

SUMMER 2023

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Andrea Crunkhorn, PT, DPT

Vice President

Joseph Kardouni, PT, DPT,
PhD

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Renee Schroeder, PT, DPT

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Kelly Volpenhein, PT, DPT,
LMT

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OCS

Executive Director

Catherine Langley, CAE

SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

Army

Leigh Ann Lechanski, PT,
DPT

Jon Umlauf, PT

Air Force

Josh Van Wyngaarden, PT,
DPT PhD

Joel Henderson, PT

CSM Program Chair

Joseph Kardouni, PT, DPT, PhD

DHA

Carrie Storer, PT, DPT
Kerry MacDonald, PT, DSc

Federal Affairs Liaison

Rachel Winthrop, PTA

Navy/Marines

Alexa Clifton, PT, DPT
Cortney Shewmaker, PT

USPHS

Carlos Estevez, PT

Veterans Administration

Peter Glover, PT, DPT
Nicole Casagrand, PT



APTA FederalSM

A Section of the American
Physical Therapy Association

APTA Federal President's Message

Andrea Crunkhorn, PT, DPT

APTA Federal members,

Happy summer! Despite being in a moderate drought here, the weather has been a long lovely spring with beautiful cool temps. The tomatoes are not happy but it sure is great weather for being outdoors. Make sure to take time for yourselves this summer and get outside.

I want to start with a thank you to everyone who donated to help cover the accidental open bar at CSM in February. Between the donations and what the APTA assisted with, we just about broke even. Truth be told, we also had a hit from the business meeting breakfast, where the hotel claimed to have fed twice as many than were there. APTA supported us and helped defray some of these costs, but it is going to be up to us in coming CSMs to make sure we are not at the mercy of a hotel's numbers. More to follow on the Boston CSM and some changes to our programming that will give us more control and bring prices down.

Meanwhile, there are a couple of important upcoming events:

We are updating the Bylaws. By pure serendipity, the APTA published a set of model bylaws this spring so our revised bylaws are aligned with those. You will be seeing the revisions for your approval in the coming months. They go to the APTA Parliamentarian first, then to you, then back to the APTA BOD for full approval.

*OTHER APPOINTED
POSITIONS***Communications Chair**

Michelle Jamin, PT, DPT

Federal Affairs Liaison

Amanda Simone, PT, DPT

Membership Chair

Amy Banks, PT, DPT

Practice ChairRebecca Vogsland PT,
DPT**PTA Liaison**

Mary Stapert, PTA

Section Historian

Pat McAdoo, PT, MEd

This is also an election year. See below for the positions that are coming up for a vote, to include one from each of the Service Representative positions. Please consider volunteering your time and talent.

Lastly, this summer our new website will launch. We tried this three years ago with a fair bit of disappointment in the result. After looking at several other APTA chapter and section websites, we believe we have found a platform that will give each leader (elected leader, Chair, SIG, etc) the ability to individualize pages and all of us the ability to provide dynamic content. No more flip flops in the clinic!

Have a fantastic summer, consider submitting a poster or platform for CSM 2024 (by mid July, see below), and look out for the Bylaws and election vote coming your way.

All the best,
Andrea

Dear APTA Federal Section members,

As we gear up for the upcoming elections, we are reaching out to members to encourage and nominate candidates. These elections offer a tremendous opportunity for us to shape the future of our profession and to advocate for federally employed physical therapists and physical therapy assistants.

APTA Federal's Nominating Committee will be working to find qualified nominees, but we also invite any member to nominate themselves or others for these position. Elections will be posted, and nominations can be submitted starting on July 1, 2023. An eBlast will be sent out to all Federal Section members with election instructions.

The following positions will be available for election:

- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Section Chief Delegate
- Service reps (Air Force, Army, DHA, Navy/Marines, USPHS, VA)

At the heart of our strength lies the collective voice of our members. APTA Federal strongly encourages active participation in the upcoming elections. If you, or anyone you know, is seeking an opportunity to facilitate growth, promote change, and support federal employees, this is the perfect opportunity!


Please help us harness the power of our collective voice to shape the future of federal physical therapy. By actively participating in the electoral process and advocating for our profession, we can propel federal physical therapy forward and ensure that it remains a cornerstone of healthcare and continues to be the leader in advancing the physical therapy profession.

