

SUMMER 2024

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DPT
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Navy/Marines

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Nicole Casagrand, PT, DPT

Defense Health Agency

Carrie Storer, PT, DPT
Kerry MacDonald PT, DSc

Federal Affairs Liaison

Rachel Winthrop, PT

Continued



APTA FederalSM

A Section of the American Physical Therapy Association

APTA Federal President's Message

Andrea Crunkhorn, PT, DPT

All, welcome to a very hot summer. Stay cool, stay safe and stay healthy. Our summer 2024 newsletter follows with a lot of great content reflecting a lot of hard, excellent work being done across federal physical therapy.

Over the past two years I have served as the Chair of the Council of Section Presidents. During this time the Presidents have had the opportunity to renegotiate the contract between APTA and the Sections/Academies (the CSM Agreement) and to renegotiate how new Sections or Academies are created.

Of most immediate import to you is the CSM Agreement. This agreement sets the terms for how costs and proceeds are distributed between APTA and the components. We hope the changes made allow APTA Federal and the other Sections/Academies to share in the CSM proceeds more fairly, and that the negotiated changes allow some relief from the skyrocketing costs that we've discussed with you over the past few years. APTA has been very open in our negotiations and willing to share in their profit. These new terms take effect in 2025 (for the 2026 CSM). If this has the intended impact, it will allow us to keep high quality content throughout CSM, expand member benefits year round such as the learning management system, accept some risk with new concepts or ideas, all while keeping the dues low.

Program Chair

LCDR Laura Riebel, PT, DPT

Research Chair

Ignacio Gaunaurd, PT, PhD, MSPT

Membership Chair

James Giebfried, PT, PhD

Communications Chair

Katie Qiu, PT, DPT

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Rebecca Vogsland, PT, DPT

PTA Liaison

Debra Ludwiczak-Henry, PTA

Student Liaison

Matthew Glassoff, SPT

Section Historian

Pat McAdoo, PT, M.Ed

The negotiation on the process to create a new Section or Academy is underway. Current APTA Standing Rules are well written except for one line that states that the existing Sections and Academies must verify “that the interests of individuals represented by the proposed section/academy cannot be served through existing sections/academies.” This has been interpreted to mean that any one of the 18 Sections or Academies can deny a petition based on the vague idea that “someone else” in the APTA can meet the petitioning group’s needs. This is an impossibly high bar and ensures that we have no new Sections or Academies. We all recognize the need for a fair, transparent, and valid process.

The Council has committed to having a concept plan no later than the APTA House of Delegates in 2025; the APTA Board President would like to see a plan before the House of Delegates this July. More to follow as this unfolds.

Have a great summer and we’re already looking forward to Houston in February. Keep an eye out for the hotel opening announcement so you can get a room in our main venue hotel (see Laura Riebel’s SPC note on CSM 2025 below).

Best regards,
Andrea Crunkhorn
Pres., APTA Federal

Join Us in Houston, TX for the APTA Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) 2025!

Save the Date - February 13-15, 2025

Federal Section will sponsor 20 educational sessions offering a wide variety of presenters and evidence-based topics, plus SIG meetings, networking events, and much more!

Poster and platform abstracts submissions remain open on the CSM website until July 16, 2024.

CSM housing options will open in July 2024.

APTA Federal will have the majority of its content at the Marriott Marquis Houston.

Early-bird CSM Registration begins September 11, 2024.

[For more information](#)

Combined Sections Meeting

 Feb. 13-15, 2025

 **Houston, TX**
George R. Brown Convention
Center



Membership Message

Dr. James Giebfried, PT, DPT, MA, CPH, MBA

We are happy to have you join and/or renew your membership with us to continue our vision this year to drive innovative practices across the federal sector as leaders in physical therapy.

We encourage you to join one or more of our five Special Interest Groups (SIGs):

- Amputation Care (Includes separate Student Focus Group for PT/PTA Students)
- Pelvic Health Rehabilitation
- Primary Care
- Residency/Fellowship
- Human Performance Optimization

To join a SIG, [click here](#)

Additional leadership contact information and resources can be found on our [website](#).

Federal Section Membership numbers are 1054 total PT, PTA and Student members.

National membership increased by 157 members this Spring 2024.

We had a successful CSM with: numerous educational programs, award presentations Dr. George Davis Researcher Award Federal Section member and Dr. Hollis Herman, Innovator Award and exhibit booth interaction with the over 15,000 participants attending. Many thanks to the Office Staff and volunteers at our well received booth.

