

# RESIDENCY/FELLOWSHIP EDUCATION SIG

Academy of Physical Therapy Education | American Physical Therapy Association

## Election Results

Terms begin July 1, 2020.

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## Translating Research into Practice

The influence of education and training on diagnostic reasoning

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## COVID-19 Resources

A special edition podcast, interview with Linda Csiza and resources for you and your program. We're here for you!

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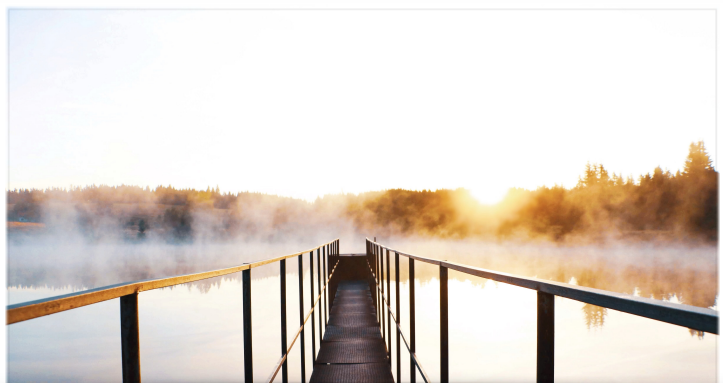
## RFESIG Think Tank

We're highlighting this comprehensive collection of R/F resources

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

The RFESIG's last newsletter came out when we were seeing the early effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The RFESIG and many other entities have been actively developing resources to assist residency and fellowship programs in meeting the requirements of ABPTRFE and ACOMPTE while social distancing. Our efforts have involved collaborating with individuals from the APTA and AAOMPT. We've also recorded a podcast, in collaboration with the ORF-SIG, focusing on resources and strategies to implement into your program. More information, along with a list of COVID-19 resources available for you and your program, can be found on page 5. I also want to highlight our feature on the RFESIG's Think Tank Compendium, a compilation of many resources available to you (for free!) to assist you, your mentors, and your residents/fellows-in-training. Learn more about the Think Tank on page 6, and check out our second podcast on the practical application of Think Tank resources on page 7.

Please take care,

*Sara Virella Kraft, Chair*

## RFESIG Leadership

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

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### Communications Committee

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

## Now Featuring: RFESIG's Think Tank!

Click [here](#) to learn more.

To access the mentoring and curriculum resources  
in the RFESIG Think Tank, click [here](#).

## Election Results

Congratulations to our new and returning  
committee members!

Sara Virella Kraft, PT, DPT, MHS, NCS, ATP —  
**Chair**

Chrysta Lloyd, PT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT —  
**Treasurer/Secretary**

Cheri Hodges, PT, DPT, MAppSc, OCS, FAAOMPT —  
**Nominating Committee Chair**

Tara Dickson, PT, DPT, PhD —  
**Nominating Committee**

## Thank you, David!

David Gillette has been an incredible resource,  
team member, and leader on the  
RFESIG Committee.

Please join us in thanking him for his service and  
leadership to the RFESIG.

## Featured R/F Research

### Educational and Experiential Factors Associated with Physical Therapists' Diagnostic Reasoning.

Courtney Souter, PT, DPT, CSCS; Emily Musy, PT, DPT;  
Aaron Hartstein, PT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT; Arthur Lievre, PT, DPT, OCS, CMPT;  
& Andrea Fergus, PT, PhD

Journal of Physical Therapy Education. 2019. vol.33(3):198-208.

**Introduction:** The influence of education level, post-professional training, and experience on physical therapists' (PTs) diagnostic reasoning is unknown. The purpose of this study was to examine the influence of education, training, and experience on PTs' diagnostic reasoning through a series of musculoskeletal case-based surveys. While literature supports quality of care's influence on health care costs, the factors influencing PTs' quality of care are unclear. Literature suggests that surgeons with post-professional training and more experienced Emergency Room physicians demonstrate better patient outcomes, diagnostic accuracy, and efficiency.

