



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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Urgent Call to Action: Contact Your Legislators

APTA and the Academy of Education are deeply concerned by the recent recommendation from the Reimagining and Improving Student Education, or RISE, Negotiated Rulemaking Committee, which, if enacted, would designate the doctor of



physical therapy degree — and dozens of other health care professional degrees — as a graduate degree rather than a professional degree.

If this proposed definition is adopted via official rulemaking by the Department of Education, the ability to borrow for federal student loans would be severely reduced, threatening to limit the physical therapy workforce at a time of nationwide shortages.

APTA strongly opposes this proposal and will continue to engage with the Department of Education to advocate for the profession, most especially when the proposed rule is published for public comment in early 2026. APTA is urging Congress to intervene, as the proposed definition runs contrary to congressional intent.

APTA members and other advocates can use the [APTA Patient Action Center](#) to send a prepared email, with key points, to members of Congress.

Although this recommendation is not final and is subject to additional steps that include a public comment period, APTA believes the idea is misguided and misinformed and will have a significant negative impact on the health of our communities and country by diminishing the number of quality health care professionals available to an already strained workforce.

[Act Now!](#)

Simulation Networking Community Launches Monthly Chats

We are pleased to share the launch of SimChats! This monthly meeting is a dedicated space for AoE members with interest in simulation to connect, exchange ideas, and collaborate on best practices. Each session highlights current topics in simulation-based education, offers opportunities for members to share experiences or challenges, and fosters meaningful discussion across diverse roles and settings. Whether you are new to simulation or a seasoned expert, this gathering provides a supportive environment to learn, network, and strengthen our collective impact on healthcare education and patient outcomes.

SimChats is launching on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 at noon EST**.

We will discuss tools for building simulation scenarios and share a new scenario builder that the Simulation Networking Community has been working on.

We will also have an open forum to discuss your questions and ideas related to simulation-based learning.

Please join SimChats at [SimChats Zoom](#) :
Meeting ID: 947 3412 5901 Passcode: 751877

[SimChats Zoom](#)

Future dates:

- Thursday, February 5, noon EST
- Thursday, March 5, noon EST
- Thursday, April 9, noon EST

Join us for the 51st Annual APTA CSM February 12th - 14th in Anaheim, California



This year, we're on a mission to excellence, pushing boundaries, and expanding horizons in physical therapy. Be a part of the largest physical therapy conference in the nation! Connect with thousands of PTs, PTAs, and students, and explore programming and events you won't find anywhere else.

[Register](#)

NEW! Call For Volunteers: CSM Co-Chair

The Academy of Education is seeking applicants interested in serving as Program Committee Co-Chair for the annual APTA Combined Sections Meeting (CSM). The CSM Co-Chair is appointed for a three-year term to work with two other co-chairs and Academy staff. The current full position description can be found in the [Academy of Education's Policies and Procedures \(page 161\)](#).

Upon appointment, the new co-chair will begin to train with the current co-chair team on planning for CSM '27 in March 2026.

Candidates must submit a statement of interest for this position with a current CV via the Academy's Volunteer Portal by [Friday, January 16](#).

[Volunteer](#)

Scholarship Announcement: Pre-Conference Course at CSM 2026



The CESIG is excited to announce a [Pre-Conference Course Scholarship](#) for those attending the [Combined Sections Meeting \(CSM\) in Anaheim, California](#)!

\$500 will be provided for use towards the course, this may also include lodging, meals, and transportation.

How to Apply:

Please complete the application at the link below by 12/30. Winners will be awarded by 1/15/26.

[Apply](#)

Academy Preconference Workshops



Discover how to start your research journey, harness AI in the classroom and clinic, or supplement shrinking department budgets with effective fundraising at one of the Academy of Education's Preconference Sessions:

Education Research: How to Begin Your Journey (Mini-GAMER) .8 CEUs

Ready to turn your curiosity into research that advances physical therapy education? This full-day mentored workshop gives novice researchers the structure and confidence to move from idea to action. Learn to frame meaningful research questions, select sound methods, and map a clear plan under expert guidance. Join us to build the skills and network that launch your scholarship journey—and leave with a concrete research roadmap.

[Learn More](#)

AI in Physical Therapy: A New Era of Education and Practice (.9 CEUs)

Artificial Intelligence is transforming every corner of health care—don't get left behind. This immersive preconference course demystifies AI and gives you hands-on practice with tools that elevate teaching, learning, and clinical reasoning. Explore real-world applications, tackle ethical and academic integrity challenges, and design AI-enhanced curricula or research ideas with peers. Take part and shape how AI advances physical therapy education and practice.

