



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:

- Academy Members Honored by APTA
- **PTA Honor Society Applications Due June 1**
- Call For the Next Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Women's & Pelvic Health Physical Therapy **Due May 31!**
- **Fellowship Spotlight**
JoPTE Celebrates Melissa Yeung's Editorial Fellowship Achievement
- DPT Loans Capped at 100k
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - ELC 2026
 - **ELC CESIG Scholarship Applications due tomorrow, May 21!**
 - ELC PTA Educators SIG Scholarships, deadline June 30
 - Physical Therapy Faculty Development Workshop (PTFDW)
 - 1/2 Day DCE/ACCE Workshop Spots Available
 - CSM 2027
 - Call for Abstracts deadline July 15
 - GAMER 2027 | Save the Date
 - Foundation for PT Research Education Grant Applications Open
 - Simulation Networking Community Monthly Chats **June 4 | 12PM EDT**
 - Webinar
 - RFESIG Journal Club | Sept 8 | 8PM
 - Academy Welcomes Our New Members!
 - View Our Member Benefits

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Academy Members Honored by APTA



Congratulations to Academy of Education members who were recognized by APTA with the following awards and honors:

- **Johnathon A. Bray** - *Signe Brunnstrom Award*
- **Jason A. Craig** - *Dorothy E. Baethke Award*
- **Sharon L. Dunn** - *FAPTA*
- **Ann M. Flores** - *FAPTA*
- **Michael A. Geelhoed** - *Lucy Blair Service Award*
- **Jennifer Green-Wilson** - *Marilyn Moffat Award*
- **Lisa B. Johnston** - *Lucy Blair Service Award*
- **Maria Jones** - *Lucy Blair Service Award*
- **Aimee E. Perron** - *Lucy Blair Service Award*
- **Leiselle S. Pilgrim** - *Lucy Blair Service Award*
- **Jennifer M. Ryan** - *Lucy Blair Service Award*
- **Yasser Salem** - *FAPTA*
- **Kimberly S. Topp** - *FAPTA*
- **Arie J. Van Duijn** - *Lucy Blair Service Award*
- **Andrew D. Wilcox** - *Outstanding PTA Educator Award*
- **Carla F. Huggins** - *Access & Opportunity - Faculty*
- **Beverly A. Labosky** - *Outstanding PTA Educator Award*

PTA Honor Society Applications Open Until June 1

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.



REQUIREMENTS:

Nominations to the honor society are only open to students in programs in which at least one member of the faculty is a current member of the Academy of Education.

Applicants must complete and provide proof of ALL items on **Applicant Checklist**, including:

- GPA - 3.5 minimum for all applicants (This GPA calculation is limited to PTA coursework ONLY)
- **Recommendation Form:**
- Students must have two Recommendation Forms submitted to be considered for the PTA Honor Society. To be considered for the Honor Society, all ratings should be in the "Exemplary" or "Superior" categories. All recommendation forms must be from a PTA Program Stakeholder, including clinical or academic stakeholders. Examples include:
 - Clinical Instructor during a full-time clinical experience
 - Clinical partner who held primary responsibility for assessing the student applicant
 - Full time or part time faculty
 - Adjunct instructor
 - Lab assistant or adjunct clinical proctor
 - PTA club advisor
- PTA program Advisory Committee Member

[Learn More and Nominate!](#)

Call For the Next Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Women's & Pelvic Health Physical Therapy



Applications Due:

11:59 pm EST, Sunday, May 31, 2026

APTA Pelvic Health invites applications for the next **Editor-in-Chief** of the **Journal of Women's & Pelvic Health Physical Therapy (JWPHPT)**, its

official peer-reviewed publication. This five-year contracted term (with renewal option) begins with a transition in June 2026. The Editor-in-Chief provides strategic and editorial leadership, overseeing the publication of high-quality research that advances evidence-based care in women's and pelvic health physical therapy.

[Apply Now!](#)

Melissa Yeung Completes Journal of Physical Therapy Education Yearlong Editorial Fellowship

After completing a yearlong editorial fellowship, Melissa Yeung PhD, leaves behind a lasting contribution to the journal's mission and operations. Serving as the journal's inaugural fellow, Melissa played an instrumental role in shaping the journal's peer reviewer guidelines, bringing a thoughtful perspective to this important process. She also delivered a compelling presentation to the editorial board on the topics of access and equity in academic publishing and further amplified this work by authoring a guest editorial in the June issue of the Journal. Throughout the year, Melissa engaged with the editor-in-chief, the editorial team, publisher, and editorial board members, building relationships and gaining a comprehensive understanding of the journal's inner workings. We congratulate Melissa on being the first to complete JoPTE's editorial fellowship and look forward to her future contributions to the journal including being involved in the mentorship of the next editorial fellow!