We sought sponsorships for CSM activities and Federal Section Administrative costs to help offset the growing costs of serving you.

We are looking into a grant for increasing membership sponsored by National APTA. The suggested concept is having a booth at 5 State County Fairs with Federal Section, State Chapters and School participation. Our rural communities need to hear about the services Physical Therapy provides and have availability to join our ranks as students and licensed Therapists.

APTA is making the case for the value of physical therapy in ways that resonate with policymakers, payers, and the public. Our groundbreaking report, **“The Economic Value of Physical Therapy in the United States,”** shows how choosing physical therapy over alternative treatments for eight conditions results in net economic benefits to patients and the U.S. healthcare system. We’re leveraging this evidence-based resource in an ongoing nationwide campaign that includes dozens of tools members can access to communicate the messages with their audiences. We’re pushing for legislation to improve patient care and payment for physical therapist services. We shaped and introduced bills in Congress that improve Medicare payment, expand telehealth for PTs and PTAs, improve PTA supervision requirements, expand the role of physical therapists in falls prevention programs, open access to federal student loan repayment programs, and strengthen the delivery of pelvic health physical therapy in Medicaid. We also continued to urge Congress to reform the broken Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. We’re pressing them to address systemic problems that hinder fair payment and patient access — and we created a list of specific changes to get started. At the state level, we worked with chapters to fuel some significant positive changes — everything from reduced restrictions on direct access in Maine, Missouri, Tennessee, and Virginia to PTs being authorized to order imaging in Rhode Island and Iowa.

Continued...

[ATPA Annual Report](#)

We look forward to your interest in volunteer opportunities within the APTA Federal. We welcome suggestions for useful links or free educational resources that we could include to add value to our members. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at info@aptafederal.org.

Thank you for all that you do for the Federal Section and the Profession.

We ask you to try to do one more volunteering effort this year. Just one more to make an even greater difference for our members and patients.

"Life Is Just a Minute" By: Benjamin E. Mays

I've only just a minute, Only sixty seconds in it. Forced upon me, can't refuse it, Didn't seek it, didn't choose it, But it's up to me to use it. I must suffer if I lose it, Give an account if I abuse it, Just a tiny little minute, But eternity is in it.

Pictured below left is Dr. Hollis Herman (3rd from right) and pictured below right is Dr. George Davis (in the middle at Federal Section Booth)



Quality Physical Therapy Care

Visit us on the web at
www.aptafederal.org

Announcement for Scholarship and Awards

Renee Schroeder, PT, DPT

Play a significant supporting role in helping your colleagues receive recognition for their achievements by nominating the person or persons you feel are most deserving of an APTA Federal Award. APTA Federal offers four (4) scholarships and three (3) awards each year to APTA members. Scholarships are available for APTA Federal members only and are in place to assist with registration fees for CSM. Awards are available for any APTA member to recognize accomplishments within the federal sector in research, innovation, or PTA practice. All scholarship and award recipients are recognized in person at the Annual Business Meeting held at CSM each year.

Scholarships Available:

- Student Scholarship (2) – 2nd or 3rd year DPT student
- Early Career Scholarship - graduated after 2019.
- Post Professional Scholarship – must be enrolled in a post professional graduate degree or residency program.

All scholarship applicants must also include a brief statement (no more than 1 page) outlining why they wish to work as a federal PT.

Post professional Scholarship applicants must include a letter of recommendation from the degree/residency program in which they are enrolled.

Awards Available:

- Researcher Award
Nomination must include a copy of the authored nominee's paper with complete reference citation.
- Innovator Award
- PTA Outstanding Service Award

Scholarship/Awards Nomination Process: submit to info@aptafederal.org

1. Resume: Highlighting relevant experience, skills, and qualifications of nominee.
2. Letters of nomination:
 - a) Scholarships: 1 letter detailing how and why nominee meets the criteria.
 - b) Awards: Minimum 2 letters detailing how and why nominee meets the criteria.

Individuals may receive awards only once in a three (3) year period and only if the outstanding contributions are after the previous award. Contributions should be made within the federal sector physical therapy services. If nominated by someone other than the applicant, please make sure nominee is aware of the nomination.

Key Dates:

- Application Deadline: July 31, 2024
- Notification of selection: August 31, 2024

For any inquiries or further information, please contact Renee Schroeder at reneejschroeder@gmail.com.

