



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:
 - 2025 Lynda D. Woodruff Lecture | **TODAY! 7PM ET**
 - 20th Annual ELC 2025 | **Registration Open!**
 - FPTR Research Grant Applications Open
 - CESIG Educational Initiatives
 - DEIJ Content Experts Needed
 - NEW! Education Impact Initiative Project
- Webinars
 - *Admissions Network Virtual Event* | Wednesday | **June 25**
 - *Sustaining the Educator* | Wednesday | **July 8**
- SIG Spotlight
 - Anatomy Educators SIG
- Upcoming Events:
 - GAMER 2026 | **Registration Open!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happening Today! Don't Miss Out!

2025 LYNDA D. WOODRUFF LECTURE

SIXTH ANNUAL LECTURE

JOIN US!



JUNE
18TH



7:00
PM ET

DIDI MATTHEWS PT, DPT



Immediately following the lecture,
there will be a live panel discussion

Celebrate Juneteenth by attending this year's Lynda D. Woodruff Lecture, a powerful event that honors equity, diversity, and excellence in physical therapy education and practice. This annual lecture is co-sponsored by leading national organizations committed to inclusive excellence in the profession.

This year's featured speaker is Dr. Didi Matthews, PT, DPT, associate professor and vice chair of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at the University of Southern California. A board-certified neurologic clinical specialist and director of the USC Division Institute for Excellence in Teaching, Dr. Matthews brings a dynamic perspective on inclusive teaching and neurologic care. Her leadership within USC's Diversity, Anti-Racism, Inclusion, and Community Engagement Council shapes the future of equitable practice in physical therapy.

Don't miss this opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue and inspire change across our profession.

Visit our
Website

Watch the
Lecture

ELC Registration is Now Open | Register Today!



ELC 2025
October 17-19 • Kansas City, MO

Co-hosted by



[Register](#)



FOUNDATION FOR
PHYSICAL THERAPY
RESEARCH

2025 Physical Therapy Research Grants

The Foundation for Physical Therapy Research grant portal is now open. Click below for information on the grants open this year.

[Learn More](#)

Clinical Education SIG Educational Initiatives



As part of the Academy of Education's "*Education Impact Initiative(EI2)*", the CESIG is excited to offer additional opportunities to sponsor CE SIG members as follows:

3 attendance scholarships – up to \$1000
for ELC 2025

3 ELC pre-conference course
registrations – up to \$500

[Apply](#)

[Apply](#)

Applications will close on June 30th, 2025

DEIJ Content Experts Needed

The Academy of Education is pleased to announce grant funding for content experts who are interested in creating one or more educational modules for AoE members that would help them develop additional skills in incorporating DEIJ-related concepts into their learning environments across academic, clinical, and program administration settings.

[Learn More](#)

[Apply](#)

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!

For questions, please email:

[Michele Valencia, PT, DPT](#) or [Steven Lesh PhD, PT, AT Ret](#)

Share Now!



Admissions Network Next Virtual Event

Wednesday | June 25 | 7pm ET

Dr. Nicole Tombers, PT, DPT, is leading the charge in addressing barriers faced by underrepresented students in physical therapy education. A dedicated educator, clinician, and researcher, Dr. Tombers focuses on advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion—both at the College of St. Scholastica and nationally. Her work supports efforts like the Admissions Network, promoting dialogue on recruitment and holistic admissions in PT and PTA programs.

Read Full Description and
RSVP

The APTA Academy of Education created an Admissions Network within the AFSIG.
Sign up as a member of the admissions network, if you aren't already!

Sign Up!

Sustaining the Educator: A Panel Discussion on Faculty Burnout, Retention, and Work-Life Balance in Physical Therapy Education

Wednesday | July 8 | 4-5pm ET

Objectives:

- Identify key contributors to burnout among physical therapy faculty.
- Describe strategies to support faculty retention in academic physical therapy programs.
- Discuss methods for achieving and maintaining work-life balance in academic settings.
- Reflect on attendees' institutions and assess opportunities for organizational change.

Primary Speaker: [Jill Jumper, PT, DPT, PhD](#)

Secondary Speaker: [Christina Wisdom, PT, DPT, EdD](#)

Third Speaker: [Dr. Catherine \(Kate\) Andrea, PT, MPT, EdD](#)

Register

SIG SPOTLIGHT



APTA
Academy of Education

Anatomy Educators
Special Interest Group

The Anatomy Educators 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.

AESIG 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.

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our Annual GAMER Workshop

Registration is Now Open!

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*.

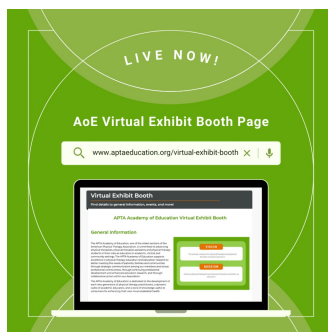
Our wonderful sponsors!



Register

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

QUICK CLICKS



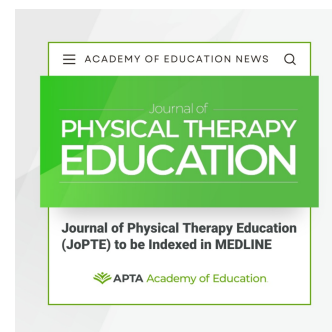
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Virtual Exhibit Booth!

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Journal of Physical
Therapy Education to be
Indexed in MEDLINE

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APTA Academy of Education Newsletter

CLASSIFIEDS

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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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