MELISSA YEUNG

U.S. Department of Education Caps DPT Student Loans at \$100,000



On May 1, the U.S. Department of Education [finalized regulations](#) that will place new caps on federal student loans for postbaccalaureate degrees. The rule will take effect July 1, 2026.

Despite coordinated advocacy efforts among the APTA, the APTA Academy of Education and the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy, [the finalized rule](#) maintains the department's arbitrary and limited definition of a "professional degree" for the purposes of limiting access to the highest amount of federal student loans, \$50,000 per year and \$200,000 in total, to programs

including pharmacy, dentistry, chiropractic, medicine, optometry, osteopathic medicine, podiatry, and clinical psychology.

All other degree programs, including DPT degree programs, will be deemed "graduate degrees" with access for students limited to \$20,500 per year or \$100,000 in total.

Litigation against the Department of Education is expected to be filed in the near future by various groups challenging the final rule.

In addition, there are currently various [APTA-supported bills](#) in the U. S. Congress to address the impact of the rule: H.R. 6574 (Rep. Kennedy), H.R. 6677/S. 4039 (Rep. Torres/Sen. Alsobrooks), and H.R. 6718 (Rep. Lawler). These bills would ensure that professional degrees such as the DPT would be classified and/or would have access to the professional degree loan caps. In doing so, they would protect prospective students' ability to pursue careers in physical therapy and other essential health care professions. Members can contact their members of Congress about these APTA-supported bills via the APTA Action Center.

[Take Action Now!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Physical Therapy Faculty Development Workshop 1/2 Day DCE/ACCE Workshop Spots Available!

2026		JULY / AUGUST					
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						

**In-person | Chicago, IL | August 1
12:30pm - 5:00pm**

Whether you're an experienced DCE seeking to refine your approach or new to the position and eager to learn, the DCE/ACCE workshop offers valuable guidance and resources to support your journey. We'll delve into the unique responsibilities and challenges faced by DCEs, providing insights and strategies to enhance effectiveness in this vital role. *Elevate* your impact, *empower* your students, and *unlock* the full potential of your role as a Director of Clinical Education.

[Register Today!](#)

In-person

July 30 - August 1 | Chicago, IL



SOLD OUT

Faculty Facilitators and Invited Speakers:

- Dawn S. Brown, PT, DPT, EdD, OCS, Northwestern University
- Christie Cohoon, PT, DPT, OCS, St. Louis Community College – Forest Park
- Myles Quiben, PT, DPT, PhD, MS, University of North Texas Health Science Center
- Kirsten Potter, PT, DPT, Tufts University
- Tricia Prokop, PT, EdD, CSCS, Bowling Green State University
- Nikki Sleddens, PT, ABD, CEEAA, University of Nebraska Medical Center
- Angela Wallace, PTA, McHenry County College



Join the waitlist!

Waiting List Sign Up

ELC 2026

October 16-18 | Marriott Marquis | Washington, D.C.

Visit ELC Website

CE SIG ELC 2026 Scholarship Application



The Clinical Education Special Interest Group (CESIG) of the Academy of Education (AoE) is pleased to announce that the ELC 2026 Scholarship application is now officially open! As part of the Academy's Education Impact Initiative (EI2), this award recognizes APTA members for their outstanding contributions to clinical

education and supports continued professional development through educational opportunities and networking.

This year, we are offering three scholarships valued at \$1,000 each. The award is designed to help cover expenses related to registration, travel, lodging, and meals for ELC 2026. If one of the recipients is not currently an AoE member, a portion of their scholarship will be applied toward their Academy membership, ensuring they can fully participate in all the benefits AoE has to offer.

Please use the link below to access the ELC 2026 Scholarship Application and fill out the form. Don't miss this chance to advance your professional journey and become more involved in our vibrant community!

The application will close tomorrow: May 21, 2026.

[Fill Out Application](#)

CE SIG ELC 2026 Pre-conference Scholarship Application



The Clinical Education Special Interest Group (CESIG) of the Academy of Education (AoE) is once again pleased to announce that the ELC 2026 pre-conference course scholarship application is now officially open!

As part of the Academy's Education Impact Initiative (EI2), this award aims to support our members professional development through educational opportunities and networking.

This year, we are offering three scholarships valued at \$500 each. The award is designed to help cover a pre-conference course registration and additional associated expenses such as travel, lodging, and meals for ELC 2026.

Please use the link below to access the ELC 2026 pre-conference course scholarship application and fill out the form. Don't miss this chance to advance your professional journey.

The application will close tomorrow: May 21, 2026.

[Fill Out Application](#)

PTA Educators SIG ELC Scholarships



The Academy of Education PTA Educators SIG is offering a limited number of scholarships to support attendance at the Education Leadership Conference (ELC) on October 16-18, 2026, in Washington, DC.