We look forward to receiving nominations that will allow us to recognize our colleagues for the outstanding services provided within the physical therapy profession in the federal sector.

Federal Affairs Update

Rachel Winthrop, PTA

Regulatory Update

Comments Submitted: Recently, APTA submitted comments on the annual SNF and IRF rules. APTA, in collaboration with the APTA Academy of Research, responded to a request for information on Medicare Advantage data, focused on prior authorization.

Learn More: Attending the June [APTA Regulatory, Legislative and Payment webinar](#) on June 6. We are working on CEU approval for this webinar.

Congressional Update

Hill Happenings: With 9 legislative weeks left before the election, Congress is focusing on the National Defense Authorization Act, which is the final 'must pass' bill. We are monitoring appropriations bills and there will likely be another continuing resolution, which may go past the election. The lame duck is expected to be very busy.

Medicare Payment Movement: APTA recently attended a roundtable discussion with the "Gang of 6", a bipartisan Senate workgroup on Medicare payment reform, to discuss strategies on payment reform.

Telehealth Touch Base: The House E&C and Ways and Means Committees voted unanimously to approve a 2-year extension of all current Medicare telehealth policy. We are waiting on the Senate Finance Committee to support telehealth permanency and draft legislation is forthcoming. The focus continues to be on permanency with the support of the Expanded Telehealth Access Act (H.R. 3875/S. 2880).

FYI for the Next APTA Capitol Hill Day: The 2025 APTA Capitol Hill Day will be held in conjunction with APTA Leadership Congress (likely July 2025) and will be a shorter event.

Federal Agencies

• **CMS Data Access Changes:** In mid-February, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced that it would be removing the option of physical access to Medicare and Medicaid claims data that PT researchers use to conduct high-value studies and is requiring investigators to pay a per-head fee for access to the data in CMS' cloud environment. The agency was initially planning to stop disseminating physical data extracts in mid-August however, due to outcry from the broader research community, the agency is postponing this deadline and seeks comments on how researchers will be affected by this change. In consultation with members of the APTA Academy of Research, APTA submitted comments discussing the numerous ways in which this policy change will negatively impact Medicare research.

• **FTC Non-Compete Rule:** In a final rule issued on May 7, 2024, driven by a determination that employee noncompete restrictions are an unfair method of competition in violation of Section 5 of the FTC Act, the U.S. Federal Trade Commission has banned the practice across nearly all employment types, including for PTs, PTAs, and their employers. The final rule prohibits the use of noncompete agreements in all future employment arrangements, renders existing noncompete provisions unenforceable, and requires employers to notify workers with existing noncompete restrictions that they no longer apply.

Noncompete restrictions, a condition of employment that prevents the employee from accepting employment or starting a business in settings deemed to be in competition with the current employer, are used across a wide range of employment settings. The new rule has been praised as a win for workers' rights and criticized as federal overreach. The restrictions are already being challenged in court, but the rule is structured in such a way that should any part of the package be struck down, other portions would remain in effect. APTA is reviewing the final rule and will provide updates to members as necessary.

- **CMS Quality, Safety, and Oversight Group Meeting:** On May 16, 2024, APTA health policy and payment staff met with CMS' Quality, Safety, and Oversight Group to discuss the survey and certification process. At the meeting, APTA discussed the accurate reporting of therapy minutes in the payroll-based journal and the administrative mandates of care delivery in relation to Medicare's plan of care requirements. APTA was joined by staff from AOTA and ASHA.

- **FY 2025 Skilled Nursing Facility Proposed Rule:** On May 28, 2024, APTA will submit comments in response to the fiscal year 2025 skilled nursing facility proposed rule which if finalized as proposed provides a 4.1% payment update, the largest in many years. Among other things, CMS introduces multiple technical changes to the value-based purchasing program, looks to add social determinants of health items to the quality reporting program, and updates the non-therapy ancillary component of the patient-driven payment model to better account for the cost of caring for patients with comorbidities.

U.S. Congress

- **Allied Health Workforce Diversity Program:** On May 2, 2024, APTA led a coalition of therapy provider associations in sending a joint letter to the Senate Finance Committee requesting that Congress approve the necessary resources to implement the Allied Healthcare Workforce Diversity (AHWD) program. The AHWD program would provide grants to accredited PT and PTA education programs for them use to recruit and retain students who are under-represented in the field of physical therapy (as well as occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, and respiratory therapy). The coalition letter expressed support for S. 4102 – the Long-Term Care Workforce Support Act, which proposes an annual appropriation of \$10 million per year to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to operationalize the program through 2029.