**Methods:** Five hundred and twenty-nine licensed PTs participated in this study. A series of 5 case-based electronic surveys assessed participants' diagnostic reasoning in orthopedic presentations. Response rates ranged from 55% to 40%. Accuracy, efficiency, and hypothesis-generation strategies were analyzed to examine diagnostic reasoning. Strength of associations, diagnostic accuracy, and hypothesis-generation strategies were examined via odds ratios; efficiency of determining the accurate diagnosis was examined via *t* tests.

**Results:** Hypothetico-deductive reasoning by systematically eliminating competing diagnoses (funneling) demonstrated significant correlation with accuracy in 4 of the 5 cases (odds ratio [OR] 2.46 [1.19–5.10] to 13.9 [6.12–31.5]). Physical therapists with any American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties (ABPTS) certification demonstrated significantly greater diagnostic accuracy (OR 2.1 [1.41–3.807] to 3.00 [1.22–7.36]) and efficiency ( $P < .05$ ) in 3 of the 5 cases compared to those without ABPTS certification. Board-Certified Orthopedic Clinical Specialists (OCS) demonstrated significantly greater diagnostic accuracy (OR 1.90 [1.08–3.34] to 3.42 [1.42–8.40]) and efficiency ( $P < .05$ ) compared to those without ABPTS OCS certification. Residency-trained PTs demonstrated significantly greater diagnostic accuracy (OR 2.02 [1.03–3.96] to 2.84 [1.38–5.82]) and efficiency ( $P < .05$ ) compared to those without residency training. Degree level, experience, and fellowship training were not related to accuracy, efficiency, or funneling hypotheses ( $P > .05$ ).

**Discussion and Conclusion:** American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties certification and American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education training's significant association with both diagnostic accuracy and efficiency suggests the importance of PTs' pursuit of ABPTS certification and/or formal post-professional training in developing diagnostic reasoning and expertise. These post-professional endeavors may lead to appropriate care more quickly, improving patient outcomes, and decreasing health care costs.

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*

## Next Up!

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**Educational Leadership Conference (ELC) is on the horizon.**

**October 16-18, 2020.**

**Milwaukee, WI**

Join the RFESIG for their business meeting open to all, network with other residency & fellowship educators, and attend multiple education sessions focusing on teaching tools that can be implemented into R/F education and mentorship.

Click [here](#) to learn more and/or register to attend.

## Translating Research into Practice

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In the recent paper, *Educational and experiential factors associated with physical therapists' diagnostic reasoning*, Souter et al. investigate how multiple factors, including residency and fellowship education, influence diagnostic accuracy and efficiency. Major strengths of this paper include a relatively large sample size and use of multiple standardized cases to assess clinicians' performance. Additional strengths include a creative method for evaluating hypothetico-deductive reasoning and diagnostic efficiency. Although it is not clear how performance on the paper cases relates to performance in the clinic, the questions addressed in this paper are highly relevant and important to the physical therapy profession. In particular, this paper adds to the very small body of evidence on the outcomes of residency education. Furthermore, the study design may inform future studies aimed at investigating complex targets such as clinical reasoning and efficiency. More studies investigating a broad range of outcomes are needed in order to determine the value of residency and fellowship education.

## COVID-19 R/F Resources

APTA Guidance —  
click [here](#)

APTE Guidance —  
click [here](#)

ABPTRFE Guidance —  
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](#)

## COVID-19 Bulletin

### Our two-part *special edition* podcast on COVID-19

In collaboration with the ORF-SIG, the RFESIG discusses strategies and available resources for R/F programs during this unknown and constantly changing time with several leaders in residency & fellowship education, including Linda Csiza (APTA), Elaine Lonnemann (AAOMPT President), and Matt Haberl (ORF-SIG Chair).

- Part 1. [Resources available for programs](#)  
Stay tuned for part 2 — Looking to the future

### Interview with Linda Csiza of the APTA



**Linda Csiza, PT, DSc**, Lead Accreditation Specialist for Residency and Fellowship Education of the APTA, answers commonly asked questions from R/F programs regarding changes in ABPTRFE requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Click [here](#) to read her answers to ten frequently asked questions, including:

- What is ABPTRFE's guidance for residency and fellowship programs related to COVID-19?
- Is there anything we can do if our residents are not able to complete their required clinical practice site experiences?
- Can I delay the start of my residency/fellowship program?

