



**Research-Intensive Programs in Physical Therapy consortium**

**CANDIDATES FOR VICE CHAIR**

**Deborah L. Givens, PT, PhD, DPT  
Candidate for Vice Chair of RIPPT**

**Bio Statement:**

Deborah L. Givens, PT, PhD, DPT is Director and Professor of the Division of Physical Therapy at UNC Chapel Hill. She has served in an academic physical therapy leadership role since 2005, first at the Ohio State University and then at Creighton University until assuming her position at UNC in 2015. She earned her BS in physical therapy from VCU, MS and DPT degrees from the MGH Institute of Health Professions, and a PhD degree from the University of Iowa. For the past two years, Dr. Givens has served as RIPPT Secretary and is a member of the Executive Board. She serves on the International Editorial Board of JOSPT, APTA Publications Subcommittee, and as a delegate for North Carolina to the APTA House of Delegates. She currently chairs the Section on Research Awards Committee. Dr. Givens has held a number of state leadership positions, including Vice President of the Ohio Chapter. Dr. Givens serves as an ad hoc reviewer for the NIH Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation Sciences Study Section.

**Candidate Statement:**

As Secretary of RIPPT, I have worked to provide timely and effective communication with the membership. I have contributed to the development of the RIPTT guidelines for membership and discussions to advance the mission of RIPPT and ACAPT. We have made organizational progress but there is still work to be done, especially in improving our website and resources for members. One of the pressing issues facing ACAPT members is the shortage of qualified physical therapists to assume the large (and increasing) number of open faculty positions. RIPPT members report that economic barriers and other factors are contributing to a critical shortage of US trained physical therapists with PhD degrees. We need to work with ACAPT to understand the barriers, advocate for resources for training PhD students, promote the benefits of a career as a researcher in academic physical therapy, and expand the pathways to the development of researchers.



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF  
ACADEMIC PHYSICAL THERAPY

Research Intensive  
Programs in Physical  
Therapy Consortium  
RIPPT

**Carole A Tucker, PT, PhD, PCS**  
**Candidate for Vice Chair of RIPPT**

**Bio Statement:**

Dr. Carole Tucker is an Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, College of Public Health and Department of electrical and Computer Engineering at Temple University. She directs the interdisciplinary Graduate Programs in Neuromotor Science at Temple University. Dr Tucker has been certified by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties as a Pediatric Clinical Specialist (PCS) 1996 2016 and is also an American College of Sports Medicine Registered Clinical Exercise Physiologist (RCEP). Her clinical practice has primarily been focused in pediatrics and is a member of the Scientific Staff of Shriner's Hospitals for Children, Philadelphia and served as Director of the Motion Analysis Laboratory at the facility. She serves on the Functioning, Disability Reference Group of the World Health Organization (WHO). Her current research focuses on biomechanics and motor control of gait, development of patient-report outcome measures of health status in pediatric populations using modern measurement approaches, bioinformatics and learning health systems, application of pattern recognition and advanced statistical analytical approaches to large data sets, and development and application of biosensors & related technology to improve function and mobility in individuals with disabilities. She received grant support from Shriner's Hospital for Children, NIH, PCORI and the DoD.

**Candidate Statement:**

I have been involved in physical therapy and engineering graduate education for several decades and feel passionately about our profession actively ensuring the scientific advancement of our practice. I have a long history of translational, interdisciplinary research, and mentorship of students and faculty. My past experiences as Program Chair for CSM and for the Section on Research, and in organizing the PhD director Dialogue series at CSM provide further evidence of my ability to work with a high level of commitment to national committees I have been elected to serve. I will be equally committed to serving the needs of ACAPT in my role as secretary for the RIPPT consortium.