Scholarships of \$500 or more are available for PTA educators and clinical instructors who are actively involved in PTA education and committed to leadership and

professional growth. First-time attendees are strongly encouraged to apply (previous attendees will also be considered).

Application deadline: June 30, 2026
Notifications sent by: August 1, 2026

[Learn More and Apply](#)

CSM 2027



Showcase your expertise at APTA CSM, the leading conference in physical therapy, held **February 4-6, 2027, in Philadelphia, PA.**



CSM Platform and Poster Abstracts Submission Portal Closes July 15

[Learn More](#)

[Submit An Abstract](#)

GAMER 2027 | Save The Date!

GAMER 2027

Grantwriting and Mentorship in Education Research

January 21-23, 2027

(Travel days are January 20 and 24, 2027)

Charleston, South Carolina

Applications open July 1, 2026, and close August 15, 2026

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 at segal@musc.edu if you have any questions

www.gamereducationresearch.com

Thanks for your great support of GAMER 2026 from the mentees and mentors!



PT Education Grant Applications Now Open



Attention education researchers! Applications are now open for the PT Education Research Grant from the Foundation for Physical Therapy Research. We are sponsoring this funding

mechanism to support education research related to methods for promoting the uptake of research findings into practice by designing educational interventions to address gaps between physical therapy research evidence and physical therapy and physical therapist assistant practices. Areas of study must align with at least one priority area of the [APTA 2023 Research Agenda](#) and applicants must be licensed PTs or PTAs and members of the APTA Academy of Education.

Guidelines and application instructions for this grant can be found on the [Foundation's website](#). Please read the guidelines carefully for complete information on the research area and eligibility requirements for this grant. Applications can be found on ProposalCentral.

If you are interested in applying for this grant, or any of the available 11, \$40,000 research grants, please [subscribe](#) to the Foundation's research grant mailing list to receive updates, FAQs, and timely reminders.

The **deadline** submission for all research grant applications is **July 31 at 4:59pm EDT**.

[Learn More & Apply](#)

Simulation Networking Community Monthly Chats

Join us for 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 Meeting:

- **Thursday, June 4, 2026**





Save The Date

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

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM EDT



- Abigayle Singh, SPT
- Akhil Chand Devarakonda, PT
- Alex J. Daigle, SPT
- Alexander M Gregory, SPT
- Alexander Mata, SPT
- alexandra banasik, SPTA
- Alexis Nichols, SPT
- Alison Guthrie, PT
- Amanda Akana, PT
- Amanda Chester, SPT, DPT
- Amber Gadow, PT, DPT
- Andrew Davis, SPT
- Angela F. Ebert, PT, DPT, MS
- Ann McNamara, PT
- Annelise Clark, SPTA
- Anthony McGee, PT, DPT
- Austin Gordillo, SPT
- Austin Shaw, PTA
- Bailee Williams, SPT
- Bansari Thakkar, PT
- Barbara B. Finch, PTA
- Ben Harold Baumann, SPTA
- Brad Allen Clemmens, PT
- Brian E. Gray, PT, DPT
- Brittany Gandin, PT, DPT
- Katherine Bumgarner Piscatelli, PT
- Katherine Trumbo, SPT
- Kathleen Anne McGinnis, PT, DPT
- Kathryn Coleene Whaley, SPT
- Katie Marie Campos, PT, DPT
- KAYCE J. B. VISGER, PTA
- Kayleigh E. Melroy, PT, DPT
- Kelly Michelle Madden, SPT
- Kenzie Fauset, PT
- Kerra Smid, SPT
- Kerry E. Walsh, PT, DPT
- Kimberly Phan, SPT
- Kimberly Tissier Carvell, PT, DPT
- Kisakye Moses Muwonge, PT
- Kyle Schwartzman, SPT
- Kylie Deverick, SPT
- Landon D Robinson, SPT
- Laura E Watts, SPTA
- Lauren Sherman, SPT
- Laurie Mollenhauer, SPT
- Leonard Arguelles, PT, DPT
- Liam Bailey Waite, SPTA, EMT-B
- Liberty Minerva Gerescher, DPT
- Luca Fornari, SPT
- Lucas Gammal, DPT