[Learn More](#)

Growing Philanthropic Support for Your Program: Developing a Strategic Roadmap for Success .8 CEUs

Strengthen your program's future by mastering the art of academic fundraising. This interactive seminar equips leaders and faculty to secure external support through strategic partnerships and compelling proposals. Learn how to align goals with donor priorities, craft high-impact funding plans, and engage stakeholders for lasting success. Build your roadmap to sustainable growth—and position your program for long-term advancement.

[Learn More](#)

Moderate a CSM Education or Platform Session!



Help make the Academy's CSM education and platform sessions a success by volunteering as a moderator!

To participate, you must be registered for CSM.

Responsibilities include:

- Arrive 15 minutes prior to the session
- For platforms, ask them to load their presentation to the provided laptop
- Welcome the participants and give the title of the session
- For platforms, keep time and signal to speaker when time is running out
- Assist with questions per the speakers' request
- Ensure the session ends on time

We thank you for considering how you might be able to help. Please sign up by Thursday, January 29.

[Sign Up](#)

Volunteer at the Academy's CSM 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" - we will provide answers to FAQs. 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 CSM schedule.

[Sign Up](#)

Physical Therapy Faculty Development Workshop (PTFDW)

2026 Physical Therapy Faculty Development Workshop

The Academy is excited to offer two versions of the workshop this year: virtual in March and in-person in July.



REGISTER NOW

Virtual

March 2-4
Zoom



In-person

July 29 - August 1
Chicago, IL



Workshop Goals:

1. Introduce novice faculty to established roles in the academy.
2. Facilitate professional growth of developing faculty members.
3. Cultivate a network of academic colleagues among workshop participants and facilitators.
4. Create a professional development plan incorporating elements of teaching, scholarship and service.
5. Design instructional activities and assessment methods that reflect contemporary best practices.
6. Examine the integration of cultural humility within the physical therapy curricula.

Focused Learning Opportunities:

1. Discussions on balancing responsibilities of teaching, research and service as the new faculty member acclimates to a role in higher education.
2. Applying core principles of teaching and learning, using best practices in course development, student assessments, and student engagement.
3. Fostering professionalism and coaching.
4. Focusing on the unique role of the Director of Clinical Education (DCE) as a member of the faculty team.
5. Individual or small group consulting opportunities with faculty facilitators during the workshop.
6. Post course synchronous networking and follow-up for participants.

[Chicago Registration](#)[Virtual Registration](#)

2026 Promotion of Doctoral Studies Scholarships Applications are Open!



FOUNDATION FOR
PHYSICAL THERAPY
RESEARCH

In 2026, the APTA Academy of Education is supporting an award available to pre-candidate doctoral students (\$7,500) or doctoral candidates (\$15,000). Applicants must be members of both APTA and the Academy at the time the application is submitted.

Doctoral students and candidates who are focused on PT education research are not limited to this award. They may apply and be eligible for non-restricted awards, too.

Key Dates:

- **Application deadline:** January 20, 2026, 4:59 p.m. ET
- **Award announcements:** Late June 2026
- **Scholarship start date:** September 1, 2026

For eligibility details, guidelines, and instructions, visit the [Foundation's website](#). To receive updates and FAQs, [join the scholarship email list](#).

[Learn More and Apply](#)

FHEL Applications Open October 1 - March 1



Fellowship for Higher Education Leadership Accepting Applications for 26-27 Cohort

Registration is now open for the Fellowship of Higher Education Leadership, a program designed for current and aspiring directors and leaders in physical therapy education to enhance leadership skills, connect theory and practice and access mentorship from experienced PT education academic leaders. The 13-month program combines asynchronous modules created by content experts, interactive live office hours and three immersive sessions to prepare PT and PTA faculty for leadership positions.

SIG SPOTLIGHT

Scholarship of Education SIG



The Scholarship of Education Special Interest Group of the APTA Academy of Education provides a forum where both academic and clinical educators will promote and enhance the quality of educational scholarship in physical therapist education. The SIG seeks to foster the development of educational researchers and facilitate collaboration and translation of research to educational practice.

Learning Objectives

- Promote educational scholarship in physical therapy.
- Provide role modeling, mentorship and support for researchers interested in educational research.
- Foster networking and collaboration among educational researchers.
- Assist in the exploration of best practices in physical therapy education and facilitate the translation of these findings into practice.

Leadership

Chair: [Sarah Gilliland, PT, DPT, PhD](#)

Vice Chair: [Tricia Rogers Prokop, PT, MSPT, EdD](#)

Secretary: [Cara Felter, PT, PhD, DPT, MPH](#)

Nominating Committee Chair: [Kelly B Reynolds, PT, DPT, NCS, PhD](#)

Nominating Committee: [Liana Wooten, PT, DPT, PhD](#)

QUICK CLICKS



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Virtual Exhibit Booth!

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Participate in your
Colleagues' Research

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Journal of Physical
Therapy Education to be
Indexed in MEDLINE

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