American Physical Therapy Association

Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy

Year-End Summary of Activities
What Has the Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy Been up to Recently?

We’ve been working this year to meet our mission for our members: To represent pediatric physical therapy and serve as a collective, collaborative voice to support access to and provision of the highest quality physical therapy services to children, adults with developmental disabilities, and their families.
Each year, APPT has a Strategic Planning Meeting to determine our direction – this is based on feedback received from our Annual Member Survey. Make sure to participate in the survey every spring – we want to hear from you! Our Strategic Plan is updated in the online Policy & Procedure Manual every year, so check it out (posted on our website at www.pediatricapta.org under About Us).

Here’s what we’ve been doing this year on behalf of YOU and pediatric physical therapy…
In Education

PCS: Congratulations to the 130 newly certified Pediatric Certified Specialists and 60 recertified PCS in 2016, which brings the total number of Pediatric Certified Specialists to 1615. APPT has an online study group, preparation materials, scholarships, and course tracks that can help you prepare to sit for the PCS! To find out more or to apply, visit [www.abpts.org](http://www.abpts.org).

Residencies/Fellowships: Support for pediatric residencies and fellowships, including grants to assist with establishment. To find out more, visit [www.abptrfe.org](http://www.abptrfe.org).
**Education Summit II:** This periodic gathering examines issues of the scholarship of teaching and learning. A key goal was to develop research questions and determine how to improve our understanding of best practice for teaching pediatric physical therapy to DPT students. Three areas were identified: 1) explore the utilization of the essential core competencies, 2) explore the outcomes of experiential/practice-based learning and identify optimal practices, 3) define excellence in pediatric physical therapy professional education. Summit attendees will work collaboratively on these topics to develop and implement related research projects over the next 3-5 years. To support this vision, APPT has budgeted for educational research grants open to all Academy members, including projects that are not directly tied to this Education Summit. The Research Committee will put out a call for these proposals in 2017.
Innovations in School-based Practice: This course is intended for physical therapists who provide related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). There were almost 160 attendees in 2016! Save the date for 2017: July 14-16, 2017, in Washington, DC.

Advanced Clinical Practice: This course is intended for experienced pediatric physical therapists who have a strong desire to investigate current theories and evidence-based practice across settings. Physical therapists who are considering taking the ABPTS examination are particularly encouraged to participate as part of their review. There were 151 attendees in 2016! Save the date for 2017: September 22-23, 2017, in Portland, OR.
Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy Annual Conference (APPTAC): This multi-track conference offers more than 60 sessions geared to every level and practice area of pediatric physical therapy, including a track for PCS prep and programming for students. We had record-breaking attendance in 2016, with almost 800 attendees and 52 booths in our exhibit hall! Save the date for 2017: November 17-19, 2017 (preconference courses November 15-16), in Cincinnati, OH. Visit www.apptac.org; session submissions are due each January.

APTA’s Combined Sections Meeting: For 30 years, APTA has facilitated this conference in which each specialty section plans a track. In 2017, this conference was held in San Antonio and had more than 14,000 attendees, a new record! Save the date for 2018: February 21-24, 2018 (preconference courses February 19-20), in New Orleans. Visit www.apta.org/csm; session submissions are due each March.
IV STEP: This joint conference between the Academies of Neurology and Pediatrics is held periodically, most recently in July 2016. It is designed to explore new theory and research evidence related to movement science, and to translate this theory and evidence into physical therapy practice for individuals of all ages with neurologic disorders. There were 700 attendees; dissemination of information is ongoing.