# The RFESIG's Think Tank Compendium

You asked. We listened.  
The Think Tank Compendium has a new look.  
Click [here](#) to check it out!

The RFESIG has re-organized the Think Tank resources into three folders:

- Resources for Program Administrators
- Resources for Program Curriculum
- Resources for Residents/Fellows

In each folder, you will find a list of useful documents, including faculty & mentor development resources, clinical reasoning tips, and mentoring prep forms.



Purpose and Methodology	▼
<a href="#">Think Tank Methods.pptx</a> <a href="#">Overview of Think Tank.pdf</a>	
Resources for Program Administration	▶
Resources for Program Curriculum	▶
Resources for Residents/Fellows	▶

Click on a main folder to find a folder for each topic. By clicking on the topic, you will find the program and resources provided. Please note, a few folders are empty. Please reach out if you have resources that would be a great fit for that area. We are always seeking additional materials.

Resources for Residents/Fellows	▼
Clinical Reasoning	▼
Baylor Scott & White Institute Rehab-Texas Woman's University Women's Health Residency	▼
Overview	
<a href="#">Baylor Scott &amp; White Institute Rehab-Texas Woman's University Women's Health Residency Overview.pdf</a>	
Resources	
<a href="#">Baylor Scott &amp; White Institute Rehab-Texas Woman's University Women's Health Clinical Reasoning Form.pdf</a>	



# The RFESIG's Think Tank Compendium

RFESIG's Podcast #2 –  
RFESIG's Think Tank Resources in Practice  
Click [here](#) to listen.

We were excited to have podcast guests, Vanessa Mirabito Gerner & Christina Platko, discuss their use of the resources found inside the Think Tank Compendium. Read on to view a few of the resources they have used in their programs. Click on each resource to access it.



- The Jackson Clinic's [Advanced Mentor Training](#) course
- The Jackson Clinic's [Resident Performance Review](#) form
- The Jackson Clinic's [Resident Mentoring Feedback](#) form
- Creighton University's [Narrative Reflections](#) resource
- Duke University's [Clinical Reasoning and Reflection](#) tool

**Vanessa Mirabito Gerner, PT, DPT, OCS, ATC**  
Coordinator, Orthopedic PT Residency & Spine Fellowship Programs  
Cayuga Medical Center

- The Ohio State University's [Basic Statistics for the Clinician](#) presentation
- Marquette University's [Ethics](#) presentation

**Christina Platko, PT, DPT, NCS**  
Program Director, Neurologic PT Residency  
Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital & Grand View State University



**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 also ask that you cite the originating program for each resource that you incorporate into your R/F program.



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## R/F SIG Corner

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### Onc ResSIG APTA Oncology

The APTA Oncology is excited to share the creation of a new special interest group, Residency SIG (Onc ResSIG). The Residency SIG services to provide APTA Oncology members, who have a common interest in residency education, a platform to meet, confer, and promote program development, educational curriculum, best practice, and delivery of clinical residencies to advance oncologic physical therapy practice. If you are interested in learning more, reach out via email at [oncresidencysig@gmail.com](mailto:oncresidencysig@gmail.com). Follow us on Twitter: @APTAOncResSIG.

### Pediatric Residency Committee Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy

- **Our Numbers Continue to Grow** – There are currently 23 accredited Pediatric Residency Programs nationwide. We now have 3 programs and 2 in development. There are 3 accredited Neonatology Fellowships within our specialty area of practice.
- **Uniform Announcement Date** – March 6, 2020 was our third annual uniform announcement date. Seventeen of 23 programs participated this year. In total, Pediatric Residency Programs accepted 27 residents. We are exploring the possibility of transitioning to a Match program, similar to the type of Match program used in medicine.
- **Residency Consortium** – This year, our consortium developed a Pediatric Test and Measures module with synchronous and asynchronous learning components. The consortium committee is currently working on modules for Pediatric Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Issues and Pediatric Sports Related Issues.
- **Residency Journal Club** – Residents meet quarterly to discuss a current pediatric PT research article through our residency journal club. Meetings are arranged and led by residents using a common article review template with guided questions. The residents meet via a media conferencing platform. As the number of programs continues to grow, we have divided into east and west coasts to better accommodate meeting times.
- **COVID-19** – In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Residency and Fellowship Director's Committee opened a Google drive document to share pediatric residency and fellowship materials and ideas to enhance on-line learning. Several programs are sharing didactic content and inviting other programs to join their on-line meetings.



