**POSITION STATEMENT**

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**PROPOSED BY:** ACAPT Board

**That ACAPT adopt the following position:**

# The American Council of Academic Physical Therapy endorses the concept that the movement system is core to physical therapist practice, education, and research. ACAPT, therefore, supports inclusion of the movement system as: (1) an identifiable element in every physical therapist educational program, and (2) a visible component of each program’s public-facing web presence (e.g., as part of a program description, program goals, curricular threads or proposed graduate outcomes).

# Support Statement:

* Whereas the American Physical Therapy Association in 2013 adopted the vision statement: “Transforming society by optimizing movement to improve the human experience”;
* Whereas that vision is intended to result in a professional identity where “The movement system is the core of physical therapist practice, education, and research”;
* Whereas the Commission on Physical Therapist Education (CAPTE) Standard 7A requires that “The physical therapist professional curriculum includes content and learning experiences in the biological, physical, behavioral and movement sciences necessary for entry level practice”;
* Whereas the mission of the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT)is “To serve and lead academic physical therapy by promoting excellence in education, scholarship and research, practice and service to improve the health and wellness of society”; and
* Whereas ACAPT’s vision is to “be the leading voice to promote, achieve and sustain excellence in academic physical therapy”:

It is incumbent upon the member institutions of ACAPT to support excellence in physical therapist education not only by incorporating the movement system as a key element of the professional curriculum but also to contribute to the public’s awareness of the movement system as part of our professional identify.

This position statement is supported by the action plan that emerged from the 2016 Movement System Summit to “Partner with ACAPT to engage leaders at ELC in a dialogue on the importance of integrating the movement system into education.”

There is no immediate fiscal impact to ACAPT in adopting this position statement. However, there may be future ramifications if one or more strategic priorities are established by ACAPT to support academic programs in incorporating the movement system as a key element of their curricula where this is not already the case.