



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:

- Take Action: Protect Federal Loan Access for Physical Therapy Students
- **Physical Therapy Faculty Development Workshop (PTFDW) 2026: Virtual Workshop Registration Extended to Feb 22! [Register Now!](#)**
- FHEL Applications CLOSE **Mar 1**
- FHEL Grants for PTA Educators
- Simulation Networking Community Launches Monthly Chats
- SOESIG Education Research Consulting Session
- Call for JoPTE Journal Club Committee Members!
- The Journal of Physical Therapy Education (*JoPTE*) Editorial Fellowship
- CESIG Education Impact Initiative
- Stronger Together: Building Collaborative Research in PT Education: *Virtual Workshop*
- PTA Honor Society Nominations Now Open! Nominate Early
- Academy Announces Grant, Award Winners
- **Webinars**
 - RFESIG Journal Club | Mar 10 | 8PM
 - AESIG Journal Club | Mar 19 | 7:30PM
 - RFESIG Journal Club | Jun 9 | 8PM
 - RFESIG Journal Club | Sept 8 | 8PM
 - RFESIG Journal Club | Dec 8 | 8PM
- SIG Spotlight
 - Clinical Education SIG

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Take Action: Protect Federal Loan Access for Physical Therapy Students



On January 29, 2026, the U.S. Department of Education released a proposed rule that includes a new definition that, if enacted, would reclassify dozens of professional degree programs (including physical therapy) as “graduate degree programs” for the purposes of federal student loan borrowing limits.

Under this proposal, “graduate degree programs” would have an annual borrowing limit of \$20,500 and a lifetime cap of \$100,000. In contrast, programs designated as “professional degree programs” would continue to have a \$50,000 annual limit and a \$200,000 total cap. As a result, future physical therapy students would face significantly lower federal student loan limits.

While APTA supports efforts to reduce the cost of education, this arbitrary proposal, contrary to congressional intent, would create new barriers for prospective students and negatively affect the health care workforce at a time of nationwide shortages.

The proposed rule is within a 30-day comment period after which the Department will potentially enact a finalized rule. [Comment on the rule here.](#)

In the meantime, Congress has begun pushing back on the Department’s approach. Notably, H.R. 6718 and H.R. 6574 have been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives to ensure that professional degree programs, including physical therapy, remain classified as “professional degree programs” rather than being treated as “graduate degree programs.”

Please take a few minutes to send an email to your representative urging them to support these two pieces of legislation.

To take action, [click here](#), or press the button below and scroll down to “[Take Action: Protect Federal Loan Access for Physical Therapy Students](#)” to input your information and send a letter to your representative.

[Take Action Now](#)

Physical Therapy Faculty Development Workshop (PTFDW)

Virtual Registration Extension to February 22!

New to DPT or PTA faculty roles? *You don’t have to figure it out alone.*

The APTA Academy of Education is offering two New Faculty Development Workshops this year designed specifically for early-career faculty. These interactive sessions bring new faculty together with experienced faculty facilitators to explore real-world topics including navigating faculty roles and responsibilities, implementing evidence-informed instructional and assessment strategies, and maintaining a sustainable work-life balance.

You'll leave with practical tools, fresh ideas, and a growing professional network—plus post-workshop networking sessions to keep the conversation (and support) going long after the workshop ends.

Virtual Workshop: March 2-5 - registration ends February 22

Chicago Workshop: July 30 - August 1

Chicago Registration

Virtual Registration

 **APTA** Academy of Education.

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.

Virtual

March 2 - 5
Zoom



In-person

July 30 - 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.

FHEL Applications CLOSE March 1 - Apply NOW



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](#)

Two FHEL Scholarships Available to PTA Educators

Any PTA educator (either PT or PTA) who submits their application to FHEL by March 1, 2026 will be automatically considered for this scholarship. Two scholarships to cover tuition to the FHEL will be awarded.

This scholarship will cover the cost of tuition only for FHEL and the recipient will be responsible for covering the cost of travel and course materials.

