



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:
 - Volunteers Needed for ELC!
 - Academy Online Community Naming Contest Winner!
 - *Welcome to the EduSphere!*
 - PTA Educators Book Club | *Coming Soon!*
 - New! CE SIG Short Survey | We Want to Hear From You!
 - Education Impact Initiative Project
- Webinars
 - RFE SIG Journal Club
- Committee Spotlight
 - Communications Committee
- Upcoming Events:
 - GAMER 2026 | **Registration Open!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELC 2025

October 17-19 • Kansas City, MO



As we prepare for the upcoming ELC 2025, we are reaching out to our community for volunteers to assist throughout the conference. Your support is crucial in ensuring a smooth and successful event.

We are seeking volunteers to help with various tasks, including registration and moderating Platform and MicroLearn sessions. If you are interested and available to contribute, please sign up using this Google Sheet: [ELC VOLUNTEER SIGN UP](#). Your participation as a volunteer is greatly appreciated. Closer to the conference dates, we will reach out to confirm your availability and provide further details regarding your volunteer assignment.

Thank you in advance for supporting ELC 2025. Should you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact Mary Beth Holmes mbholmes@bu.edu

[Volunteer!](#)

Don't miss your chance to save! The [early bird deadline](#) for the 2025 Physical Therapy Education Leadership Conference (ELC) is fast approaching.

[Register](#)

Welcome to the EduSphere!

Welcome to the EduSphere Community!

This is our member collaboration platform to promote networking, knowledge sharing, and collaboration among APTA Academy of Education members.

[Log In](#)[Learn More](#)

Congratulations to **Nicole Marquez**, winner of the naming contest for our new online community, the **EduSphere**!

Members are encouraged to interact with each other via this online community, either through the Members Community or one of our SIG Communities.

Simply visit aptaeducation.org and click on EduSphere Online Communities under the Connect menu!

Visit the
EduSphere!

PTA Educators Book Club | Coming Soon!



PTA Educators—get ready for our upcoming Fall Book Club! Supported by an Academy Education Impact Initiative Grant, 100 members will receive a free copy of *Learning That Lasts: A Guide for Health Professions Students Who Want to Maximize their Learning* and take part in a virtual book club throughout the fall semester. Registration opens in August, with a kick-off Zoom meeting in October. You must be a member of both the Academy and the PTA Educators SIG to participate. Stay tuned for more details!

New! Clinical Education SIG Survey

The Academy of Education Clinical Education Special Interest Group (SIG) is currently conducting a needs assessment to better understand the professional development opportunities and recognition needs of clinical faculty serving as Clinical Instructors for Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) and Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) students. Please take a moment to fill out the survey.

Take the

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!



National Study Examining Excellence and Value in Physical Therapist Residency Education (PT-REV Study)

Discussion led by:

Dr. Matthew Briggs, PT, DPT, PhD, AT

Dr. Raine Osborne, PT, DPT, EdD



.1 CEUs

Free for Academy of Education
members

\$25 for non-members

This RFESIG Academy of Education Journal Club is a live, interactive session that explores the national PT-REV study on excellence and value in residency education. Dr. Matthew Briggs and Dr. Raine Osborne, co-lead authors of the study, will present key findings and facilitate dialogue on actionable strategies for enhancing post-professional education. Open to RFESIG members and the broader community, this session offers opportunities for knowledge sharing, professional development, and reflection on residency best practices. CEUs available upon completion of assessment.

[Register](#)

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

Communications Committee



What are the duties and responsibilities of the committee?

The Communications Committee is responsible for crafting an annual communications plan that aligns with the Academy's mission and current strategic plan. Led by the Director for Communications and Promotion Dr. Arvie Vitente and

including the Website Editor, Social Media Coordinator, Volunteers Coordinator, and JoPTE Social Media Coordinator, the committee works together to ensure consistent, engaging messaging across all platforms, aiming to recruit new members and highlight the value of Academy membership. They periodically convene to share ongoing and upcoming initiatives, make strategic or tactical recommendations to the Board to improve outreach to stakeholder groups, and collaborate with the Nominations, Awards, and Research Committee chairs to publicize their membership calls through appropriate media channels.

What is something exciting happening within your committee?

The Communications Committee is buzzing with activity as we gear up for the 2025 Education Leadership Conference (ELC) this October. In addition to mapping out our conference messaging and engagement strategy, we've just finalized the EduSphere Engagement Guidelines—a comprehensive set of principles designed to foster meaningful dialogue, peer support, and collaboration on the Academy's online community platform. These guidelines will provide educators, clinicians, and students a clear framework for professional, respectful, and productive interactions in EduSphere. Together, these initiatives position us to showcase the Academy's work more effectively, strengthen member engagement, and build momentum heading into the conference.

How does your committee impact the field of physical therapy education?

The Communications Committee serves as the Academy's amplifier and connective tissue, ensuring that the latest ideas, resources, and opportunities in physical therapy education reach the widest possible audience. By producing a strategic communications plan, curating content for the Newsletter, managing the Academy's website and social channels, and coordinating targeted campaigns around events such as the ELC and CSM, the committee disseminates evidence-based teaching innovations, scholarship calls, and policy updates in real time. This timely, consistent messaging not only strengthens member engagement and recruitment, but also fosters cross-institutional collaboration, accelerates adoption of best practices in classrooms and clinics, and elevates the Academy's voice within broader professional and interprofessional conversations. In short, the committee translates the Academy's work into actionable information that directly shapes curricula, faculty development, and student learning across the physical therapy landscape.

Please list the members of your committee:

Director for Communications and Promotion (Chair)

Dr. Arvie Vitente

Website Editor

Dr. Rob Sweet

Social Media Coordinator

Dr. Leah Verebes

JoPTE Social Media Coordinator

Dr. Derek Liuzzo

Volunteers Coordinator

Dr. Kristina Latva

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*.

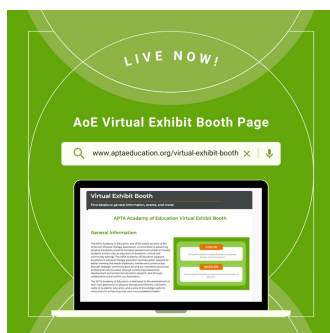
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[Register](#)

Please contact [Rick Segal](#) if you have any questions.
segal@musc.edu | www.gamereducationresearch.com

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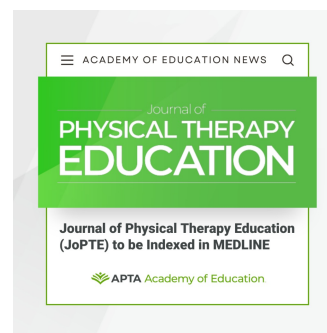
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