- **Telehealth:** On May 8, 2024, the House Ways and Means Committee unanimously approved legislation extending all current Medicare telehealth policies for another two years, with a scheduled expiration date of December 31, 2026. Prior to the Committee vote, senior Committee staff testified unequivocally that PTs, OTs and SLPs, are covered under the proposed extension. It is not yet determined when this measure may go to the entire House of Representatives. Separately, it is expected that the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the Senate Finance Committee will also consider telehealth legislation soon. On May 21, 2024, APTA along with our partner associations - the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), the American Speech-Hearing-Language Association (ASHA), along with the Hospital for Special Surgery – hosted a special Capitol Hill Briefing on the use of telehealth by therapy providers, with a focus on H.R. 3875/S. 2880 – the Expanded Telehealth Access Act, APTA-supported legislation that would make PTs and PTAs (and other therapy providers) permanent authorized providers of telehealth in the Medicare program.

Advocate Engagement Opportunities

- **June 2024 APTA Webinar:** [American Physical Therapy Association: APTA Regulatory, Legislative, and Payment Updates, June 2024](#)

APTA Articles of Interest

- [Article | APTA Capitol Hill Day: 300+ Meetings Focused on the Value of Physical Therapy | APTA](#)
- [News | Final 2025 MA Rule Includes More Prior Authorization Scrutiny | APTA](#)
- [News | HHS Expands Nondiscrimination Protections in ACA, Rehabilitation Act | APTA](#)
- [Article | Final ACA, Medicaid Rules Are Good News for Consumers | APTA](#)

Chief Delegate Update

Christy Gantt, PT, DPT

We are currently in preparation for the upcoming HOD on 21-22 Jul 24 as part of the APTA Leadership Congress in Kansas City, MO. APTA Federal will be represented by Christy Gantt and Andrew Golden, as delegates in the 2024 HOD. Collaborative efforts among all delegates have resulted in the establishment of the detailed agenda of motions to be considered during the HOD, and discussion among delegates is now continuing on the new APTA Community platform.

From the Research Chair

Iggy Gaunaurd, PT, MSPT, PhD

It is an honor to hold the inaugural Research Chair position for the Federal Section. Being a Research PT and Research Health Scientist for nearly 20 years in the VA and being able to collaborate with amazing Clinician Scientists in the VA and DoD to develop innovative rehabilitation protocols and new outcome measures for our Service Members, Veterans, and civilians with and without lower limb loss has been a true privilege.

My overall goal as the Research Chair is to:

1. Highlight the great research by our Clinician Scientists at VA and DoD facilities,
2. Foster collaborations amongst each other,
3. Provide a knowledge-based resource for Federal PT researchers.

In the first half of 2024, we began to tackle goal #3. We developed a streamlined approach for reviewing research studies from Federal PT researcher that request to utilize the federal section list serve to promote their study and/or help with recruitment. The process ensures that these studies have received Institutional Review Board approval to promote and/recruit from the Federal Section. If you would like to utilize the Federal Section list serve to promote and/or help with study recruitment, please reach out to me at igaunaurd@med.miami.edu.

For the next 1.5 years, we will work to accomplishing two important tasks:

1. Collaborate with a peer-reviewed journal to publish the excellent APTA CSM Federal Section abstracts that are presented either as platforms or posters. Ideally, our goal is to generate an online addendum that is cited and can be used by our community to support grants submissions and/or promotions.
2. Generate a quarterly social media post that highlights the great research that one of our Federal PT Clinician Scientists is doing in their respective VAs, MTFs, and/or Military Bases.

Lastly, the deadline for APTA CSM 2025 abstracts for platform and poster presentations is July 16th. So, make sure to get those abstracts in early so you can have the opportunity to share your great research results.



Veterans Affairs PT Update

Peter Glover and Nicole Casagrand, Veterans Affairs Service Representatives

In the VA, there continues to be a focus on increasing employee education and improving resources/knowledge base for our trainees.

This year, the VA hosted their second annual VA Residency Forum. The forum took place virtually and consisted of residents of the VA around the United States sharing their case studies and other research to each other via presentation. This year's forum included 7 different VA residency programs spanning across orthopedics, neurological and geriatric programs with opportunity for CEUs to be available for those participating. This forum was a great opportunity for residents to network with each other while also allowing the chance to highlight interesting patient cases at different VA locations. The residency will continue to expand over the coming years as more VA's gain candidacy nationally with the residency accreditation board. The VA has been expanding residencies significantly over the last few years and is projected to continue to do so in the future.