- Calista Renae Kelly, PT, DPT
- Camila A. Denshuick, PT
- Carinna Coleman, PT, MSPT
- Carolyn Oddo, PT, MS
- Celyne Tacas Johnson, SPT
- Chimira Nicole Peacock, PT
- Christina MacMaster, PT
- Christopher Hunter, SPT
- christopher licata, SPT
- Corrine A. Fritcher-Nelson, PT, DPT
- Danielle C. Rayder, PT, DPT
- Deidra Anderson, PT
- Denise M. Gloekler, PT, DPT
- Diana Layton, PTA
- Disha Talajiya, PT, DPT
- Divya Bartaula, SPT
- Elaina Langbartels, SPT
- Elisabeth Pearl Enssle, SPT
- Erika Shakur, PT
- Erin Caughman, PT
- Gabriella Leanna Rivera, PT, DPT
- Gia G Truong, SPT
- Gina Dashiell, SPT
- Gregory P Asayan, SPT
- Heather Ann Fortuine, PT, DPT
- Heather M. Shattuck, PT, DPT
- Holly Fleming, PTA
- Jaclyn Mogish, SPT
- Jacob D Suprenard, DPT
- Janasia Moody, SPT
- Jaron Taylor, SPT
- Jenna H Relkin, SPT
- Jennifer Estrada, PTA
- Jennifer Mendoza, SPT
- Jermain McNeel Tezeno, PT, DPT, OTR/L
- Jerod Burke, SPTA
- Jessica Hayes Hill, SPT
- Jessica Norby, PT
- Jiahui Sun, SPT
- Jill Denise See, PT, DPT
- JoAnthony Cabello, DPT
- John P. McLinden, Sr, PT
- Jonathan Wesley McGruder, PTA, BSPTA
- Justin B. Rosinski, PT
- Kaci Interlicchia, SPTA
- Kaila Robinson, SPT
- Kali Christine Nordin, PT, DPT, MS
- Kara Morris Cain, PT, DPT
- Madison Miller, DPT
- Margaret Ann Cannon, PT, DPT
- Marie Bitticks, SPT
- Marielle Mikos, PT, DPT
- Marissa R Meucci, PT
- Mary Margaret Ramos, PT, DPT
- Matthew B. Montgomery, PT, DPT, MPH
- Matthew Gybbon Spilsbury, PT, DPT
- Matthew Zaudtke, PT, DPT, ATC
- Megan Plum, SPT
- Melinda Jacquelyn Nagel, PT, DPT
- Mikayla Secor, SPT
- Nathan W Storb, PT, DPT
- Nicole Brennan, PT
- Nicole Renee Rawnsley, PT, DPT
- Orlando D Mireles, Jr, SPT
- Peyton Bozeman, DPT
- Prakriti Khadgi Shahi, SPT
- Rachael Powell, PT, DPT
- Rachel Adams, PT
- Regina Dubeansky, SPT
- Rob Satriano, PT, DPT
- Robert Vance Benjamin Pounders, IV, PT, DPT, MS
- Roswell Childs, PT, DPT, DSc
- Sadie Grace Wilke, SPT
- salma khowaja, PTA
- Samuel Alvarez, SPT
- Sarah A. Hoberman, PTA
- Shannon M. Fillmore, PT
- Shelbi Nicole Moxley, PT, DPT
- Shelby Partida, SPT
- Stefanie Bond, PT, DPT
- Tanner Cook, SPTA
- Tatum M Koehler, SPT
- Teilani Hall, SPTA
- Tierney Loveland-Grace, PT, DPT
- Trekuic Engnell, SPTA
- Trinity Burk, PTA
- Vicki Maria Tysseling, PT, PhD
- Victoria Harwood Hamby, PT, DPT
- Victoria Marianna Salvatore Hilario, SPT
- Victoria Valdez, SPT
- William Henry Scott, SPT
- Zachary Battles, SPT
- Zachary Kovacevic, PT, DPT
- Zenaida Rosales Cruz, SPTA
- Ziqi Xu, SPT, DPT



Welcome to APTA Academy of Education! We hope that through your membership, you'll find your place in a community of life-long learners dedicated to the education of patients, students, colleagues, and communities.

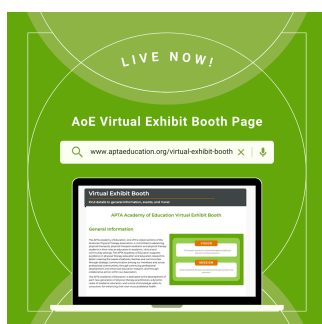
Top benefits of Membership in the Academy:

1. Discounts on section conferences like:
 - [Combined Sections Meeting](#)
 - [Education Leadership Conference](#)
 - [Physical Therapy Faculty Development Workshop](#)
 - [Academy Webinars](#)
2. Well established [Special Interest Groups](#) to meet member needs.
3. Networking and opportunity for Academy [funding and awards](#).

Please know that we are here to serve you and are happy to assist you in any way possible. Education is the future of our profession and here in the APTA Academy of Education, "Every PT and PTA is an Educator."

Visit us at <http://www.aptaeducation.org>.

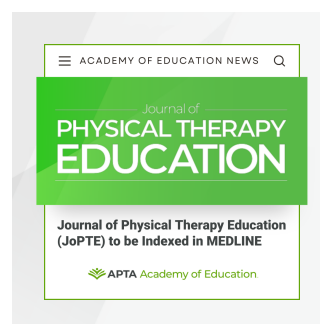
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