



# 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:

- Federal Affairs Liaison December Update
- **New!** Simulation Networking Community Launches Monthly Chats
- CSM 2026
  - **Call for Volunteers: CSM Co-Chair**  
*Deadline: Friday, January 16*
  - 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!**
- Foundation for Physical Therapy Research - Doctoral Studies Scholarships are Open!
- FHEL Applications Open From October 1 - March 1
- SIG Spotlight
  - Academic Faculty SIG

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Federal Affairs Liason December Update

#### Student Loan Rule Proposal: No New Updates at This Time

##### Summary:

The Department of Education's proposed rule would reclassify PT degrees as graduate rather than professional, significantly lowering federal loan limits. This



would reduce the lifetime borrowing cap from \$200,000 to \$100,000 and the annual cap from \$50,000 to \$20,500.

APTA is a founding member of the Alliance for Healthcare Access and Workforce Development and has submitted formal comments opposing the proposal. Advocacy efforts include meetings with Congress and the Department of Education to highlight concerns about workforce impacts.

[Learn More](#)

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## 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
- Thursday, May 7, noon EST

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



**APTA**  
Academy of Education.  
A Component of the American  
Physical Therapy Association

Visit us  
**BOOTH 1559**

**APTA Combined  
Sections Meeting**  
Feb 12-14, 2026 / Anaheim, CA



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](#)

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## **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](#)

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## **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](#)

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## **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](#)

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## **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

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## 2026 Promotion of Doctoral Studies Scholarships Applications are Open!



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.

Learn More

Apply

## SIG SPOTLIGHT

### Academic Faculty SIG (AFSIG)



The Academic Faculty SIG shall serve as a resource and forum for individuals who are or have an interest in academic faculty. The Academic Faculty SIG will facilitate networking, mentoring, and sharing of resources for all individuals interested in the roles, responsibilities, teaching, scholarship and service of academic faculty.

#### Learning Objectives

- Provide a mechanism for encouraging and enhancing communication among academic faculty and those interested in academic faculty.
- Facilitate and increase opportunities for academic faculty development and mentoring.
- Create and promote mechanisms for academic faculty to participate in the APTA Academy of Education.
- Serve as a resource body on issues related to academic faculty.
- Promote cooperative efforts among academic faculty

#### Leadership

Chair: [Derek Liuzzo PT, DPT, PhD](#)

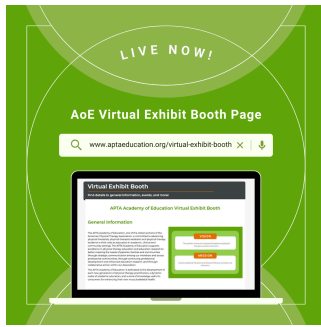
Vice Chair: [Jamie Dehan PT, PhD, DPT, MS](#)

Secretary: [Heather Green, PT, DPT](#)

Nominating Committee Chair: [Stephanie Eton PT, DPT, GCS](#)

Member Engagement Coordinator: [Kirsten Potter, PT, DPT, MS](#)

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Colleagues' Research

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Therapy Education

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