In terms of employee education, there has been an emphasis for dry needling nationwide among the VA medical centers. The VA physical therapists currently doing the training were initially trained by the US Air Force physical therapists back in 2016 at the Travis Airforce Base and some went on to further be trained through the American Academy of Manipulative Therapy. In 2018, the Air Force allowed these physical therapists to break off and start using Dry Needling independently, and currently there are 13 instructor/instructor assistants teaching this course to VA's nationally. The training has opportunity for 3 courses, increasing in difficulty as therapists become more skilled with their practice. After completion of the first training course, VA physical therapists can immediately start practicing within the VA once passing their competency. After 6 months of utilizing dry needling in the practice they can sit for part 2 of the course focused on higher level needling techniques.

In addition to dry needling, virtual reality has become a popular modality and intervention being utilized within the VA system by physical therapists. Virtual reality has been a new modality utilized at the VA to help with the treatment of chronic pain, as well as neurological conditions, orthopedic conditions, and vestibular conditions. Along with treatment by physical therapists, virtual reality has also been utilized by different departments in the VA such as mental health and recreational therapy focused on meditation and for treatment of anxiety, depression, and PTSD.



The Veterans Administration conducted its first pre-conference national breakout session during APTA CSM 2024. Topic areas included: Amputation System of care, Prosthetic updates, Patient Aligned Care Team Physical Therapy, Women's health, Spinal Cord rehabilitation, Productivity and Utilization reporting, Virtual Reality PT, Adaptive Sports / VA National Events, Pain management, and VA PT Residency updates.



Navy PT Update

Alexa Clifton, Navy Service Representative

From the Navy side, we have a couple accomplishments which occurred the past few months:

- O6 Navy CAPT results came out and we had one PT, CDR Weber, who was up for selection and he did get selected so will be putting on CAPT next year
- We just promoted our 4 Baylor Navy PT students to LTJGs
- We also have 4 Baylor Navy interns getting ready to graduate in August and get their DPTs
- LCDR Lauren Brown got selected for the BUMED Lead, MSK Office, Secondary & Specialty Care
- CDR Karla Krasnoselsky selected as a (Aide de Camp), Director for DHA
- We have LCDR Bradley Wells as the first PT at Navy Dive School, which has been integral in the development of a new billet at Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal School as well
- And CDR Rachel Condon was selected as Chair, DHA NMSK Clinical Community.

As far as Navy PT recruiting:

- We're currently over 120% manned- and are likely at our max accessions for this year – we've taken 8 direct accessions already this FY

Initiatives:

- We're expanding the MSK residency at Quantico to help better prepare PTs for operational Commands- LCDR John McGuinness is taking the lead on that
- There is one Navy spot for the OMPT Fellowship for 2025



Army PT Update

Jon Umlauf, Army Service Representative

Army Physical Therapy welcomes a new consultant team. LTC Leigh Anne Lechanski, DPT, has been appointed as the new PT Consultant to The Army Surgeon General. Joining her are LTC Peter Doyle, DPT, and LTC Sarah Baker, DPT, DSc, who will serve as the new Deputy PT Consultants to The Army Surgeon General.

The June issue of the APTA Magazine features an article on women leaders in physical therapy, highlighting insights from next-generation female leaders, including Army BG Deydre Teyhen, PT, DPT, PhD, FAPTA. BG Teyhen shares her experiences and perspectives on leadership within the military and the broader physical therapy community. [Read more here.](#)

The US Army MEDCoE Medical Journal's Army Medical Specialist Corps Anniversary issue features numerous contributions from Army physical therapists. Key articles explore the history of Army physical therapists and offer insights on how PTs can adapt to meet future challenges. [Read more here.](#)

The COL Douglas A. Kersey Advanced Clinical and Operational Practice Course for Physical Therapists was held on May 9-13 at Fort Liberty, NC, with 55 DoD physical therapists participating. The training covered advanced skills in orthopedic manual care and treatment for various body regions and included interactive patient case scenarios. Participants also engaged in extensive laboratory experiences in radiology, manual physical therapy, sports injury diagnosis and management, strength and conditioning, running analysis, concussion management, pain science, injury prevention, and wound care. To get more information and apply to next year's course please contact your service specific representation [here.](#)

APTA FEDERAL SIG UPDATES



Will Riddick, PT, DPT
AC SIG Co-Chair

The Amputation Care Special Interest Group (SIG) aims to have a positive impact on the care and treatment of patients with limb loss and limb difference. Our board has had the distinct pleasure of leading these efforts and is excited to carry this vision forward. We are continuously looking to serve as a resource and advocate for this area of specialty practice.