Remember, your participation counts, and together, we can make a difference.

Renee Schroeder, Secretary, APTA Federal Section

HOUSE OF DELEGATES UPDATE

APTA Federal Section delegates continue to review through all materials, motions, updates, and reports in preparation for the HOD meetings, virtual on 08Jul23 and live proceedings 23-24Jul23. In addition, delegated for the Federal Section have played a supporting role in the candidate interviews for national leadership positions and will be reviewing recordings of all candidate interviews. In doing so, delegates will bring recommendations to APTA Federal Board as to best candidates, platforms, issues, etc for consideration so that a consolidated decision is made on best candidates to support with our section votes.



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Air Force PT Update

Joel Henderson, Air Force Service Representative

Physical therapists within the United States Air Force focus on delivering patient care and preventative services to enhance readiness, which is a servicemember's ability to complete their job at a moment's notice either at home station or down range. They provide these services in various settings, including numerous embedded programs. Select communities within the Air Force receive permanently embedded assets; however, the demand for embedded care will always exceed manning capabilities.

To provide these same services to a wider audience, one innovative care delivery model that physical therapists serve in is the Operational Support Team (OST). The OST is a multidisciplinary team aimed at mitigating musculoskeletal and mental health concerns through injury prevention, patient care, and performance enhancement. The OST embeds within a particular unit temporarily, identifies needs, and implements interventions, with the goal being to empower a unit to care for themselves prior to moving on to the next unit. OST providers have access to robust data analytics support to enable metrics driven decision-making in what units they assist and how to best target their interventions. Due to the active and demanding nature of military service, there will always be musculoskeletal and mental health demands which can impact mission readiness. However, USAF physical therapists continue to be well equipped and well-utilized to address these concerns and mitigate issues through their participation in innovative solutions such as these Operational Support Teams. If you have any questions or interest in learning more about unique opportunities as a USAF physical therapist, please do not hesitate to reach out.



Veterans Affairs PT Update

Peter Glover and Nicole Casagrand, Veterans Affairs Service Representatives

The VA has been working to expand many different specialties within physical therapy to continue to improve resources for veterans.

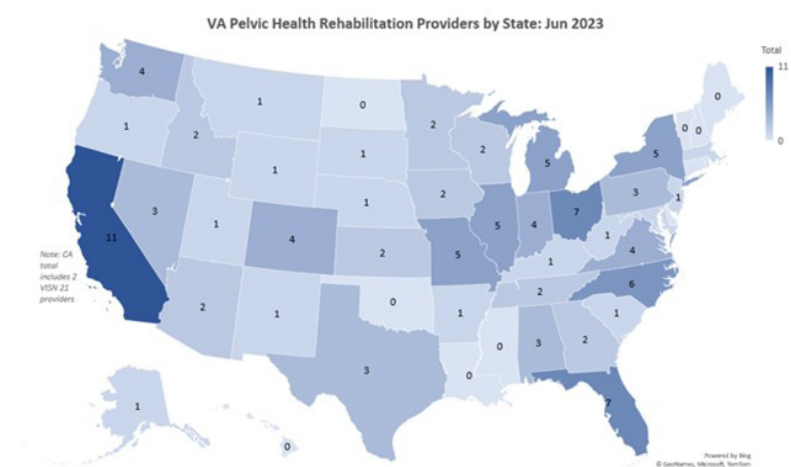
The Active Pain Management Program

The VA continues to expand its resources for managing chronic pain. Earlier this year the Pain Management, Opioid Safety & Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PMOP) provided special purpose funding to support a physical therapist and behavior health specialist to work at 59 of 145 select sites to offer biopsychosocial co-disciplinary treatment to patients with chronic pain. The Active Pain Management program (AMP) will diversify the chronic pain resources within the pain clinics in the VA in support of the Pain Management Team. The program is an 8-week group program with a goal to foster skills to help manage and reduce persistent pain. Those with access to this group program will have opportunity in both an in-person and virtual platform. The program utilizes evidence-based treatment components from cognitive behavioral therapy, acceptance and commitment therapy, pain neuroscience education, mindful movement and self-management strategies. Topics discussed throughout the program include learning about the chronic pain cycle, mindfulness, goal setting, activity pacing, sleep, relaxation strategies as well as strength and balance interventions. This program should further expand the resources offered to veterans suffering from chronic pain and increased specialized interdisciplinary care within the VA.