Online Courses for CEUs: APPT offered several online courses through APTA’s Learning Center in 2016:
- Dosing a Rehabilitation: Balance and Vestibular Related Impairments
- Laws & Policies of School-based Physical Therapy
- Measuring Outcomes of Pediatric Physical Therapy
- Quarterly Journal Reading Groups for Pediatric Physical Therapy

More to come in 2017!
Information for all courses and conferences is announced in our monthly electronic newsletter, on our social media platforms, and on our website at www.pediatricapta.org (under Professional Development) – or contact us at pediatrics@apta.org!
In Research

Research Grants: APPT funded $88,188 in research grants in 2016! There were 2 mentored grants (1 clinician and 1 PhD student), 1 large and 2 small research grants, and 1 planning grant based on the last Research Summit (APPT gatherings to promote large-scale, multisite research and to develop collaborative networks among established and emerging researchers from multidisciplinary fields in this area; last held in 2015). Congratulations to the recipients! *Grant submissions are due April 1 and October 1.* For more information, visit the APPT website under Members, then Research & Grants.

Platform/Poster Abstracts: The Research Committee reviewed more than 200 poster and platform abstracts for APPTAC and CSM in 2016! Abstracts are listed in the *PPT* journal.

CP Common Data Elements: These are now included on the NIH website.
Building Pediatric Research Capacity: Look for an upcoming survey coming soon about involvement in research.

Pediatric Fund through the Foundation for Physical Therapy: APPT donates each year to the Foundation’s Pediatric Fund, which we established in 1995. In 2016, the Foundation awarded a $40,000 Pediatric Research Grant to Beth Smith, DPT, PhD, of the University of Southern California on the topic of “Movement-Based Intervention to Promote Positive Neurodevelopmental Outcomes in Infants at Risk for Developmental Delay.” Next up: Promotion of Doctoral Studies (PODS) in Pediatrics to fund PhD student – coming in fall 2017! www.foundation4pt.org
Information about our research initiatives are announced in our monthly electronic newsletter, on our social media platforms, and on our website at www.pediatricapta.org (under Members/Research & Grants) – or contact us at pediatrics@apta.org!
In Practice

Fact Sheets. The following fact sheets were published this year:
- Family Resources for FUN with Physical Activity and Young Children
- Strategies for Physical Therapist Collaboration with School-based Teams for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Concussion in Pediatric Populations

A complete list of fact sheets is available at www.pediatricapta.org under Resources. We are always looking for authors and topic ideas!

APTA Outcomes Registry: APPT is partnering with APTA to get in on the ground floor. Outcomes will be based on Clinical Practice Guidelines; look for a pending call for clinical partners!

FiRST: APPT is working with APTA on the Frontiers in Research, Science, and Technology (FiRST) Council – find out more at www.apta.org/FiRST.
Development of Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses: APPT supports the development of systematic reviews and meta-analyses to facilitate the translation of research into practice by summarizing the current state of knowledge. They are the foundation of clinical practice guidelines, but may be more appropriate as evidence products when the literature is sparse or there is uncertainty about the results. APPT funded 2 systematic review proposals in 2016 for $2500 each! The call for systematic review proposals for 2017 will be due October 1.

Movement Systems Summit: APPT is working with APTA on physical therapist practice and the movement system – find out more at www.apta.org/movementsystem.
Clinical Practice Guidelines: Work is continuing on clinical practice guidelines for DCD and Torticollis (existing guidelines are published and available through *Pediatric Physical Therapy*).

Special Interest Groups: Active work by each of our 7 Special Interest Groups, each focusing on their specific practice area - Pediatric Sports-Fitness, Adolescents & Adults with Developmental Disabilities, Neonatology, School-based, Hospital-based, Early Intervention, and Academic & Clinical Educators.

Pediatric Annual Visit, PTNow, MoveForward: APPT works with APTA on these initiatives to make your practice better.
Information about new fact sheets and practice initiatives are announced in our monthly electronic newsletter, on our social media platforms, and on our website at www.pediatriccapta.org (under Resources) – or contact us at pediatrics@apta.org!
In Advocacy

CPT eval/re-evaluate code rollout: Provided support and communication

GAO rehab code set: Added information for therapy coverage for autism in children reviewed by General Accounting Office

Outreach to UHC: Provided evidence-based rationale to United HealthCare for use of standing equipment, which resulted in policy change allowing expanded coverage of standing equipment.