Currently, we are actively taking steps to bring resources to our members. Starting earlier this year, we launched our SIG newsletter which is sent out to the membership with details on upcoming training, conferences, research, and more within the amputation care community. This has served as a vital communication link to provide up to date and relevant information. Our practice chair, Angela Morgan, is starting the process of creating our first virtual trainings that will be available to all members of the Amputation Care SIG. This will be the first step to developing new resources as well as compiling the great work of our members. If you have an interest in contributing to this work, please reach out to any member of our board to get connected.

For the Combined Sections Meeting 2025 in Houston, members of the SIG have been accepted to offer several conference sessions that will benefit clinicians working with the limb loss population. We are also continuing to promote platform presentations and poster presentations, which are due by July 16th. CSM Submissions We highly encourage platform sessions, as we hope to offer a limb loss / limb difference focused platform presentation session in 2025.

Proudly, our work this year is best summed up by the word, collaboration. Our student liaison, Kaitlyn Rose, is actively working with other students inside and outside of our membership to find the best ways of engaging students in amputation care. Outside groups have reached to out various members of the board to pursue collaborative efforts. Most importantly, our board has promoted a significant spirit of collaboration which has empowered us to take on the tasks listed above. We look forward to what new and exciting things are ahead of us as the Amputation Care SIG.

From our board, we want to thank our membership for being a part of a community that can be counted on to promote our profession in amputation care. Thank you for all you do for beneficiaries with limb loss and limb difference.