Criteria for Eligibility for the PTA Educators FHEL Grant:

- Being a current PTA educator (either academic or clinical)
- Being a current Academy of Education and PTAE SIG Member Agree to follow-up their FHEL experience with PTA-focused scholarship (exact type can

be discussed with the chair of the PTAE SIG and can be decided on an individual basis)

- Willing to cover costs of travel and course materials to FHEL

Scholarship recipients will be decided based on the following criteria:

- Number of years in PTA education
- Needs-based following a review of the submitted institutional financial responsibly paperwork
- Responses to essay questions submitted as part of the FHEL process

No additional paperwork is required to be submitted. All fully completed PTA educator FHEL applications will be reviewed for this grant.

Any questions can be directed to the chair of the PTA Educators SIG at Chair-PTAESIG@aptaeducation.org

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.

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

Upcoming Meetings:

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

Call for JoPTE Journal Club Committee Members!

Join the JoPTE Journal Club Committee!

We are seeking an enthusiastic physical therapy educator to join the Journal of Physical Therapy Education (JoPTE) Journal Club Committee. Committee members play a key role in transforming current JoPTE scholarship into dynamic online learning experiences by identifying timely article topics, inviting authors to present,



organizing engaging webinar sessions, developing high-quality continuing education content, and contributing to innovative ideas that elevate PT education.

PTAs are encouraged to apply.

The JoPTE Journal Club Committee Member helps plan, coordinate, market, and deliver up to three virtual journal club sessions per year. Committee members collaborate on article selection, speaker outreach, session design, and live facilitation tasks to ensure high-quality, engaging professional development for PT/PTA educators and clinicians.

Committee members may rotate through functional roles (e.g., session moderator, marketing coordinator, chair) based on availability, interest, and committee needs.

Time Commitment: 1-2 meetings per month typically during the day.

Term: 3-years beginning in July 2026

Interested applicants should submit a CV and a brief letter of interest. This is a great opportunity to collaborate with colleagues, expand your scholarly impact, and support excellence in physical therapy education.

Applications due April 15, 2026. Send to [Jonathan Duellman](#).

Questions?

Contact: [Jonathan Duellman](#)

The Journal of Physical Therapy Education (JoPTE) Editorial Fellowship

Journal of

PHYSICAL THERAPY EDUCATION

The aim of the *JoPTE* Editorial Fellowship is to support education researchers and develop a cadre of peer reviewers and future Editorial Board members who bring diverse perspectives to the Journal.

About

This 12-month editorial fellowship offers early career physical therapy faculty the opportunity to learn about peer review, editing, publication decisions, and serving on an Editorial Board. The fellowship will offer hands on, practical experience and mentorship where fellows will work with the team at *JoPTE* to learn about the process of education research publication as well as the roles of the Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board. Fellows will attend monthly virtual meetings with the JoPTE

team and will be invited to attend the JoPTE Editorial Board meeting held at the Combined Sections Meeting in 2027. There are virtual options for attendance. Fellows responsibilities will include assisting with the management of submissions, proofreading, and completing at least 6 mentored peer reviews over the course of the 12 month fellowship. Fellows will work with the Editor-in-Chief on screening manuscripts for appropriateness, identifying reviewers and then work with seasoned Editorial Board members on making decisions based on reviews, ultimately seeing accepted manuscripts through the publication process. Mentees will have the opportunity to co-author an Editorial at the end of the program.

The fellowship will run from June 1, 2026 to May 31, 2027.

Application Details

Criteria: Applicants must currently serve as physical therapy faculty members and need to meet the criteria to serve as a peer reviewer for JoPTE, having authored/coauthored at least 2 peer reviewed, published manuscripts. This fellowship experience will hopefully translate to increased success with article submission and publication and fellows may consider serving on an Editorial Board in the future.

If you are interested, please send your CV and a 500-word statement about why you would like to be an JoPTE Editorial mentee and your objectives for the program to JoPTEEditor@aptaeducation.org Be sure to tell us about the diverse perspective you will bring to JoPTE.

Applications are due April 30, 2026, decisions will be rendered in May, and appointments will begin in June 2026. We will interview select applicants and appoint up to 2 fellows for 2026-2027.

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 at 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!

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!

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

Congratulations Academy Grant, Award Winners!

