AMERICAN COUNCIL OF
ACADEMIC PHYSICAL THERAPY

ANNUAL REPORT

2026



TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, KIMBERLY VARNADO 1-2

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CELIA CHOMÓN ZAMORA 3

OVERVIEW OF ACAPT 4

HIGHLIGHTS 5

THANK YOU LEADERSHIP GROUPS 6

MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW 7

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING OVERVIEW 8

FINANCIALS 9

FUTURE OUTLOOK 10

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear ACAPT Colleagues and Friends,

As I conclude my service with the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT), I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Board, our volunteer leaders, our members, and our staff for the trust, collaboration, and shared commitment that have shaped this work. ACAPT has long been a strong, respected organization, and it has been an honor to contribute to its continued growth and impact.

When we transitioned from the consortia model to the Institutes, it was a significant change, and I recognize it raised understandable concerns among the membership. At the time, we were pursuing many directions and allocating resources across multiple priorities. Over time, our collective work has helped ACAPT move in a more uniform direction, with clearer structure, defined priorities, and a budget that can sustain our efforts.

I am proud of the contributions I have made to strengthening ACAPT's infrastructure and positioning the organization for long-term success. I am also proud of recruiting Dr. Celia Zamora, who has been instrumental in shaping ACAPT's new direction, organization, and priorities.

I am very grateful to the ACAPT community, and I'd like to briefly highlight some major accomplishments from my tenure as President of this great organization.

Strategic direction and organizational sustainability
ACAPT's strategic direction is now anchored in a Board-approved strategic plan that aligns organizational priorities with resource allocation and long-term sustainability. This work has helped ensure that our goals are not only aspirational but also operationally achievable and financially supported.

Operational consistency and accountability
To strengthen operational consistency and accountability, we developed travel policies, standard operating procedures, and clearer administrative expectations. These foundational tools promote fairness, efficiency, and continuity for staff and volunteer leadership.

Governance modernization
We modernized governance through updated bylaws, clearer leadership eligibility requirements and term limits, and a structured elections and succession timeline. These improvements strengthen transparency, continuity, and leadership development throughout the organization.

Revenue development and mission-aligned partnerships
We advanced nondues revenue development by expanding sponsorship opportunities, supporting educational program planning, and pursuing mission-aligned partnerships. These efforts diversify revenue streams and better position ACAPT to invest in member value.

Data infrastructure and analytics capacity
We advanced the development of a new data repository to support centralized data management, benchmarking, research, and informed decision-making across academic physical therapy. We also expanded organizational data capacity by adding a dedicated data analyst and launching the IPS dashboard, along with supporting office hours.

Financial stewardship and multiyear planning
We strengthened financial stewardship by improving financial reporting, budget analysis, and multiyear planning for technology, staffing, and organizational investments. These steps support responsible decision-making and reinforce long-term stability.

continued

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Coordination across staff and volunteer leadership
We improved coordination among staff and volunteer leadership through standardized reporting tools, clearer initiative scopes, defined deliverables, and more intentional resource planning. This has helped ensure that the work we commit to is clearly defined, appropriately supported, and measurable.

Program priorities and delivery frameworks
We completed a review of key program priorities and developed delivery and financial frameworks for leadership and professional development initiatives, including Elevate and BRIDGES. We also released the Blueprint for Excellence in Academic Physical Therapy to inspire all physical therapy education programs to pursue excellence and best prepare future practitioners. These are just a few examples of how ACAPT has promoted program excellence and sustainability.

Technology infrastructure planning
We advanced technology infrastructure planning for the website, learning management system, and data resources to better support member service and operational effectiveness.

Advocacy
In 2026, ACAPT entered the advocacy space to represent the needs of our members, students, and the profession in response to Congress's changes to federal student loan programs. With the help of Lobbyit, ACAPT held more than thirty meetings on Capitol Hill with elected officials in the House and Senate. We also developed a platform for institutions and students to share stories about how federal student loan limits will affect the communities we serve.

Transparency and communication
Finally, we strengthened organizational transparency and communication through annual reports, podcasts, social media posts, newsletters, town halls, and structured updates on ACAPT's priorities and progress, ensuring members have clear visibility into our direction and the decision-making process.

As I step away, I do so with confidence in ACAPT's direction and deep appreciation for the people who will carry this work forward. ACAPT's strength has always been its members and volunteer leaders, and I am grateful to have worked alongside so many dedicated colleagues who care deeply about academic physical therapy.
Thank you again for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to cheering on ACAPT as it enters its next chapter.

With gratitude,

Kimberly Varnado

Kimberly Varnado, PT, DPT, DHSc, FAAOMPT
ACAPT President



KIMBERLY VARNADO
President

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear ACAPT Community,

As I reflect on this year, I am filled with gratitude for the shared sense of purpose that continues to move ACAPT forward. Across our member institutions, volunteer leadership groups, Board of Directors, staff, and partners, I have witnessed an extraordinary commitment to academic physical therapy and to the students, faculty, clinicians, and communities our profession serves.

