



ACADEMY ROUNDUP

The Official Newsletter for the APTA Academy of Education

A source of news, announcements, and upcoming events for physical therapy educators.

Newsletter Highlights

Announcements:

- New Year, New PTA Council Steering Group
- **NEW!** CESIG Education Impact Initiative
- Physical Therapist Assistant Educators SIG (PTAESIG) Teaching and Networking Communities: *Spring 2026*
- **NEW!** Stronger Together: Building Collaborative Research in PT Education: *Virtual Workshop*
- Simulation Networking Community Launches Monthly Chats
- **PTA Honor Society Nominations Now Open! Nominate Early**

- **CSM 2026**
- **NEW!** CSM PTA Town Hall
- SOESIG Education Research Consulting Session
- Register for a Pre-Conference!
- Call for CSM Moderators

- Volunteer at the Academy's CSM Booth
- Physical Therapy Faculty Development Workshop (PTFDW) 2026: *Registration Open!*
- FHEL Applications Open From October 1 - March 1
- SIG Spotlight
 - Anatomy Educators SIG (AESIG)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Year, New PTA Council Steering Group

The 2026 PTA Council Steering Group will be led by:
Chair: **Sanaz Holcomb** and Co-Chair: **Christy Hall**

Steering Group Members include:
Lynette Lauterbach, Laurie Roberts, and Shannon Simpson



Jeannie Thompson will serve as the PTA Council Chief Delegate alongside **Alissa Thompson** as the PTA Council Alternate Delegate.

CE SIG Education Impact Initiative: Application CCIP Scholarship

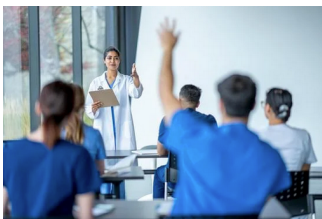


The CESIG has an Education Impact Initiative Award available for up to \$500 registration and associated costs for attendance of a Credential Clinical Instructor Program (CCIP) level 1 or level 2 course in 2026. This could be an in-person or virtual course but must be attended in 2026. Please share this information with your clinicians.

Deadline for the application is February 28.

[Apply!](#)

Physical Therapist Assistant Educators SIG (PTAESIG) Spring 2026 Teaching & Networking Communities



Are you ready to make connections and build your network?

Sign up for the PTA Educators SIG Spring 2026 Teaching & Networking Communities.

The networking sessions will begin the week of **February 16, 2026.**

Networking topics for PTA Educators include:
Administration/Clinical Education and
Teaching and Learning.

Please note:

Registrants must be AoE AND PTAE SIG members and PTA educators (academic or clinical).

Sign up now! Don't miss this great opportunity!

Sign-up ends on Monday, February 2!

[Sign Up!](#)



Stronger Together: Building Collaborative Research in PT Education

A Free Virtual Workshop Series for DPT and PTA Faculty

Are you a DPT or PTA faculty member driven to explore the impact of teaching and learning practices, educational innovation, or student outcomes, but unsure how to turn your ideas into a research project? Do you have ideas you're eager to study, but need help finding the right team to make it happen?

Whether you're just beginning your research journey or looking to expand your scholarly reach, this is your opportunity to connect, create, and contribute. This workshop offers the support, structure, and collaboration you need to bring your vision to life. Don't miss out on the opportunity to connect and collaborate with like-minded colleagues to build something *Stronger Together*.

We invite you to apply for *Stronger Together: Building Collaborative Research in PT Education*, a **FREE** two-part **virtual** workshop series designed to empower physical therapy and physical therapy assistant educators with the tools, mentorship, and community needed to launch impactful research projects. Up to 20 participants will be accepted into the workshop.

This workshop builds on prior work from the ACAPT Clinical Reasoning Consortium, [Mini-GAMER](#), and [Tarleton State University, President's Excellence in Research Scholars \(PERS\) initiative](#), in collaboration with the Texas Alliance of Physical Therapist Assistant Educators (TAPTAE).

Your Next Step Starts Here

- Collaborative research teams (3–5 members) matched by shared interests
- Expert guidance from the APTA Academy of Education's SOE SIG leadership team
- Structured support through 2026 to develop and implement a research project
- A clear roadmap for IRB submission, grant applications, and scholarly dissemination
- \$1,000 seed grant for teams who complete the workshop and submit final deliverables

What to Expect

- Flexible, accessible opportunities to build research skills
- Mentorship in transforming educational questions into rigorous education research
- Cross-institutional collaborations to elevate PT education research

Workshop Format:

The *Stronger Together* workshop series is delivered in **two virtual sessions**.

Part 1: Focuses on team formation, refining a researchable question, conducting a literature review, and outlining a conceptual framework.

Part 2: Guides teams in developing a detailed research proposal, preparing IRB-ready materials, and identifying funding opportunities.

Participants receive ongoing consultation and support through 2026 to help bring their projects to life.

Part 1: June 5, 2026

- Focuses on team formation, refining a researchable question, conducting a literature review, and outlining a conceptual framework.

Part 2: August 14, 2026

- Guides teams in developing a detailed research proposal, preparing IRB-ready materials, and identifying funding opportunities.
- Participants receive ongoing consultation and support through 2026 to help bring their projects to life.

Application Deadline: February 20, 2026

Whether you're just starting out or looking to grow your research portfolio, this is your opportunity to connect, collaborate, and contribute to the future of physical therapy education.

Let's build something *Stronger Together*.

[Apply!](#)

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.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Thursday, February 5, noon EST
- Thursday, March 5, noon EST
- Thursday, April 9, noon EDT
- Thursday, May 7, noon EDT

PTA Honor Society Nominations are Now Open Submit by March 1st

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



Nominate Early! Faculty may need to nominate before all final requirements/courses are completed in order to get certificates in time for graduation. May/June graduates should be nominated by March 1.

