physical Therapy Residency. These dual roles allow me to engage in both entry-level and postgraduate clinical education, supporting the development of new professionals entering our field.

Within MUSC's neurologic residency curriculum, I design and deliver didactic content, oversee and support clinical mentors, and guide residents in developing case studies and applying evidence-based practice. These responsibilities have given me a strong appreciation for the structure, leadership, and collaboration required to sustain high-quality residency programs. I am committed to cultivating learning environments that promote critical thinking, clinical excellence, and professional growth.

Beyond my teaching and residency duties, I serve on my division's Admissions and Policy & Procedure Committees, volunteer in our student-run pro bono physical therapy clinic, and act as the faculty advisor for the Alliance for Disability Advocacy student affinity group. These service roles reflect my dedication to supporting students, expanding access to care, and fostering inclusive educational spaces.

I am seeking the opportunity to serve on the Nominating Committee to connect with other educators and leaders who are passionate about residency and fellowship training. I hope to learn from colleagues across the country and bring those insights back to strengthen my own program. If elected, I will work to support a transparent, inclusive nomination process and to promote engagement among members who bring diverse perspectives and enthusiasm for advancing residency and fellowship education.

Thank you for your consideration. I welcome the opportunity to contribute to the SIG and to support the ongoing development of leaders within our residency and fellowship community.

RESIDENCY/FELLOWSHIP SIG NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER



Carrie Schwoerer, PT

Biography:

Carrie Schwoerer, PT, Board Certified Specialist in Orthopedics graduated from Marquette University with an MPT before completing the University of Wisconsin Hospitals & Clinics and UnityPoint Health – Meriter Orthopedic Residency. Following residency, she was hired at UW Health. Carrie currently manages two UW Health outpatient orthopedic & pelvic health clinics. She also is the current Director, University of Wisconsin Hospitals & Clinics and UnityPoint Health – Meriter Orthopedic Residency.

Carrie is active in the American Physical Therapy Association. She is a member of the Academies of Education, Oncology, Orthopedics, and Pelvic Health. Over her career, she has participated in work groups in these academies.

Candidate Statement:

Providing educational opportunities for future professional colleagues has defined my career. After completing the University of Wisconsin Hospitals & Clinics and UnityPoint Health – Meriter Orthopedic Residency, I went on to hold multiple leadership roles related to residency within UW Health and within APTA Components.

UW Health supports physical therapy residency education and also supported me as I expanded from being a staff clinician and clinical instructor to being more active in residency education. I currently serve as Director, University of Wisconsin Hospitals & Clinics and UnityPoint Health – Meriter Orthopedic Residency. I have also helped my colleagues in the planning phases of other content areas.

I held multiple leadership roles within APTA Components related to residency and fellowship. I first served as the Chair of the Residency Committee for the Academy of Pelvic Health before moving on to a term as the Director of Education. When I became the director of the University of Wisconsin Hospitals & Clinics and UnityPoint Health – Meriter Orthopedic Residency, I also became active in the Residency and Fellowship SIGs of the Academies of Education and Orthopedics. In the 10 years that have passed, I have participated in workgroups in both of those Academies.

These experiences have created networks with directors, faculty, residents, and resident graduates from various facilities. I believe I can draw on these relationships to help identify candidates for leadership roles within the Academy of Education.

2026 ELECTIONS

SCHOLARSHIP OF EDUCATION SIG CHAIR:



APTA
Academy of Education.

SCHOLARSHIP OF EDUCATION SIG CHAIR



Tricia R. Prokop, PT, MSPT, EdD

Biography:

Tricia R. Prokop, PT, MSPT, EdD, CSCS, is the Director of Student Affairs and an Associate Clinical Professor in the School of Physical and Occupational Therapy at Bowling Green State University. She began her career as a practicing physical therapist after earning her Master of Science in Physical Therapy in 2006 and has spent more than 15 years in DPT education, serving in adjunct faculty, core faculty, and Associate Program Director roles.

Tricia earned her Doctorate in Education in 2017, after which she solidified her scholarly focus on the role of metacognition in the development of clinical reasoning among health professions students. Her work has been disseminated widely through presentations at local and national conferences as well as publications in peer-reviewed journals and academic textbooks. She remains an active researcher in the areas of clinical reasoning, student support, and Master Adaptive Learner (MAL) development.

Tricia is equally passionate about supporting faculty. She mentors colleagues in student support strategies, clinical reasoning pedagogy, scholarly development, and implementation of the MAL model. She has served as faculty for the Academy of Education's New Faculty Development Workshop since 2022, contributing to the growth and preparation of emerging educators.

Candidate Statement:

I appreciate the opportunity to run for Chair of the Scholarship of Education Special Interest Group (SOE SIG). My passion and interest lie in the scholarship of teaching and learning. I have been a member of the APTA since 2003 and a member of the Academy since 2010. When I transitioned to academia in 2010, I desired to collaborate with interested colleagues and found involvement in the SOE SIG to be an excellent network to facilitate such opportunity. Through the years, I became interested in finding a way to give back to the Academy. I have been pleased to serve as a member of the SOE SIG Nominating Committee, Secretary, and currently Vice Chair. During those years, I have collaborated with the SOE leadership team to increase communication with members and facilitate meaningful opportunities to benefit all members of the SIG. Together, we have offered research mentoring sessions at CSM and ELC, hosted journal clubs, and are preparing to launch a collaborative research initiative in 2026. It has been my pleasure to be a member of this SIG and the Academy, and I look forward to building on the momentum that this SIG has created in the coming years.