



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:**
 - **June 30th Update on:** Judge's Stay on U.S. Department of Education Student Loan Action and Temporary Relief
 - Academy Welcomes New Board Members and Thanks Outgoing Leaders!
 - Call for Membership & Engagement Committee Chair | Apply by August 15!
 - Check Out Our New EduPulse Page!
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - ELC 2026
 - **Registration is open!** Sign Up for One of Our Pre-Conference Workshops
 - Physical Therapy Faculty Development Workshop (PTFDW).
 - 1/2 Day DCE/ACCE Workshop Spots Available
 - CSM 2027
 - Call for Abstracts deadline July 15
 - GAMER 2027 | **Registration is Open!**
- Foundation for PT Research Education Grant Applications Due July 31
- Foundations of Simulation Series
- Simulation Networking Community Monthly Chats | 12PM EDT
 - July 9
 - August 6
- **Webinar:**
 - RFESIG Journal Club | Sept 8 | 8PM
- **SIG Spotlight:**
 - Anatomy Educators (AESIG)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 30th Update on Judge's Stay on U.S. Department of Education Student Loan Action and Temporary Relief



On June 29, the [U.S. Department of Education provided updated guidance](#) on what they now consider to be a professional degree per the court's order. DPT students are temporarily considered to be a professional degree program.

An [Associated Press article](#) reported that the department continues to disagree with the judge's order and provided a quote from Undersecretary Nicholas Kent that read, "We will continue to make the case that the definition is both lawful and appropriate." The article goes on to say that this change "represents a short-term win for the groups that sued to stop the rule."

Earlier today, the Advanced Professional Workforce Alliance published a Coalition Update on this change by the department (see attached). APTA is a founding member of the Coalition and has a seat on the steering committee. The federal loan limit initially placed on student loans for doctor of physical therapy students by the Department of Education would likely limit access to education and negatively affect the physical therapy workforce required to meet societal need.

This stance by the department should signal to programs that this may be only temporary relief. Approximately half (160) of all DPT programs have start dates between July and September.

As a reminder, the judge's ruling only addresses the maximum amount of federal student loans available (i.e., \$50,000 vs. \$20,500), and does not change the status of the Grad PLUS loan program that sunsets today.

APTA will continue to provide updates as this situation evolves. In the interim, DPT programs are encouraged to work with their institution's legal counsel and financial aid office to determine how to best address this situation.



Read the [APTA RISE Stay Update](#)

Academy Welcomes New Board Members and Thanks Outgoing Leaders



The Academy of Education is excited to welcome these incoming Board of Directors members whose terms start today:

- Secretary Carrie Clark Hawkins, PT, DPT, PhD
- Nominating Committee Chair Karen Bock, PT, MPT, PhD
- Academic Faculty SIG Chair Rebecca Leugers, PT, MS, PhD
- Scholarship of Education SIG Chair Tricia Prokop, PT, MSPT, EdD

And we thank our outgoing Board members for their dedicated service:

- Nominating Committee Chair Tara Haj, PT, DPT
- Academic Faculty SIG Chair Derek Liuzzo, PT, DPT, MBA, PhD
- Scholarship of Education SIG Chair Sarah Gilliland, PT, DPT, PhD

Call for Membership & Engagement Committee Chair



The Academy of Education is seeking a volunteer to serve as Chair of the Membership & Engagement Committee. The committee's goals are to support Academy members in developing inclusive communities aimed at developing a diverse profession committed to improving the health of individuals, communities, and society.

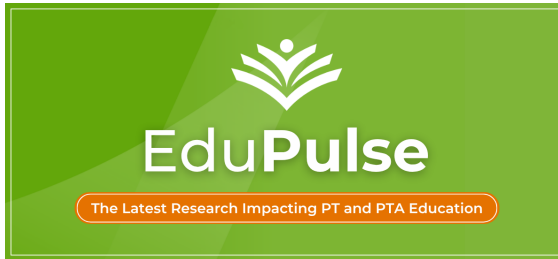
The term is three years.

The committee is currently working on an eight-part training series focused on social determinants of health, student success, and other related topics.

The deadline to apply is August 15!

[Apply Now!](#)

Check Out Our New EduPulse Page!



The Research Committee is pleased to announce the pilot of a new feature: the EduPulse newsletter and webpage. Each quarter the committee will highlight high-quality, impactful research from the health professions education literature that is relevant to physical therapy education.

The purpose of this curated list of articles is to help physical therapy educators and education researchers stay up to date. The articles are selected from the January – March 2026 issues of the Journal of Physical Therapy Education, Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Journal, and the following top health professions education journals:

- Academic Medicine
- Medical Education
- Medical Teacher
- Perspectives on Medical Education
- Advances in Health Sciences Education
- BMC Medical Education
- Teaching and Learning in Medicine
- Medical Education Online

[Read Articles](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**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.

2026 JULY / AUGUST

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Register Today!

In-person

July 30 - August 1 | Chicago, IL



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

SOLD OUT



Join the waitlist!

Waiting List Sign Up

REGISTRATION IS
NOW OPEN
ELC 2026

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



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF
ACADEMIC PHYSICAL THERAPY



APTA
Academy of Education



View Our Pre-Conference Workshops

How Did That Go? Mastering the Art of Challenging Debriefings

This pre-conference workshop equips physical therapy educators with advanced debriefing strategies to enhance clinical reasoning, reflection, and practice change across learning environments. Participants will develop skills to effectively facilitate emotionally complex and high-stakes debriefing conversations while maintaining psychological safety and learner engagement. Through interactive learning, attendees will gain tools to confidently navigate challenging moments and elevate the impact of debriefing applicable to simulation, classroom, and clinical learning environments.