This year, we launched ACAPT's 2025–2028 Strategic Plan and began bringing its five priorities to life: Academic Excellence, Connected & Engaged Community, Data for Impact, Leadership & Influence, and Organizational Vitality. This plan reflects the voices of our community and provides a clear framework for how we focus our resources, measure our progress, and build lasting value for our members.

We strengthened ACAPT's role as an advocate and national voice for academic physical therapy. Through engagement with policymakers, professional partners, and leaders across education, accreditation, workforce development, and healthcare, we worked to ensure that the perspectives of our member institutions are represented in the conversations shaping our profession. Every invitation to participate in these discussions affirms the importance of a clear, credible, and coordinated voice for academic physical therapy.

We continued building ACAPT's strategic priorities. We strengthened our financial position, cultivated partnerships and sponsorships, invested in our staff and data capacity, advanced our digital infrastructure, and established clearer processes to support our volunteers. We expanded leadership and educational programming, strengthened the Institutional Profile Survey, and laid important groundwork for a more accessible and actionable data repository. Together, these efforts create the capacity ACAPT needs to serve its members with consistency, creativity, and purpose.

Some of the most meaningful moments of my year happened within your institutions. Thank you for inviting me into your programs, classrooms, conversations, and white coat ceremonies. Standing alongside faculty, students, families, and institutional leaders during these milestones is an incredible privilege. These experiences bring our mission to life and remind me that the future of physical therapy is being shaped every day in your classrooms, laboratories, clinics, and communities.

As we look ahead, our direction is clear. We will continue delivering measurable member value, strengthening the voice of academic physical therapy, expanding access to meaningful data and resources, developing leaders, and creating opportunities for our community to learn and lead together.

Thank you for your trust, your candor, your invitations, and your commitment to ACAPT. I am deeply proud of what we are building together and excited for all that lies ahead.

With gratitude,



Celia Chomón Zamora, PhD, CAE
Executive Director, ACAPT



CELIA CHOMÓN ZAMORA, PHD, CAE

Executive Director



OVERVIEW

MISSION

ACAPT member institutions are champions of innovation, inclusion and inquiry in academic physical therapy.

VISION

As a respected leader in academic physical therapy, ACAPT will create a shared culture of excellence to improve societal health.

Highlights

This year was one of momentum, growth, and greater influence for ACAPT. Building on the strategic refocusing of 2025, ACAPT expanded its commitment to academic excellence through stronger data resources, innovative education, leadership development, member engagement, and a growing advocacy presence. Highlights included continued expansion of the Institutional Profile Survey and interactive data dashboards, the launch of ELEVATE, a year-long leadership development experience, and new opportunities for connection through ACAPT virtual opportunities and FlexCast.

Investments in an upcoming redesigned website, expanded partnerships, enhanced member resources, and an ever-growing dedicated volunteer group laid the groundwork for ACAPT's next chapter. Together, these efforts reflect an organization moving from refocusing to forward momentum connecting its members, elevating the voice of academic physical therapy, and building the resources and leadership needed to shape the profession's future.

We sincerely thank all of our Board members and volunteer leaders for your expertise and dedication to advancing physical therapy education.







236
New positions posted in Career Center

674
ACAPT National Physical Therapy Student Honor Society inductees from 95 participating institutions

9,984
Active subscribers to ACAPT emails

6,089
ACAPT social media followers - including Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube

53,000
ACAPT website users

2,000
FlexCast podcast downloads

LEADERSHIP GROUPS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!

Institute for Academic Advancement

Promoting the value proposition in academic physical therapy

Institute for Teaching and Learning

Developing a systems approach to social determinants of health in PT curriculum

Institute for Scholarly Inquiry

Cultivating research culture and scholarly growth through mentorship and collaborative initiatives

Institute for Community Engagement

Exploring career pathways for graduates of DPT programs

- **Clinical Education Commission**
- **Advocacy Committee**
- **Awards and Recognition Committee**
- **Data Advisory Committee**
- **Education Planning and Innovation Committee (EPIC)**
- **Interprofessional Education (IPE) Committee**
- **Simulation Committee**
- **Education Research Committee**
- **Finance Committee**
- **Nominating Committee**
- **Reference Committee**

NEW MEMBER ROADMAP

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC PHYSICAL THERAPY

1 — First 90 Days

Onboarding & Early Engagement

- New member orientation and welcome resources
- Introduction to ACAPT communities
- Access to member-exclusive communications and updates
- Important member events
- Enroll in your first ACAPT program

