



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:**
 - Call for Membership & Engagement Committee Chair | Apply by August 15!
 - Call for Research Grant Proposals Now Open Until Sept 30!
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - ELC 2026
 - **Call for Volunteers at ELC 2026**
 - Registration is Open!
 - Sign Up for One of Our Pre-Conference Workshops
 - GAMER 2027 | *Apply by August 15th!*
 - Foundations of Simulation Series
 - Simulation Networking Community Monthly Chats | 12PM EDT
 - **Join Us Tomorrow, August 6**
- **Upcoming Webinars:**
 - Empowered by Accommodations | Sept 3 | 7PM EDT
 - **Save the Date:** Admissions Network Combined Event with the ACAPT Admissions and Retention Task Force Sept 23
- **SIG Spotlight:**
 - Clinical Education Special Interest Group (CESIG)
- View Our Member Benefits

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!](#)

Call For Research Grant Proposals Now Open!

Apply by September 30



Research grants are available to assist APTA Academy of Education members in conducting research that investigates a question of importance to the advancement of education in physical therapy. In addition to research related to physical therapy education (DPT, PTA), questions related to the education of patients/clients, licensed PTs/PTAs or PT/PTA students will also be considered.

Small Research Grants: The small grants are intended to support the work of early career researchers and emerging researchers new to education research who are pursuing small or pilot projects that require financial resources of up to \$5,000. These grants are not intended for established researchers in need of small amounts of financial support; those proposals should be directed to the Large Research Grant. Grant applicants should demonstrate how the proposed project is 1) investigating a question of importance to the advancement of education in physical therapy, 2) situated within a larger research agenda or plan, and 3) can be completed within the 18-month grant period.

Large Research Grant: The large grants are intended to support the work of more experienced researchers and research teams who are pursuing larger projects that require financial resources of up to \$25,000. Proposals for the large grant must demonstrate that the project can be completed within the 18-month grant period and that the research team has the requisite experience and expertise to achieve success by completing all deliverables outlined in the proposal.



Be sure to review our updated guidelines before submitting your proposal.

[Learn More](#)

[Apply Now](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

ELC 2026

REGISTRATION IS
NOW OPEN
ELC 2026

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



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF
ACADEMIC PHYSICAL THERAPY



APTA
Academy of Education



[Register!](#)

Call for Volunteers at ELC 2026



As we gear up for this event, we are looking for volunteers to assist us with various activities throughout the conference.

Volunteer Opportunities:

1. Registration Assistance:
2. Help is needed on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning.
3. Microlearn Sessions:
4. Moderators are needed for sessions scheduled on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.
5. Platform Sessions:
6. Moderators are needed for sessions scheduled on Friday and Saturday.

If you are interested in contributing to ELC 2026 by volunteering, please take a moment to complete the following survey indicating your preferred activity and availability: [Survey Link](#)

The success of our conference heavily relies on the dedication and support of volunteers like you. Once you have completed the survey, a member of the ELC co-chairs group will reach out to you with further details regarding your assigned tasks and responsibilities.

Thank you in advance for considering this opportunity to be a part of ELC 2026. We look forward to working together to make this year's conference a resounding success!

Warm regards,

Tawna Wilkinson, Katie Meyers, and Janice Howman
ACAPT ELC Co-chairs

Ralph Utzman, Jennifer Howanitz, and Paul Ullucci
APTA Academy of Education ELC Co-chairs

Volunteer!

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

Susan Miale, PT, DPT, EdD, Board-certified Pediatric Clinical Specialist, Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator

Nicki Silberman, PT, DPT, PhD, 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](#)

GAMER 2027
Apply by August 15th!



GAMER 2027

Grantwriting and Mentorship in Education Research

January 21-23, 2027

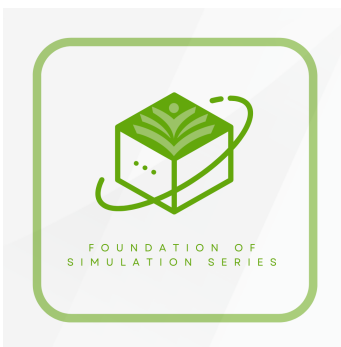
(Travel days are January 20 and 24, 2027)

Charleston, South Carolina

APPLICATIONS OPEN JULY 1

[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.

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:

Tomorrow, August 6

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (EDT)

[SIMChats Zoom](#)

Sep 3 | 7- 8 PM EDT

Empowered by Accommodations Webinar

[Register](#)

SIG SPOTLIGHT

Clinical Education Special Interest Group (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



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.

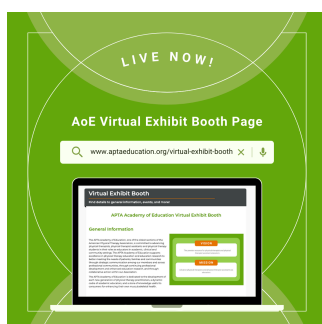
Top benefits of Membership in the Academy:

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>.

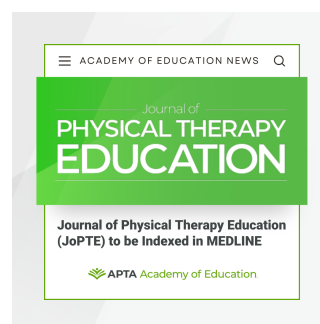
QUICK CLICKS



Check out our
Virtual Exhibit Booth!



Participate in your
Colleagues' Research



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!

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