## Neurologic Residency & Fellowship SIG Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy

We are a brand new SIG in the Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy. We recently sent out a survey to our members in an effort to better understand who they are and what they need from us. Because the honey-do list is endless, we asked for the top three most important action items. The results indicated a need to focus on the following action items: 1) creating a common offer date, 2) facilitating communication across programs, and 3) collecting resources for directors and mentors. Another objective we have is to create a podcast series with topics that are relevant to residency and fellowship education. There is a wealth of information available to us - we are excited to delve deeper into these opportunities and create connections between residents, directors and mentors.

## Specialization SIG American Academy of Sports Physical Therapy

The newly formed Specialization SIG (formerly known as the Residency/Fellowship SIG and Emergency Medical Responder SIG) will act as a facilitator for its members to optimize communication and share best practices to enhance post-professional education and practice outcomes.

Interested in learning more?

- Become a member today! Click [here](#) to join.
- Follow us on Twitter: @SpecializeSIG
- Follow us on Instagram: @aasptspecializationsig
- For students or young professionals looking to learn more about Sports Physical Therapy Residency programs, check out this recent webinar hosted by current sports PT residents from across the country! Click [here](#).
- Stay tuned for a new podcast aimed at providing career guidance for students and young professionals!
- Questions, thoughts, ideas? Contact Sarah.Sherman@UToledo.edu

## American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists (AAOMPT) is the representative body for the United States to the International Federation of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists (IFOMPT). With this role comes an obligation to have oversight and provide assessment of member OMPT program through an External Assessor Process to ensure IFOMPT Standards, 2016, are being met or on task to do so. Unfortunately, when ABPTRFE changed Fellowship Standards in 2018, those standards did not meet the same rigor as the Standards that had been required by AAOMPT and IFOMPT in the past. Therefore, AAOMPT chose to create the Foundation for Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy (FOMPT), formed to implement philanthropic efforts to advance public and professional education, to accredit post-graduate training programs in orthopaedic manual physical therapy, and to support and disseminate results of scientific and

clinical research as these areas pertain to orthopaedic manual physical therapy. FOMPT provides counsel for and oversight to the Accreditation Council on Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy Education (ACOMPTE), an accreditation agency who will be Accrediting and Re-Accrediting OMPT Fellowship Programs. An ACOMPTE Standards, 2019, document has been written reflecting IFOMPT Standards, 2016, and AAOMPT Standards, 2013, and the Council is in the process of establishing Policies and Procedures along with an Application for Accreditation and Re-Accreditation of OMPT Programs.

What are the differences in the standards required by ABPTRFE versus AAOMPT and IFOMPT? The main differences have focused around the significant reduction of the required hours for 1:1 mentorship, as well as, allow mentoring to be provided by someone who is not a Fellow of AAOMPT and with less practice time in the subspecialty area. In addition, some of the new policies of ABPTRFE impacted the potential requirement of an on-site visit for the addition of more than three new mentoring sites. The financial burden of this new requirement along with diminished rigor created a tipping point for AAOMPT member programs. Therefore, FOMPT and ACOMPTE were established. There are now two pathways by which a program can become accredited. One is to seek dual accreditation status through ACOMPTE and ABPTRFE. Programs who have chosen dual accreditation have done so because they have a residency. The other pathway is to seek accreditation through ACOMPTE alone. This will mean that in the future, the profession of physical therapy will have two pathways for “fellowship training” in orthopaedic manual physical therapy. Either pathway will provide the same endpoint, recognition as a Fellow of AAOMPT in a member organization of IFOMPT. Click [here](#) to learn more.

**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 Electrodagnosis

"I want to honor the heroes for whom there are no days of honor, no ceremonies, no medals, no recognition."  
-Laurel Dalrymple

## 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 286 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)