

# RESIDENCY & FELLOWSHIP EDUCATION SIG

## APTA ACADEMY OF EDUCATION

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Building bridges of collaboration and communication  
across specialty areas for advancing residency and  
fellowship research, mentoring, and curriculum.

Thank you to all who attended the RFESIG business meeting at CSM. Committee members met with the attendees to discuss areas of opportunity for residency and fellowship (R/F) research. Discussion topics included research data sets for large group analysis, leadership skill development, best practices, variability of clinical practice, and bridging the gap between academic and clinical programs. The insight gained from each breakout room discussion was valuable and greatly appreciated. The RFESIG hopes to continue collaborating with our members to advance R/F research activity. If you are interested in assisting with R/F research studies, please contact the RFESIG at [rfeducationsig@gmail.com](mailto:rfeducationsig@gmail.com).

Thank you,

*Sara Virella Kraft, Chair*

## RFESIG Leadership

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### Chair

Sara Kraft, PT, DPT, MHS, NCS, ATP

### Vice Chair

Jason Zafereo, PT, PhD, OCS,  
FAAOMPT

### Treasurer/Secretary

Chrysta Lloyd, PT, DPT, OCS,  
FAAOMPT

### Membership Secretary

David Nolan, PT, DPT, MS, OCS,  
SCS, CSCS

### Nominating Committee Chair

Cheri Hodges, PT, DPT, MAppSc,  
OCS, FAAOMPT

### Nominating Committee

Tara Dickson, PT, DPT, PhD

### Program Committee

#### Co-Chairs

Eric Monsch, PT, DPT, NCS  
Ryan Pontiff, PT, DPT, OCS,  
FAAOMPT

### Scholarly Research Committee

Raine Osborne, PT, DPT, EdD,  
FAAOMPT

### Communications Committee

Christina Gomez, PT, DPT, OCS,  
SCS, FAAOMPT, CSCS

## RFESIG News

### Residency & Fellowship Director/ Coordinator Mentorship Program

Several years ago, the RFESIG created the Director & Coordinator Mentorship Program. Individuals new to these R/F leadership positions are paired up with a more experienced mentor who can answer questions, provide guidance, and offer support.

If you are interested in learning more about the program as a mentor or a mentee, please click [here](#).

The RFESIG is seeking individuals from all specialty areas that are interested in being a mentor to our R/F colleagues. Email us at [rfeducationsig@gmail.com](mailto:rfeducationsig@gmail.com) if you would like additional information.

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### 2022 Combined Sections Meeting Planning

Eric Monsch, the RFESIG's CSM Programming Committee Chair, is collaborating with the other APTE SIG Programming Committee Chairs to plan for next year's APTA Combined Sections Meeting.

Email Eric at [rfeducationsig@gmail.com](mailto:rfeducationsig@gmail.com) if you have any ideas or suggestions.

## Featured R/F Research

### Exploring the Relationship of Race and Ethnicity to Other Characteristics Within Residency Applicant: An Analysis of RF-PTCAS Data from 2013 to 2018.

Mary Jane Rapport, PT, DPT, PhD, FAPTA; Steven Chesbro, PT, DPT, EdD; Ryan Bannister, BA; Robyn Watson Ellerbe, PhD; and Lisa VanHoose, PT, MSPT, MPH, PhD  
Journal of Physical Therapy Education. 2020. vol.34(4), 296-304.

**Introduction:** A centralized application process for applicants to physical therapy and fellowship education programs has been available through an online portal known as Residency Fellowship-Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service (RF-PTCAS) since 2013. None of these data have been described or analyzed to date beyond an initial internal report of applicant and application numbers. The purpose of this study was to analyze and describe applicants to physical therapist (PT) residency programs from 2013 to 2018, with a specific focus on race and ethnicity. Demographic and admission research related to PT residency education is limited, and we are unaware of any existing data on residency applicants based on racial and ethnic identity. At present, we can look to existing data from past and current Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) students to inform expected racial or ethnic composition of current and future residents. Both the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education and PTCAS provide population demographics of PT students.

**Methods:** A data set from RF-PTCAS was obtained for analysis of applicant data for the application cycles from 2013-2014 to 2017-2018. Applicants to residency programs through RF-PTCAS between 2013 and 2018 were included in this analysis (n = 4,373).

**Results:** This growing applicant pool has remained relatively similar in applicant demographics from year to year over this 5-year period of analysis. The data show that applicants to residency are best characterized as: 26-30 years of age, female, White, graduated with their DPT degree within the same or the previous year of applying to residency, and living in a state in the Southern, Mid-West or Pacific-Coastal regions.

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Overall, the race/ethnicity of White to non-White applicants has remained constant with little change in the growth of non-White applicants. Thus, despite the "call to action" among leaders in our profession, and an increase in other related health professions, we have had little change across 5 years of admissions data.

**Have you or a colleague published a study or presented a poster related to residency or fellowship education?**

Email an abstract to

Raine Osborne

[rfeducationsig@gmail.com](mailto:rfeducationsig@gmail.com)

*Submissions are accepted on an ongoing basis*

## Not a member?

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### Join the RFESIG!

All Academy members can easily join the SIG by clicking [here](#).

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Not a member of the APTA Academy of Education?

All members of the APTA, can join the Academy [here](#).

## Translating Research into Practice

In the paper, *Exploring the relationship of race and ethnicity to other characteristics within residency applicants: An analysis of RF-PTCAS data from 2013 to 2018*, Rapport and colleagues highlight the lack of racial diversity in learners across the physical therapist education continuum. While not surprising, this paper is timely in establishing a baseline from which we can work to improve. Importantly, the findings from this study demonstrate that the percentage of non-White residency applicants is consistent with the percentage of non-White Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) students, and that the acceptance rate between White and non-White applicants did not significantly differ. This suggests that efforts to recruit more racially diverse DPT students will also have a positive effect on diversity in residency education. However, it will be important to monitor this trend, especially considering the recent dialogue surrounding student debt and residency education. The impact for higher student debt loads may have a disproportionate effect on non-White DPT students considering residency application. Rapport and colleagues also performed analyses of other applicant characteristics and offer several observations and recommendations toward advancing this important issue.