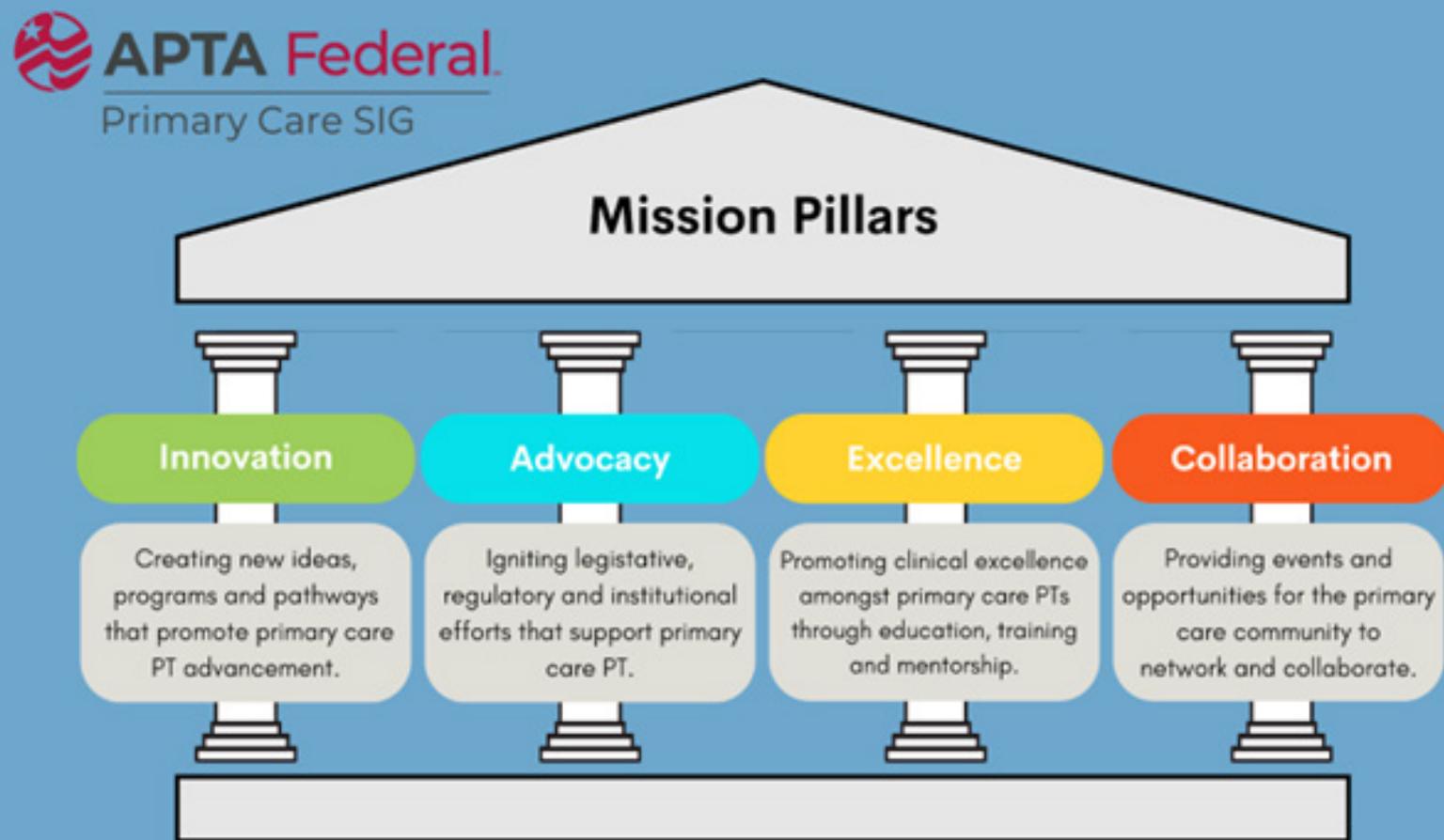


Thank you to all who attended our member meetings at CSM and virtually last month – we really enjoyed connecting with you all. We were fortunate to have Dr. Melanie Pomasko and Dr. Saiah Yates join us from the pelvic health SIG during May's member meeting. They provided an informative and interactive presentation entitled "Reframing the Pelvic Health Perspective for Primary Care Physical Therapists." We will be uploading this onto APTA Federal's Learning Management System (LMS) soon for those that missed it. Our next member meeting will be in mid-August and we hope to see you there!

We are excited to announce our updated strategic plan. The realm of primary care physical therapy practice is growing rapidly and we want our strategic plan to reflect the vast potential we are only beginning to tap into. Key ideas are listed below and an itemized plan will be posted to our website soon. We always welcome input from our members and encourage you to add your voice to help shape our future.

VISION: Physical Therapists are universally recognized front-line providers in the primary care arena.

MISSION: Advance the Physical Therapy profession by providing front-line physical and functional services within primary care teams through *innovation, advocacy, clinical excellence, and collaboration* to optimize the healthcare experience for all.



Primary Care PT Summit & Think Tank – Early Bird Registration Now Through June 30th!!

Join us live in Denver, CO at Regis University on Friday, Sept. 20th starting at 2pm through Saturday, Sept 21st. We have an innovative and engaging event planned – you'll get everything from Ted Talks to lab sessions to action-centered think tanks, with renowned Dr. Timothy Flynn as our keynote speaker. [Click here](#) for further details and registration. Please direct your questions to our education chair, Katie O'Bright, at pcsig.info@gmail.com.

We are also excited to kick off our primary care physical therapy (PC PT) **Community of Practice Call** on June 18th. This will be a monthly virtual event that provides a space for PC PTs across healthcare systems to discuss cases, ask questions, and share best practices. All are welcome and encouraged to attend – please email our practice chair, Layne Compton, at lcompton96@gmail.com for further information. Layne also organizes our mentorship program if you'd like to be matched with a mentor/mentee.

Student liaisons across APTA Federal have been working together to create a **monthly webinar series specifically for DPT students**. This series will start on June 25th and will be recorded for those that are unable to attend live. There is a growing community of students in the APTA federal section that are using Discord as a platform for networking and professional development. Please contact our student liaison, Riley Luetkenhaus, at rileyluetkenhaus@gmail.com to get involved.

Looking ahead, the primary care specialist certification petition is moving through the ABPTS/ABPTRFE review process and we anticipate submitting a motion to the House of Delegates in 2025. We are also finalizing a position paper that defines PC PT practice and will be publishing this on our website in the near future.

We have moved off Basecamp however our Abstract of the Month journal club is growing steadily and will continue to meet. Contact our research chair, Alyson Cavanaugh, at acav@udel.edu if you'd like to join. There are many ways to get involved with your primary care SIG – please visit our website or contact any of our friendly board members to learn more. We hope to connect with you soon at our upcoming events.