Pelvic Health Rehabilitation within VA

The VHA has experienced rapid growth availability of trained pelvic health rehabilitation providers, with a total of 111 therapist currently practicing across the VHA (according to VHA Pelvic Health Rehabilitation Sharepoint National Directory, as of June 2023).

The VHA Office of Rural Health funded a project called “Enhancing Pelvic Health Across the Rural Continuum.” This project is in its third year and continues to train physical therapists in the pelvic health specialty and expand access to high-quality services. To date, this program has trained 24 clinicians and has reached 7,036 unique Veterans who otherwise would not have had access to care.



The Office of Rural Health “Enhancing Pelvic Health Across the Rural Continuum” project staff recently put together a VA Pelvic Health PT Program Start Up Guide. The guide is designed to address the administrative and logistical considerations when starting a pelvic health PT program within the VA. This guide also seeks to answer frequently asked questions, policy information and links to numerous resources to support new pelvic health PT programs.

PT Embedded in Primary Care

The VHA is scaling the best practice of embedding physical therapist within Primary Care teams across the VA nationally. As of June 2023, there are 73 VA sites with successful implementation of embeddign PT in PACT programs, and 47 sites in progress. The goal is to implement this practice within all VHA Health Care Systems by April 2025. PT in PACT promotes a team-based collaborative model where physical therapists work alongside and in collaboration with the core members of the PACT team (physician, nurse practitioner, nurse, pharmacist, mental health provider) to optimize healthcare delivery. Embedding PT in PACT creates a ‘one stop shop’ model of care providing the right care at the right time with improved outcomes and satisfaction. The VA has identified three key components to successful program implementation: co-location, same day

access to care and integration with the team. This program as resulted in increased accessibility to physical therapy services, improved functional outcomes, streamlined care with reduced downstream medical costs and utilization as well as improved Veteran and provider satisfaction.

The Palo Alto VA currently offers an Orthopedic Residency Program with a focus in Primary Care PT practice, and both Central Iowa and Minneapolis VA Health Care Systems have been approved to start a Primary Care Residency Program in summer of 2025 pending primary care successfully becoming recognized ABPTS specialty area or practice. For more information on PT embedded in primary care, check out the primary care SIG section in the newsletter!



Army PT Update

Jon Umlauf and Leigh Ann Lechanski, Army Service Representatives

Name Changes to various Army Installation

The Army is changing the name of several Army installations. Multiple locations have already changed their names, while others will complete the transition by January 2024. For details, please refer to the following story. [READ HERE](#)

Holistic Health and Fitness CALL Handbook Released

The U.S. Army Center for Lessons Learned published a compilation of holistic health and fitness (H2F) best practices and lessons gathered by the United States Army Center for Initial Military Training (CIMT) based on engagements with H2F-resourced brigades (BDEs) in the active component (AC) to facilitate implementation of the H2F system. The H2F system is the Army's primary investment in Soldier readiness and lethality, with the goals of optimal physical and non-physical performance, reducing injury rates, improving rehabilitation after injury, and increasing overall readiness of the total Army. The system empowers and equips Soldiers to take charge of their health, fitness, and well-being to optimize individual performance while preventing injury and illness. To access the CALL Handbook, please use the following link. [CALL Handbook](#)

Army PTs Promote Pelvic Health Rehabilitation

The month of May marked National Women's Health Month and in spirit of this observance Army PTs LTC Leigh Anne Lechanski and MAJ Stephanie Fournier discuss the importance of pelvic health rehabilitation and how it is a mission critical resource that enables military readiness in the following story. [READ HERE](#)

Army-Baylor Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy Expands Class

The Army-Baylor Doctoral Program recently received official approval to expand the size of each class from 26 to 32. This growth includes the addition of new faculty positions and expanded facilities. This initiative will help the Army meet the growing demand for PTs to support H2F initiatives. More information about the program and application can be found [HERE](#).



