



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

- Upcoming Webinar | April 3
- IPEC Seminar Series | April 8
- SOE SIG: Third Education Research Consulting Session
- JoPTE Journal Club Meeting | April 10
- 2025 Academy Elections Open April 1
- **Academy Welcomes New Board Members!**
- Student Council Liaison Needed
- Resource for Tracking Executive Orders
- ELC 2025: Submissions are Open!
- Volunteer for the Academy!
- PT Academic Leadership: *Survey*
- NEW Member Benefit - Online Community
- April 3: Webinar Registration Open!
- Abstract Reviewers Needed!
- Clinical Education SIG Educational Initiatives
- NEW! Education Impact Initiative Project
- SIG Spotlight
- *Save The Date: GAMER 2026*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



EMPOWER: The Impact of Mentorship on a Student's Professional Journey



Thursday | April 3 | 7-8PM EST

[Register](#)

Learning Objectives

1. Describe common challenges of DPT and PTA students who are from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds or are considered academically “at-risk” upon admission to the program.
2. Summarize the structure of one paid mentorship model aimed to support DPT and PTA students from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds.
3. Explore if this Program, or a similar Program, can be implemented on your own campus.

Speakers:

*Angela Spontelli Gisselman PT, PhD, DPT ;
Melissa Burgemeister, PT, DPT, ATC*



IPEC Seminar Series: Part 1 of 4

Explore the fundamentals of Interprofessional Education (IPE) in this engaging one-hour webinar designed to promote effective collaboration across health professions. Discuss the principles of IPE and its importance in improving patient outcomes. The webinar features a panel of renowned experts, each bringing unique perspectives and real-world experience in interprofessional education. Following their presentations, attendees will have the opportunity to engage in a live Q&A session, allowing for deeper exploration of key concepts and tailored advice.

Whether you're a healthcare educator, practitioner, or student, this session will equip you with foundational knowledge and inspire you to integrate interprofessional approaches into your professional journey.

This webinar is ideal for educators, healthcare professionals, students, and administrators interested in fostering collaborative practices to enhance learning and patient care

Introduction to Interprofessional Education: Enhancing Collaboration Across Professions



Tuesday | April 8 | 7-8PM EST

[Register](#)

Learning Objectives

By the end of this webinar, participants will be able to:

1. Articulate the key principles and goals of interprofessional education and its role in improving teamwork and collaboration across disciplines.
2. Discuss how interprofessional education contributes to better health outcomes, enhances professional communication, and prepares learners for collaborative practice.
3. Recognize the essential elements of successful interprofessional education initiatives, including team-based learning, shared decision-making, and mutual respect among professions.
4. Discuss actionable insights from expert panelists on integrating IPE into educational programs or practice settings..

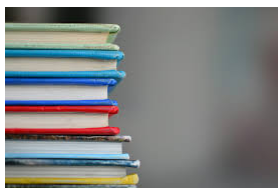
Speakers:

Shelley McKearney, BS

Kim Dunleavy, PhD, PT, FNAP

Shelley Cohen Konrad, PhD, LCSW, FNAP

Journal of PHYSICAL THERAPY EDUCATION



Join the JoPTE Journal Club!

April 10 | 4pm

A Snapshot of Attitudes Toward Generative Artificial Intelligence in Physical therapy Education by Richard Severin, PT, DPT, PhD & Kendra Gagnon, PT, PhD

[Register](#)

[Read the Article](#)

The SOE SIG is Hosting: Third Education Research Consulting Session

For those seeking mentoring, this is a drop in session and you can come and go at anytime during the hour. To attend, use this link on **April 22**:



[Zoom Link](#)

Passcode: 047210

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 session will have breakout rooms and the consultants will each be in a breakout room. The main Zoom room will have information on the consultants and their expertise.

- **We are currently seeking both consultants and participants.**

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.

[Consultant Sign Up](#)

[Researcher Sign Up](#)

If you have any questions about the event, reach out to SOE SIG chair Sarah Gilliland: chair-SOESIG@aptaeducation.org

Academy Elections Open on April 1



2025 ELECTIONS
NOMINATION SLATE

APTA
Academy of Education

The Academy of Education's Nominating Committee, led by Chair Tara Haj, has assembled an impressive slate of candidates for the upcoming Academy and SIG elections.

Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the candidates:

[View 2025 Nominations](#)

Please look for a ballot from AssociationVoting.com on April 1.



Academy Welcomes Two New Board Members!

At its last meeting, the Board of Directors made two appointments to fill the remainder of the terms for the current Director of Professional Development Steven Lesh, PT, PhD and CE-SIG Clinical Co-Chair Angela Henning, PT, MSPT. The Board is deeply grateful for Steven and Angie's leadership.

Welcome to our new Board members, who are now in office:



Director of Professional Development

Kirsten Potter, PT, DPT, MS, of Tufts University

Kirsten has worked closely with Steven as an instructor for the PT Faculty Development Workshop, taught CSM pre-conference workshops and created online courses for the Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy.



CE-SIG Clinical Co-Chair

Julie Gruden, PT, MPT, DPT of the Cleveland Clinic

Julie is a Site Coordinator of Clinical Education for 15 outpatient sites, an adjunct professor at Walsh University and previously served as the CE-SIG membership secretary.

Student Council Liaison Needed



The Academy of Education is seeking a student to serve as its representative to the APTA Student Council. The Academy will cover any travel costs associated with position.

[Apply](#)

[Learn More](#)



Resource for Tracking Executive Orders

The Academy of Education wants to hear how we can support our members during this time of tremendous change. Please let us know if we can furnish any resources to help you navigate new regulations OR if you have resources you would like to share regarding how your institution is responding.

Support Each Other During these Challenging Times

With the current unfolding and evolving education environment, many are experiencing difficult times. The Academy is currently exploring how we can come together to support one another. Specifically:

- How can the Academy support you and your colleagues?
- Do you have a resource, strategy and/or advice that you would like to share that would help others?

Please take this very short survey if you have a question or research to share.

[Take Survey](#)

[Learn More](#)



ELC Submissions Are Open Submit Your Education Session, Platform, or Poster Today!

Choose from two types of Educational Sessions:

Standard Educational Presentations (90 min):

Standard educational presentations are scheduled for 1.5 hours and occur any of the three days of the conference.

MicroLearn Educational Sessions (25-30 min):

MicroLearn sessions are compact, focused sessions designed to deliver quick insights, practical skills, and actionable takeaways. Whether you're a seasoned attendee or a first-timer, prepare for a dynamic learning journey! Stay tuned for the *MicroLearn lineup* – it's knowledge in a nutshell! Authors will be paired with two other MicroLearn submissions of similar topics to make up a complete 90-minute session.

Or choose an abstract session:

Posters are displayed for an entire day during the conference, with presenters scheduled for 45-minute time slots either in the morning or afternoon.

Platform presentations are 15-minute oral presentations schedule throughout the three days of the conference.

**Submission portal for ELC 2025 opens March 3 and closes April 18.
Please see the submission links below.**

[Abstract Submissions](#)

[Educational Submissions](#)

For technical and non-technical questions about submission requirements, or the submission process, contact info@pteducationleadershipconference.org.

Sign up using the form below to receive informational updates about the 20th Annual Physical Therapist Education Leadership Conference.

[Sign Up](#)

VOLUNTEER FOR THE ACADEMY!

Contribute to the Academy of Education by volunteering! The following positions are available beginning July 1st:

- Awards Committee Member
- Social Media Coordinator
- JoPTE Social Media Coordinator
- Finance Committee Member
- Professional Development Committee PTA Member
- Two Research Committee Members
- JoPTE Journal Club Chair, Vice Chair, and Board Liaison
- Two Webinar Committee Members



For more information on the positions, please review the Policies & Procedures manual or email volunteerscoordinator@aptaeducation.org.