Announcements

Updates from the field - VA

- National PT Clinical Education Strategic Workgroup
 - Working on a residency toolkit
- Mentoring program for clinical educators and leaders in clinical education

Updates from the field – ABPTRFE

- 4 VA residencies received candidacy status at May Meeting: Mountain Home, TN Geri; Madison, WI Geri; Central Iowa Geri; Oklahoma City Ortho
- Southeast Louisiana VA received Initial Accreditation

Upcoming Webinar – ABPTRFE

- August 15, 2024, “How to Prepare the SER” 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm https://apta-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_shH8BUn8TpqvwK3vDOZJrw#/registration

Financial Fact Sheet

- Up for review in the ABPTRFE Sept 2024 meeting

Specialization

- Specialties: Acute care going to the APTA board in June 2025; Pain addressing ABPTS concerns re demand/need; Primary Care joint boards reviewing DRP/DSP
- Subspecialties: Foot and Ankle; Sports Science

Meetings

- CSM SIG Meeting 2/16/2024
- SIG Leadership Meeting 5/10/2024
- Member/Business Meeting 5/14/2024
- SIG Leadership Meeting 8/2/2024
- Member/Business Meeting 8/13/2024
- SIG Leadership Meeting 11/1/2024
- Member/Business Meeting 11/5/2024

TIMES:

Leadership 12-1 pm TEAMS

Member/Business 7-8 pm TEAMS

Workgroup Updates

Annual Programming

- Res/Fel Recruitment Event
- CSM 2025
- Mentor Development

Website development

Curriculum

- Working on creating common content for non-specialty topics (i.e. research, leadership, etc.)

Fellowship

- White paper sent to PT Leadership

Mission

It is the mission of the Residency/Fellowship Special Interest Group (Res/Fel SIG) to **add value** to the APTA Federal Section through **promoting post-professional physical therapy education**, within its membership and through **collaboration** with APTA Academies and Sections that have established such SIGs. The Res/Fel SIG intends to have a **positive impact** on the Section through providing resources to developing programs, influencing curriculum development, clinical practice, research, and academic/professional organization partnerships designed to **elevate** post-professional physical therapy education.

Goals/Vision

1. To **provide** annual programming for those involved in residency and fellowship education within the federal system
2. To **enhance** communication among those involved in residency and fellowship education within the federal system and other APTA Academies and Section that have established such SIGs
3. To **enrich** residency curriculum across specialties in post-
4. professional programs within the federal system
5. To **explore** the development of fellowship programs within the VA system

Upcoming Meetings: September 4th, December 4th, and CSM 2025

InTandem is an APTA Federal Partner and the first in our new Partnership Program.

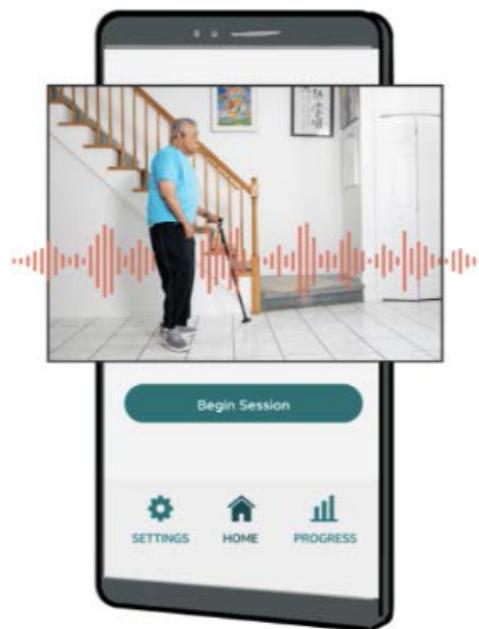
InTandem

[InTandem](#) is a safe, use-at-home device to improve walking and ambulation in adults with chronic stroke. The product is available to Veterans at no cost to the patient.

InTandem is an FDA-listed, prescription medical device that is based upon research in the neuroscience of music and delivers an intervention called [rhythmic auditory stimulation](#). In a [randomized controlled pivotal trial](#), InTandem users showed clinically-meaningful and statistically-significant improvement in gait speed as compared to an active walking control. Walking quality (i.e., stride length and cadence) also significantly improved.

Through our first-of-its-kind [partnership with Universal Music Group](#) (UMG), the world's largest record label, MedRhythms has the ability to use music from UMG's catalog, including Stevie Wonder, Taylor Swift, Queen, and many others, for the purpose of providing prescription music to patients.

To learn more about ordering for Veterans or to schedule an in-service, please contact Chrissy Stack at cstack@medrhythms.com.



A touchscreen device pre-loaded with InTandem



A headset



Shoe-worn sensors, one for each shoe