Navy PT Update

Alexa Clifton, Navy Service Representative

Navy PT is beginning to implement PT direct access services in the medical home port clinics during sick call walk-in hours. We are also working plans to provide training and further oversight to PT tech Corpsmen who are now being assigned to large deck amphibious ships. We are hopeful that we will have a full-time PT billeted to this class of ship in the future like we currently have on all aircraft carriers.

APTA FEDERAL SIG UPDATES



Federal Residency & Fellowship SIG Update

Alice Holder and Amy Firestone, Co-Chairs

R/F SIG Leadership

Co-Chairs – Alice Holder and Amy Firestone
Vice chair for Communications & Student Liaison – Sarah Weaving
Vice Chair for Program Development – Rupam Gakhar
Vice Chair for Education & Practice – Beau Whitt
Vice Chair of Education & Research – Ulysses Juntilla

New Position: Membership Vice Chair

Meetings: Occur Quarterly - May, August, November, February (CSM)

Membership

33 Members (March 2023)

Meetings: Occur Biannually - February (CSM) & August of each year

Program Updates (May 2023)

As of the most recent published actions by the American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education (ABPTRFE) we congratulate the following 7 new programs for achieving Candidacy Status: Birmingham VA Geriatric Residency; Central Virginia VA Neurologic Residency; Cheyenne VA Orthopaedic Residency; Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System Orthopaedic Residency; VA Boston Healthcare System Orthopaedic Residency; VA Long Beach Health Care System Neurologic Residency; and VA Puget Sound Health Care System Neurologic Residency.

Congratulations to the following 5 programs for achieving their Initial Accreditation: Cincinnati VA Medical Center Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Residency; Columbia VA Healthcare System Orthopaedic Residency; VA Boston Healthcare System Geriatric Residency; and VA Palo Alto Health Care System Orthopaedic Residency.

Lastly, congratulations to Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center Orthopaedic Residency for successfully achieving their renewal of accreditation.

New Frontiers

Kudos to James A Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa, FL for achieving the first Acute Care Residency Program in VHA. Eyes across the country are on Primary Care Residency Programs in development at the Minneapolis VA Healthcare System and VA Central Iowa in Des Moines. This is a new area spearheaded by VA programs and supported by APTA Federal.

Future Events

Given positive feedback from our first social event at CSM 2023, we will continue this gathering at CSM 2024. All Program Directors, Program Coordinators, Preceptors/Mentors, Residents (past & current), or any VA & DoD employees welcome to join us. Expanding on feedback from our inaugural meeting, we will be hosting Resident Platform Presentations as well. Finally, we plan to hold a Virtual Residency Recruitment Event planned for some time in November 2023 (date & time TBD). Stay tuned as we work out the details!

Resident Corner

Here we highlight residents/fellows past and present. Please send us your stories! We welcome our graduates' accomplishments, thoughts on Physical Therapists choosing VA/DoD residencies and fellowships, and how post professional education elevates practice.

Dr. Kyle Nordrum is a VA Geriatric Physical Therapy Residency graduate from Cincinnati!

Cincinnati VA Health IT Innovation Team Receives FORUM Award

dvagov.sharepoint.com



2023 FORUM Health IT Innovation Award Winners! Congratulations to Dr. Masadeh, Dr. Nordrum, Mr. Manis and team for being recognized as the 2023 FORUM Health IT Innovation Award Winners. This award recognizes and honors the Federal Health technology.

HPT Spotlight Story *(from OAA bulletin)*

Luis Carmona, DPT, earned his doctorate in Orthopedic Physical Therapy at East Tennessee State University. Dr. Carmona received training at the James H. Quillen VA Medical Center for his graduate program in Physical Therapy. After his experience, he was inspired to further his education and training within VA and is currently an Orthopedic Physical Therapy Resident.

“The unique aspect of training with VA is providing appropriate care as an interprofessional team to meet the needs of the patients. I have also had memorable moments being educated by several providers from other disciplines who take the time to educate and develop an environment for growth. After completing my training, I aim to pursue a career within the VA healthcare system. Working with Veterans means giving back and serving others as a form of gratitude for their sacrifices while in the service.”





Amputation Care SIG Update

Will Riddick, 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.