Thursday, October 15 | 8 AM - 5 PM

Authors:

Samantha Brown, PT, DPT, Board-certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist
Sharon Gorman, PT, DPSc, Board-certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist, Fellow
National Academies of Practice
Kelly Macauley, PT, DPT, EdD, Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator

Academic Leadership in Higher Education

This ½ day interactive workshop is designed to support academic leaders in Physical Therapy programs at all stages of their leadership journey. The purpose of the workshop is to provide a structured, supportive environment where participants can examine their leadership identity, learn from colleagues' experiences, and develop practical strategies to strengthen team engagement and growth. Through guided reflection, self-assessment activities, peer coaching, case discussions, and panel dialogue, participants will explore how personal leadership behaviors influence faculty dynamics, program culture, and educational outcomes.

Thursday, October 15 | 8 AM - 12 PM

Authors:

Dawn James, PT, DPT, DSc

Megan Donaldson, PT, PhDFAAOMPT

Brian Young, PT, DSc

John Heick, PT, DPT, PhD

Moving from Concept to Creation in Learning by Concordance (LbC)

Learning by Concordance (LbC) is an instructional strategy designed to develop clinical reasoning in uncertain situations where there is more than one reasonable course of action¹⁻². In LbC, learners and an expert panel work through an ambiguous case scenario with follow-up questions, and judge how new information influences a proposed hypothesis, decision, or action². This half-day pre-conference workshop is designed for educators who want to create and refine LbC activities for use in their own courses and programs. The workshop uses brief direct instruction, guided practice, peer review, and feedback-based revision to support LbC development. Participants will leave with drafted LbC activities aligned with their own teaching contexts. The workshop will also include structured exploration of how artificial intelligence can support LbC development through ideation, question refinement, and feedback. Participants will leave with practical resources, greater confidence in designing LbC activities, and drafted materials to implement in their courses.

Thursday, October 15 | 1 PM - 5 PM

Authors:

Lindsey Kojich, PT, DPT, PhD

Rebecca Johnson, PT, DPT, PhD

Stephanie A. Miller, PT, PhD

Register Now!

Visit ELC Website



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

**APTA Combined
Sections Meeting**



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**

Call For Proposals

Submit Today



CSM 2027

[Learn More](#)

[Submit An Abstract](#)

GAMER 2027
Registration is Open!



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

Register Now!

PT Education Grant Applications



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.

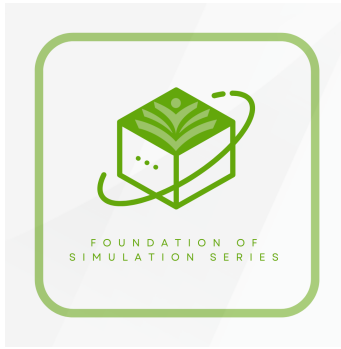
If you are interested in applying for this grant, or any of the available 11, \$40,000 research grants, please [subscribe](#) to the Foundation's research grant mailing list to

receive updates, FAQs, and timely reminders.

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

[Learn More & Apply](#)

Foundations of Simulation Series



Interested in Adding Simulation to Your Curriculum?

The Simulation Networking Community has developed the Foundations of Simulation Series of brief, free presentations designed to introduce physical therapy educators and clinicians to core concepts in simulation-based learning. This series provides an overview of essential terminology, simulation modalities, delivery methods, pre-briefing and debriefing practices, and the Healthcare Simulation Standards of Best Practice. Participants will gain foundational knowledge and practical resources to support the design,

implementation, and facilitation of simulation experiences across a variety of educational settings.

You can view the series through the Learning Center, access using the button below.

[View Series](#)

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

Meeting ID: 947 3412 5901

Passcode: 751877

Upcoming Meeting:

- **Thursday, July 9**
- August 6

SIMChats Zoom



Save The Date

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

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM EDT

SIG SPOTLIGHT

Anatomy Educators (AESIG)

The AESIG serves as a forum for those teaching anatomy in physical therapy (PT and PTA) educational programs. We seek to foster awareness of best practices in anatomy education and to provide anatomy educators with tools to enhance their work. Developing relationships with others teaching anatomy content can provide mentorship to novice faculty, promote research collaboration, and facilitate the exchange of ideas. We strive to increase awareness of available resources, and active involvement in the Academy and other anatomy-related professional associations.

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.

Congratulations to the Newly Elected SIG Leadership!

- **Cameron Bassett - Vice Chair**
- **Eryn Milian - Membership Secretary**
- **Rachel Gleason - Nominating Committee**



APTA
Academy of Education

Anatomy Educators
Special Interest Group



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**

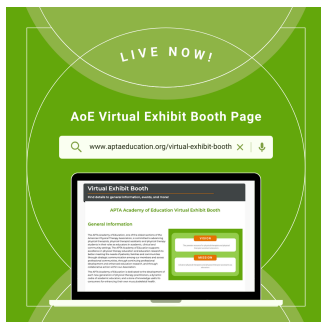
2. Well established **Special Interest Groups** to meet member needs.

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>**.

QUICK CLICKS



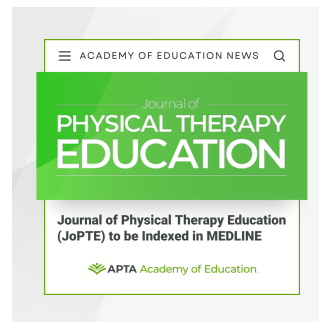
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Colleagues' Research

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Journal of Physical
Therapy Education

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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!

[Read Journal](#)

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