The following members were recognized for their leadership and research at the Academy of Education's Annual Business Meeting February 13 in Anaheim, CA:

Grants

- James Moore, PT, PhD
- Sarah Fishel, PT, DPT
- Madeline Ratoza, PT, DPT

Adopt A Doc Awards

Distinguished Mentor in Residency/Fellowship Education Award

- Meredith Chaput, PT, DPT, PhD, Board-Certified Sports Clinical Specialist

Outstanding Site Coordinator for Clinical Education Award

- Michele Neils, PT, DPT, MHSA

Outstanding Clinical Instructor Award

- Rebecca Johnson, PT, DPT
- Lauren Plum, PT, DPT, Board-Certified Orthopaedic Clinical Specialist
- Leah Verebes, PT, DPT

Stanford Award

- Steven Ambler, PT, DPT, PhD, MPH
- Tamara Burlis, PT, DPT, MHS
- Ruth Clark, PT, DPT
- Gregory Holtzman, PT, DPT
- Patricia Navarro McGee, PT, DPT, PCS
- Jody Frost, PT, DPT, PhD, FAPTA, FNAP
- Jessica Randolph, EdD
- Barbara Norton, PT, PhD, FAPTA
- Carey Holleran, PT, MPT, DHS

Feitelberg Founder's Award

- Dawn Brown, PT, DPT, EdD
- Chandi Edmonds, PT, DPT

- James Coble, PT, DPT

Distinguished Educator in Physical Therapist Assistant Education

- Deanne Grier Yates, PTA, PhD

Distinguished Educator in Physical Therapist Education

- Morris Casano Beato, PT, DPT, GCS, NCS

Award for Leadership in Education

- Jennifer Furze, PT, PhD, FAPTA

2027 Pauline Cerasoli Lectureship

- Stephen Jernigan, PT, PhD

President's Award

- Chalee Engelhard, PT, EdD, MBA



Mar 10 | [RFE SIG Journal Club](#)

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM EDT

[Register](#)

Mar 19 | [AESIG Journal Club: Current State of Anatomy in DPT Programs](#)

7:30 PM - 8:30 PM EDT

[Register](#)

Jun 9 | [RFE SIG Journal Club](#)

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM EDT

Sep 8 | [RFE SIG Journal Club](#)

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM EDT

Dec 8 | [RFE SIG Journal Club](#)

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM EST

SIG SPOTLIGHT

Clinical Education (CESIG)

The Clinical Education SIG shall serve as a resource and forum for individuals who have professional concerns for the coordination, implementation, and evaluation of clinical education for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants. Both academic and clinical faculty are welcome!

Objectives:

- To provide a vehicle for increasing and improving communication among clinical educators.
- To increase the participation of clinical educators in the APTA Academy of Education.
- To provide continuing education in areas pertinent to clinical evaluation and teaching.
- To foster problem solving in clinical education using the scientific method.
- To promote cooperative efforts among educational programs and clinical sites in scheduling, evaluation, and continuing education.
- To develop guidelines for the continuing development and evaluation of academic and clinical faculty involved in clinical education.
- To serve as a resource body involved in acquiring, cataloguing, and disseminating information relating to clinical education in physical therapy.

Leadership:

Clinical Co-Chair: [Julie Gruden, PT, DPT](#)

Academic Co-Chair: [Elsa Drevyn, PT, DPT](#)

Membership Secretary: [Ryan Pontiff, PT, DPT, PhD](#)

Recording Secretary: [KeithAnn Halle, PT, DPT, CBIS](#)

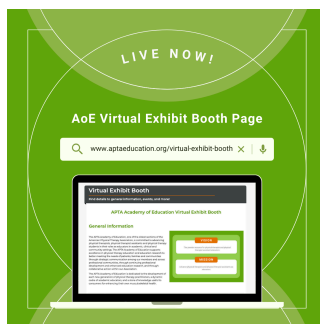
SIG Nominating Committee Chair: [Julie Lombardi, PT, DPT, CBIS, NCS](#)

SIG Nominating Committee Member:

[Derrick F. Campbell, PT, DPT, DSc, cert MDT, OCS](#)

SIG Nominating Committee Member: [Amanda Piccoli, PT, DPT, AIB-VRC](#)

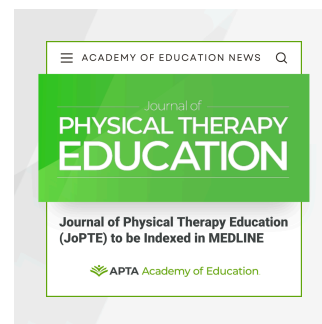
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CURRENT LITERATURE

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