[Submit Your Nomination](#)

**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](#)

CSM PTA Town Hall

Join us for the **PTA Town Hall on Thursday, February 12, 2026 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at the Anaheim Convention Center, Main Building, Room 204 C** to network with your PTA Council Representative and receive important updates including:

- 2026 PTA Council Goals
- PTA Volunteering Opportunities
- APTA BOD Leadership Update

Whether you are in PTA or DPT education, come learn about PTA hot topics to take back to your program. ***As a head's up, the PTA Educators SIG will walk over to the PTA Town Hall as a group immediately after that SIG meeting concludes.*** Most importantly, full-sized candy bar prizes have been confirmed. You don't want to miss it!

Remember to search for "PTA Town Hall" in the conference app to add this important meeting to your CSM schedule. See you there!

Feel free to reach out with any questions.
Shannon Simpson, PTA, BA
Academy of Education PTA Council Representative
ssimpson0015@gmail.com

PT in the Community is back for CSM 2026!

Join in supporting local organizations through a variety of opportunities, like meal service, health & fitness screenings, narcan training, care package assembly, and so much more. No matter your schedule, there's a way to give back. And some activities don't even require sign-up. *All volunteers will get a PT in the Community T-shirt designed by a local artist + a raffle entry!*

If unable to join in on activities during the week of CSM, **please consider donating to the cause.**

PT in the Community is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the mission to positively impact the local underserved and disadvantaged communities that are visited for physical therapy conferences.

[Learn More and Make an Impact!](#)

NEW! SOESIG Education Research Consulting Session at CSM

The SOE SIG is hosting our education research consulting session from 4:00-5:30pm on Thursday February 12 at CSM in Anaheim.

This is a short term mentoring session. We will have consultants with experience in a variety of areas of educational research and you can use this time to meet with them and discuss your ideas, questions etc. The room will be set up in round tables and the consultants will have signs indicating areas of expertise. We are currently seeking both consultants and participants.

If you are interested in being a consultant please sign up here. You do not have to be an "expert" in your field, you simply need to have SOME experience with conducting and presenting/publishing educational research.

If you are a researcher looking for guidance, advice, or short term mentoring, please sign up here.

[Consultant Sign Up](#)

[Researcher Sign Up](#)

If you have any questions about the event, reach out to: SOESIG chair [Sarah Gilliland](#).
We hope to see you in Anaheim!!

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:

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)

REGISTRATION OPEN!

2026 Physical Therapy Faculty Development Workshops

The Academy of Education is excited to offer a virtual and an in-person PTFDW. Don't delay, register today!

Virtual

March 2 - 5 Zoom



In-person

July 29 - Aug 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

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.

Learn More

Apply

SIG SPOTLIGHT

Anatomy Educators SIG (AESIG)



The AESIG serves as a forum for those teaching anatomy in physical therapy (PT and PTA) educational programs. We seek to foster awareness of best practices in anatomy education and to provide anatomy educators with tools to enhance their work. Developing relationships with others teaching anatomy content can provide mentorship to novice faculty, promote research collaboration, and facilitate the exchange of ideas. We strive to increase awareness of available resources, and active involvement in the Academy and other anatomy-related professional associations.

Learning Objectives

- Provide an online network for the exchange of information related to physical therapy anatomy education.
- Foster awareness of best-practice and teaching tools available to physical therapy anatomy educators to enhance the integration and application of the foundational sciences into the development of clinical reasoning skills and physical therapy practice.
- Coordinate efforts with existing anatomy professional organizations to ensure efficient use of available resources and the dissemination of education-related information and evidence-based anatomical sciences research germane to educators in our field.

- Foster mentoring relationships between experienced and novice faculty teaching anatomy in physical therapy education programs.
- Facilitate collaborative efforts in anatomy and anatomy education-related research among physical therapy anatomy educators.

Leadership

Chair: [Will Conrad, PT, DPT, EdD, MS](#)

Vice Chair: [Alison Lynn McKenzie, PT, DPT, PhD](#)

Membership Secretary: [Eryn Milian, PhD, DPT](#)

Recording Secretary/Website: [Jay Ciccotelli, PT, DPT, PhD](#)

Nominating Committee Chair: [Melissa Cencetti, PT, DPT, EdD](#)

Nominating Committee Member: [Melissa Tolbert, PT, DPT, ATC](#)

Nominating Committee Member: [Ashley Simons, PT, DPT, PhD, OCS](#)

Program Committee Chair: [Marsha Rutland, PT, ScD, OCS](#)

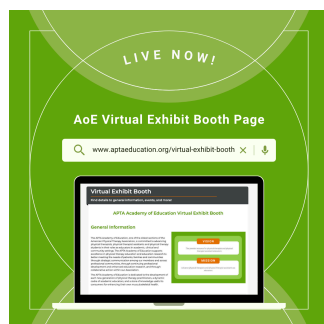
Liaison Committee Co-Chair: [Casey Movinsky, PT, DPT, PCS](#)

Liaison Committee Co-Chair: [Kelby Kaplan, PT, DPT, EdD](#)

Research Committee Chair: [Noel Goodstadt, PT, DPT, OCS, CSCS](#)

Research Committee Member: [Jeb Helms, PT, DPT, EdD, OCS, SCS](#)

QUICK CLICKS



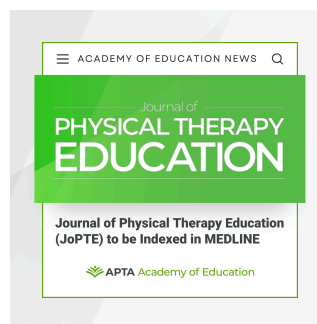
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Journal of Physical
Therapy Education

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