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation: Partnering with APTA on providing input to CMMI on the development of a new pediatric health care payment and service delivery model.
Working with APTA on issues that affect children and the families we serve: Including Medicaid, IDEA, and more.

Payment & Policy Committee: Specializing to provide you with targeted assistance.

State-specific Resources: Provide local resources, Medicaid advocacy documents, and support through State Representatives.

External Liaisons: Outreach to external organizations to share information and identify topics of mutual concern.

Federal Government Affairs Forum: Representation at APTA’s annual federal advocacy event
Information about advocacy initiatives are announced in our monthly electronic newsletter, on our social media platforms, and on our website at www.pediatricapta.org (under Legislative & Reimbursement) – or contact us at pediatrics@apta.org or your State Representative under About Us!
In Membership and So Much More…

**New Logo and Name:** In 2016 we moved from the Section on Pediatrics and became the Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy! Look for new logo merchandise at our booths at CSM and APPTAC.

**Volunteers:** We welcome members to share their interests and skills by volunteering their talents to APPT – we couldn’t accomplish all we do without you! Visit [www.pediatricapta.org](http://www.pediatricapta.org) under Members to volunteer.

**Positions up for Election in 2017:** Vice-President, Secretary, Region III Director, Region VII Director, Nominating Committee
Active Mentoring Group: To participate, visit www.pediatricapta.org under Members

Students and New Professionals (SNP) Subcommittee: The SNP Group plans fun events for students and new professionals at CSM and APPTAC and has a variety of resources posted at www.pediatricapta.org under Members – we’d love to have you involved!

Meet and Eat Groups: The Membership Committee organizes Meet and Eat groups at CSM and APPTAC to encourage member networking. Check your electronic newsletter before each conference to participate!
APPT Career Center: Post a job, find a job, post your resume, and more.

APPT Awards, Lectureships, Scholarships: APPT has many awards to recognize great work by our members in the areas of practice, leadership, mentorship, and more, as well as lectureships, and scholarships to assist members to attend CSM and APPTAC, join APTA and APPT, and help fund your PCS process.

We encourage our members to nominate a coworker, friend, someone in their program, or themselves for an Academy award! Nomination forms and additional information regarding awards may be found at www.pediatricapta.org under Members. *Most applications are due October 1.*
**APTA Honors and Awards:** APPT is happy to help spearhead or support a member’s application for a national award. Congratulations to the following APPT members who were selected for awards by APTA’s Board of Directors in 2016:

- James Cole Galloway, PT, PhD, FAPTA, Catherine Worthingham Fellow of APTA
- Cindy Miles, PT, PhD, PCS, Lucy Blair Service Award
- Ann F. VanSant, PT, PhD, FAPTA, Marilyn Moffat Leadership Award

**Delegates to APTA’s House of Delegates:** APPT also has a Chief Delegate and an Alternate Delegate who represent our members and pediatric physical therapy issues in the APTA House of Delegates.
Communication Options: APPT e-mails monthly electronic newsletters; mails *Pediatric Physical Therapy*, our award-winning quarterly journal; provides an Online Community for member questions and discussion (through APTA’s Communities at [www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org)); and hosts a number of active social media outlets, including Facebook (like us at APTA Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy), Twitter (@AcadPedPT), Pinterest (AcadPedPT), and LinkedIn (Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy).

Additional information is posted at [www.pediatricapta.org](http://www.pediatricapta.org) under Resources.
Membership in the International Organisation of Physical Therapists in Pediatrics: All APPT members are also members of IOPTP, a subgroup of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy - see what’s going on at www.wcpt.org/ioptp. Our president attends the World Congress to represent APPT.

How to Contact APPT Leadership: Members of APPT leadership can be contacted through www.pediatricapta.org under About Us – we’d love to hear from you!
And that’s just what the Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy has been up to – to see what APTA is working on, visit http://www.apta.org/Benefits/!
Thank you for being a member of the Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy - make sure to visit www.pediatricapta.org regularly!

We’re always available to answer your questions at pediatrics@apta.org.