## **CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY**

**Michael Borich, DPT, PhD**  
**Candidate for Secretary of RIPPT**

### **Bio Statement**

I am an assistant professor in the Division of Physical Therapy in the Emory University School of Medicine. I have secondary appointments in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering, a joint Emory/Georgia Tech department and the Parker H. Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience at Georgia Tech. I am keenly interested in understanding and harnessing the plastic capacity of the human nervous system in health and disease in an effort to improve rehabilitation outcomes for individuals with neurologic injury and disease. Previously, I received my bachelor's degree in physiology and doctor of physical therapy both from the University of Minnesota. After finishing my PhD training in rehabilitation science and neuroscience at the University of Minnesota, I completed my postdoctoral research training in the Brain Behaviour Laboratory at the University of British Columbia. I joined the Division of Physical Therapy at Emory in 2014. My previous clinical experience centers on rehabilitation from acute neurologic insult and major multiple trauma. I currently direct the Neural Plasticity Research Lab at Emory. My research team utilizes multimodal neuroimaging and neurostimulation techniques to characterize and modulate brain activity to promote the recovery of function following neurologic insult.

### **Candidate Statement**

As an early career investigator at a research-intensive university, I am well-qualified for the position of secretary for the RIPPT consortium. At this stage of my career, I have a strong funding and publication history along with substantial research grant peer-review experience. In addition to my scholarly qualifications, I am a willing collaborator and productive contributor to synergistic decision-making across disciplines. Importantly, I am passionate about the critical importance of research in advancing the physical therapy profession. Overall, I am confident I can make substantive contributions to the RIPPT consortium during my term of service. Although I am new to ACAPT, I believe the core issues to be addressed are (1) bolstering the communication strategy to raise the visibility of ACAPT with PT professionals and other stakeholders, (2) ensuring and promoting excellence across all academic PT programs and, (3) incorporating cutting-edge research activities and knowledge into academic programs to hasten clinical implementation of updated best practices.



**LaDora Thompson, PT, PhD**  
**Candidate for Secretary**

**Bio Statement**

LaDora V. Thompson PhD, PT is the Travis M. Roy Endowed Professor in Rehabilitation Sciences and Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy & Athletic Training at Boston University College of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences: Sargent College. Her scientific expertise is in the areas of muscle physiology, biochemistry, oxidative stress, and protein structure/function. Dr. Thompson's research contributions over the past 20 years are in the fields of skeletal muscle aging and disease. Recently her research program developed a mouse index to identify frailty, which was patterned after the frailty phenotype used in clinical and community settings. Dr. Thompson's has a long history of NIH/NIA funding, she has served on numerous NIH study sections, and recently co-Chaired the Gordon Research Conference on Oxidative Stress and Disease in Il Ciocco, Italy. She is a national and international invited speaker. Dr. Thompson is committed to training pre-doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows. Her trainees are funded by NIH training grants, individual NRSAs, and prestigious Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships. All of these trainees complete successful projects, publish papers, and go onto successful careers in research, academia, clinical practice, or industry. Prior to arriving at BU, she was Director of a NIH/NIA Training Grant.

**Candidate Statement**

Dr. Thompson has extensive leadership within her research expertise. Related to the specific position of secretary for RIPPT, she was the Treasurer/Secretary for the Biological Sciences Section of the Gerontological Society of America, 2011-2015 (elected position). Within the American Aging Association, she served as President and President-Elect (2011-2013, elected position) and now serves on its Executive Board. Other prestigious elected positions include co-chairing two Gordon Research Conferences (Biology of Aging in 2008, Oxidative Stress and Disease in 2017). She currently serves on the Editorial Board of Physical Therapy Journal. These experiences provide Dr. Thompson with the foundation to be an exceptional secretary/leader for RIPPT and to facilitate its vision. Attending the RIPPT/ACAPT meetings regularly over the past 5 years provides perspective and it is clear RIPPT and ACAPT are at a critical turning point. In order to capitalize and take advantage of this turning point it is important to identify: (1) What is the role of RIPPT within ACAPT and how can the two groups synergize efforts? (2) What is RIPPT's responsibility to its members? I will use my past experiences to listen to members, question members, seek rationale and evidence, challenge norms, and provide accurate and timely meeting minutes.