2 — First 180 Days

Touch Point & Opportunities to Contribute

- Q&A with staff and leaders
- Participate in ACAPT data collection
- Kick off National Honor Society
- Member engagement and resource discovery
- Open call for ACAPT leader positions
- Develop/endorse amended bylaws or main motions
- Attend a town hall

3 — First 250 Days

Community & Collaboration

- Networking with institutions and leaders
- Enroll in a micro-volunteer experience or task force
- Explore mentorship
- Participate in IPS survey
- Highlight program and student excellence
- Participate in ACAPT awards

4 — First 365 Days

Anniversary, Institutional Impact & Reflections

- Representation in national conversations impacting PT education
- Shape standards, policy, and future initiatives
- Alignment with ACAPT's Excellence Framework
- Recruitment of other leaders and programs

MEMBERSHIP

OUR REACH & COMMUNITY

ACAPT fosters a national community, with a shared commitment to excellence.

ACAPT brings together academic physical therapy institutions and educators committed to advancing excellence in physical therapy education. With 216 institutional members among 332 eligible U.S. DPT programs, ACAPT's community represents a broad network of academic leaders, faculty, clinical educators, and emerging professionals working to strengthen the future of the profession.

Through institutional membership, ACAPT continues its work for established programs and developing institutions, creating opportunities to share knowledge, strengthen institutional capacity, and collectively address the evolving needs of academic physical therapy.

From evidence-informed resources and professional development to leadership opportunities and national advocacy, ACAPT works to translate membership into meaningful value across the academic community. Equipping member institutions with resources to strengthen teaching, learning, and educational innovation. Visit our member benefits page for a full list of services.



Dr. Zamora keynotes White Coat Ceremony at Bellarmine University College of Health Professions

30,032
Faculty, clinical instructors, students, and partners

250+
More than 250 out of 332 eligible U.S. Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) programs are ACAPT member institutions

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

ELC

At ELC 2025, we sold 46 booths, generating $99,756 in sponsorship revenue. One exhibitor canceled the week before the conference, and another received a partial refund due to the Wi-Fi issues experienced during the event.

Following ELC 2025, we evaluated the sponsorship model and identified opportunities to strengthen sponsor benefits while increasing revenue potential. We introduced additional purchase options that gave sponsors more ways to engage with attendees throughout the conference.

These changes delivered strong results for ELC 2026. Sponsorship revenue increased to $122,700, with 53 paid booths sold. Of the 56 available booths, one was reserved at no cost for PTLI. The ACAPT and AoE booths were moved to the foyer, freeing three additional spaces in the exhibit hall for potential booth sales or use by the Research Board and Ask a Researcher table.

2026 PROGRAMMING

- Student Loan Changes in PT Education (with After the DPT)
- The Faculty Multiplier: Scaling Clinical Practice with AI-Powered Patient Simulation
- The Faculty Multiplier: Building a More Reliable AI Tutor You Can Use on Monday (coming September 15, 2026)
- One Vision, Many Paths: Advancing the Culture of Scholarly Inquiry Across Physical Therapy Education (ISI originally presented at ELC 2025)

THE NUMBERS

53	Sponsors
271	Submitted Abstracts
169	Accepted Abstracts
48	Platform Posters
119	Poster presentations
349	Submitted Educational Sessions
138	Accepted Sessions
54	MicroLearn Sessions
84	Educational Sessions

FUTURE PROGRAMMING

- Engaging Leadership in Education through Values-Driven Action, Team-Based Problem Solving, and Excellence (ELEVATE) (Coming Soon)
- Pathways to Academic Teaching and Scholarly Identity (PATHS) (Coming: February 2027)
- Simulation Instructor Training for Rehab Professionals (SITReP) (Summer 2027)
- Lifelong Advocacy (Coming: 2026)
- Using Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) for Accreditation Webinar Series
- Planning for Academic Change & Excellence (PACE): Strategic Planning for Excellence in Physical Therapist Education
- EPIC Micro Learn Session/Series
- IPE Committee: IPE Compendium Update
- Clinical Education Commission: DCE Transition Resources

TREASURER'S REPORT

AUGUST 2026

In this report, member representatives will find the 20256 and 2025 ACAPT Statement of Activities and the Statement of Financial Position. The 2025 report is based on full-year audited figures. We also provide a snapshot of expenditures and revenue through August 31, 2026, as well as highlights from this past year and projections for 2027.

View full Financial Report here

FUTURE OUTLOOK

STAY CONNECTED

At ACAPT, we're energized by what lies ahead. Our future is a shared journey.

We invite you to stay connected, bring your ideas forward, and help shape what comes next. Your voice, expertise, and involvement are essential to our collective success.

🗣️ Join the conversation at community.acapt.org



DATA FOR IMPACT

A major focus for the year ahead will be growing the Institutional Profile Survey into an even stronger national resource for academic physical therapy, helping programs benchmark performance, identify trends, and inform decisions around admissions, workforce, student success, and program sustainability.