Apply
Here

PT Academic Leadership Forum: Exploring Support for Higher Ed Transitions



The APTA Academy of Education is exploring interest in establishing a designated space for physical therapists who have transitioned from PT academic program roles into higher education leadership positions (e.g., chairs, deans, provosts, and presidents). Currently, there is no formalized group within the Academy for these leaders, yet some have expressed a desire for mentorship, networking, and shared resources to support their evolving roles. This brief survey aims to assess interest in such a community, what structure would be most beneficial, and what resources would support members in these leadership roles. Your input will help guide the development of potential initiatives within the Academy.

Take Survey

NEW Member Benefit - Online Community

The Academy of Education is excited to announce it has launched an online community to help our members better connect with each other. All members have already been added to the general member community, and those who are members of SIGs have been added to the SIG communities.

Access the
Community

Your login will be the same as your login for the Academy of Education website. Here are a few simple steps to get acquainted with the new platform:



1. Start a discussion or respond to someone else. If you have questions you'd like to ask your peers, [click here](#) and watch the responses come in! You can also use the "post message" link in the discussion emails you'll receive. Share your expertise and connect with peers by responding to other people's posts.
2. **Set your messaging, email, and privacy preferences.** If at any time you'd like to change your preferences, go to your profile -> Update Your Profile -> My Account.
3. **Update your profile.** Your profile is already loaded, but feel free to update as you see fit on the profile page.

We hope you enjoy this new tool to help you connect with your peers!

Abstract Reviewers Needed for CSM 2026

Help create an excellent roster of speakers for CSM 2026 – volunteer to review abstracts. Volunteers will review 10-15 abstracts in April and May of 2025.

Volunteer Sign
Up

NEW! Education Impact Initiative Project

Steven G. Lesh and Michele Valencia are collaborating on a project through the APTA Academy of Education's Education Impact Initiative to highlight innovative



DPT/PTA collaborations and professionals with diverse disabilities excelling in education or clinical practice.

We're seeking interested participants in two key areas:

- 1) Unique and innovative DPT/PTA partnerships in education or clinical settings.
- 2) DPT/PTA professionals with diverse disabilities who've mastered educational or clinical environments.

Interested? Share your story by completing the form in the link below. Questions? Reach out—we'd love to connect!

Share Now!

SIG SPOTLIGHT



APTA
Academy of Education.

Interprofessional
Education and Practice
Special Interest Group

The IPEP 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.

IPEP SIG Objectives:

- Foster networking and collaboration among physical therapists and physical therapist assistants interested in IPE and IPCP
- Engage in initiatives that support IPE and IPCP innovation in physical therapist and physical therapist assistant education
- Foster a culture of innovation, intellectual engagement, and leadership in the Academy of Education to support IPE and IPCP endeavors
- Facilitate excellence in IPE education through collaboration with external IPE organizations
- Disseminate information related to interprofessional collaborative practice to the physical therapy community in coordination with the Academy of Education.

For more information on the IPEP SIG, please get in touch with the Chair:

[Kimberly Beran-Shepler](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars for our Annual GAMER Workshop:

GAMER

Grantwriting and Mentorship in Education Research

January 22-24, 2026

(Travel days are January 21 and 25, 2026)

Charleston, South Carolina

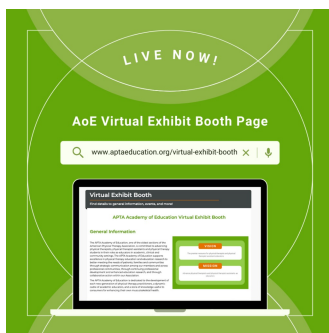
We bring together a nationally recognized multidisciplinary group of mentors and consultants as faculty, including representatives from potential funding sources to support participants work. The workshop provides guidance in developing robust, clear and theoretically grounded research questions, grant proposals and career research agendas. The workshop will also facilitate inter-professional, and intra- and inter-institutional collaborative research networks and projects for education researchers in *Audiology, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology*.

Our wonderful sponsors!



Please contact **Rick Segal** if you have any questions.
segal@musc.edu | www.gamereducationresearch.com

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Journal of Physical
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CURRENT LITERATURE

Check out the latest information and trends in physical therapy educational research on the JoPTE website and follow @JOPTEjournal on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to keep up with newsworthy educational content and publications!

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