For Combined Sections Meeting 2024 in Boston, members of the SIG have been accepted to offer several conference sessions and an in-depth pre-conference session that will be of significant interest and benefit to clinicians working with the limb loss population. We are also continuing to promote platform presentations and poster presentations, which are due by July 17th. [CSM Submissions](#)

This year the Amputation Care SIG is looking to develop online education resources that can serve as a reference for SIG members. This will include compiling the great work of our members and the development of new resources. Additional updates on new educational content and conferences will be included in a periodic email that will be sent out to members of the Amputation Care SIG. If you have an interest in contributing to this work, please reach out to any member of our board to get connected.

In addition to education, we have had the opportunity to provide advocacy for the physical therapy profession and the limb loss population. In the past few months, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) sought feedback from the SIG to gather information related to individuals with limb loss and limb difference to produce a report to Congress. This was at the request of 4 members of Congress, requesting information regarding the state of care for these individuals. Through SIG member surveys and direct communications with many in our SIG community, we were able to provide substantial information to support this patient population, but also to advocate for the advancement of the physical therapy profession.

On May 31st we had the opportunity to speak directly to the GAO where we provided them with crucial information, policy suggestions, definitions, references, and more to support their final report. These included policy recommendations for regular PT assessments, promotion of lifelong access to care, promotion of interdisciplinary care, and much more. Overall, we aimed to advance the role of physical therapy within this patient population, noting the crucial role physical therapists have with individuals with limb loss and limb difference. The report should be available around April of 2024, and we are certainly looking forward to any future advocacy efforts that this may provide.

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,



Primary Care SIG Update

Evan Kelley, Chair

The Primary Care SIG has continued to grow and provide educational and mentorship opportunities to our members as well as look to the future of our profession.

Since our last update we have had two great case presentations from members. Drs Rusty Bishop and Layne Compton, Palo Alto VAMC, provided a fantastic update on “Cardiovascular Screening in the Outpatient and PC Setting,” providing relevant, next day recommendations. Dr Jennifer Turner, PHS, presented a complicated DVT case in “The Clot Thickens,” which stretched our clinical reasoning skills. Both presentations resulted in a rich exchange of information which can be applied to daily practice.

May 19th and 20th, George Fox University, in partnership with Samaritan Health Care System, hosted the 2nd Annual Primary Care Summit. Presentations were made by our very own Drs. Katie O’Bright, Ashley Cassel, and Evan Kelley. Dr Dan Kang led multidisciplinary panel discussions bringing the PC perspective from both mental health and primary care provider perspectives. And Dr. Bob Long, our Co-Chair, and Dr. Jeff Houck, George Fox University School of Physical Therapy Program Director, were the unsung heroes that made it all happen.



Building on our collaborative efforts, the PC SIG board is partnering with the Neuro Section Vestibular SIG. The Drs. Rachel Wellon and Helena Esmonde, Vestibular SIG, shared the “Path to Advanced Practice” and will be presenting “Vestibular Essentials for Primary Care” to our members and any who wish to join on October 18th. We are also looking to offer an ECHO presentation on vestibular assessment and management November 28th. More information to come on both educational opportunities.

We continue work on the petition to pursue Primary Care PT as an ABPTS recognized area of specialty practice. Per the ABPTS/ABPTRFE Joint Review Board recommendation, the Primary Petition Workgroup

is currently fielding a supplemental revised practice analysis survey. We are specifically targeting a diverse group of clinicians practicing in a variety of settings and practice areas within physical therapy. We need additional responses before we can proceed with submitting phase two of the petition. The survey results will provide meaningful information to help shape the definition of primary care physical therapy, the Description of Specialty and Residency Practice, and the certification examination blueprint as we move toward ABPTS specialty recognition. If you are a clinician practicing in a primary care setting, and want to help shape the future of our profession please consider taking time to complete the survey to help us move this forward: [Primary Care Practice Analysis Survey Link](#)

In partnership with Baylor University, APTA Federal and APTA Federal Primary Care SIG are hosting the first ever PT Think Tank September 30th at Baylor University, Waco, TX. This is going to be an awesome event with a morning full of distinguished speakers sharing on important clinical and practice-related topics and an afternoon of sorting out your thoughts and ideas for implementation! Register for this 7.5 CEU course now! [Click here to register](#)