## COVID-19 Resources

APTA Guidance —  
click [here](#)

APTE Guidance —  
click [here](#)

ABPTRFE Guidance —  
click [here](#)

Interview with Linda Csiza on  
ABPTRFE changes to  
R/F requirements —  
click [here](#)

Orthopedic Residency &  
Fellowship (ORF-SIG)  
COVID-19 Manual —  
click [here](#)

ACAPT Guidance —  
click [here](#)

APTA Academy and Section  
Resources —  
click [here](#)

World Confederation for  
Physical Therapy  
Resources —  
click [here](#)

## Podcast Recap



Our latest podcast is now available!  
[Episode 6. The In's and Out's of RF-PTCAS](#)

Guests: Ryan Bannister, Stephen  
Kareha & Kirk Bentzen

Missed an episode?

Catch up on all episodes of our podcast at any  
time.

[Episode 1. Navigating the Annual Continuous  
Improvement Report](#)

Guest: Linda Csiza

[Episode 2. The RFESIG Think Tank: The  
When, the Why, and the How](#)

Guests: Christina Platko & Vanessa  
Mirabito-Gerner



[Episode 3 — Part One. COVID-19: What  
Resources are Available for R/F Education](#)

Guests: Linda Csiza, Matt Haberl, Kathleen  
Geist & Jim Moore

[Episode 3 — Part Two. COVID-19: Looking to  
the Future of R/F Education](#)

Guests: Elaine Lonnemann, Cameron  
MacDonald & Mark Shepherd

[Episode 4. Catching Up with the Residency &  
Fellowship Research Collaborative](#)

Guests: Gail Jensen, Greg Hartley, Matt Briggs  
& Raine Osborne

[Episode 5. The RFESIG Business Meeting at ELC](#)

Guests: Members of the RFESIG Committee

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## R/F SIG Corner

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### AAOMPT Program Directors SIG & ACOMPTE Council Advisory Committee

The AAOMPT PD SIG/ACOMPTE CAC has provided structured feedback and recommendations to the American Council for Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy Education (ACOMPTE) on educational standards, potential transfer of prior educational credit and international mentoring. The input provided is based upon group input from CAC members within the PD SIG and is informed by a shared purpose to optimize orthopaedic manual physical therapy education.

### Orthopaedic Residency & Fellowship SIG — APTA Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy

The Orthopaedic Residency and Fellowship Special Interest Group (ORF-SIG) of the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy has been active in 2021 in assisting programs with sustainability. The CoVid-19 pandemic placed significant financial and sustainability challenges for continuing their post-professional residency/fellowship educational programs. To assist programs, the ORF-SIG has been working on creating greater recognition regarding the benefits of Residency and Fellowship education. In doing so, the ORF-SIG has created an interested Applicant survey to better connect potential residents with programs still seeking to fill open positions. If you or someone you know is interested in residency education, please sign up [here](#) to get more information. Additionally, to assist programs in spreading the word about the benefits of their program we are creating a monthly Program Spotlight. Interested programs who would like to highlight their program can email [mhaberl@orthopt.org](mailto:mhaberl@orthopt.org). To find out more about the other great member benefits the ORF-SIG make sure to check out our website: <https://www.orthopt.org/content/special-interest-groups/residency-fellowship>. Member benefits include:

- Developing program grants and orthopaedic curriculum
- Resident/fellow scholarships
- Program resources including several frequently asked questions documents regarding accreditation, and RF-PTCAS

As the RFESIG continues to collaborate with all R/F SIGs to advance residency and fellowship education, we encourage our members to learn about other R/F teams.

[Geriatric Residency and Fellowship SIG — Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy](#)

[Neurologic Residency & Fellowship SIG — Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy](#)

[Oncologic Residency SIG — APTA Oncology](#)

[Orthopaedic Residency and Fellowship SIG \(ORF-SIG\) — Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy](#)

[Specialization SIG — American Academy of Sports Physical Therapy](#)

[Task Force on Residencies and Fellowships — Academy of Acute Care Physical Therapy](#)

[Pediatric Residency & Fellowship Information — Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy](#)

[EMG/NCV Residency Information — American Academy of Clinical Electrodiagnosis](#)

“Today the lines between mentoring and networking are blurring. Welcome to the world of mentworking.”

-Julie Winkle Giuliani

## Member Resources

- **RFESIG website** - Learn more about our SIG [here](#).
- **Our Hub Community** - Join us [here](#).
- **Think Tank Compendium** - Click [here](#) to access resources to enhance your residency or fellowship program. All APTA members have access to the Think Tank.  
**Please note:** The RFESIG Think Tank is an ongoing effort and will continue to review resources for inclusion in the Compendium. If you would like to share a resource with the Think Tank, please click [here](#).  
\*We kindly ask that you cite the originating program for each resource that you incorporate into your R/F program.
- **R/F Director & Coordinator Mentorship Program** - Click [here](#) to join the RFESIG’s mentorship program geared toward leaders of R/F programs.

**Thank you to our members!**

The RFESIG continues to grow and now has 315 members.

**Everyone is welcome!**

Invite residency and fellowship graduates, faculty, and program directors across all specialty areas to join our SIG.

Questions? Comments?

Contact us at  
[rfeducationsig@gmail.com](mailto:rfeducationsig@gmail.com)