FROM THE ACAPT BOARD

Membership Brief | October 2026

The ACAPT Board of Directors met October 14–15 in Washington, DC in connection with ELC 2026. The conversations centered on strengthening academic physical therapy education, investing in member support, building an actionable evidence base and preparing for workforce and policy developments.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

The Board approved the 2027 operating budget, including planned support for digital infrastructure, educational programming and improved use of data. These investments include work on the website, learning management system and data repository.

OPENING PATHWAYS TO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Board members advanced planning for an ACAPT-focused scholarship pathway to help eligible members participate in educational and leadership opportunities. Staff will further define eligibility, available support and outcomes before any program launch.

Your opportunity: Identify faculty, emerging academic leaders, and students at your institution who could benefit from these offerings. Watch for upcoming program announcements, registration information, and opportunities for participation.

SUPPORTING STUDENT READINESS AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Board authorized refinement of a broadly applicable NPTE readiness partnership toolkit. The proposed framework would help educational programs engage potential employer or sponsor support while maintaining transparent, consistent practices.

Your opportunity: Share effective practices, resource needs, and examples of partnerships that improve student readiness, clinical education experiences, and successful transitions into practice.

STRENGTHENING SCHOLARSHIP AND FACULTY SUPPORT

The Board endorsed recruitment of new chair and vice chair leadership for the Educational Research Committee and emphasized continuity of valuable volunteer work. The Board also discussed future faculty development, mentorship, succession planning and sustainable academic careers.

Your opportunity: Share innovative faculty development practices, succession planning strategies, and successful approaches to recruiting and mentoring future educators. Your experiences can help inform future ACAPT resources.

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MAKING DATA MORE USEFUL

Members can expect continued efforts to improve IPS interpretation, reporting and benchmarking. ACAPT is examining opportunities for better workforce-related evidence and meaningful value for programs that contribute to data initiatives.

Your opportunity: Explore IPS findings with your faculty and institutional leadership. Share which benchmarks, trends, and data resources would be most valuable for your program's planning, resource allocation, and advocacy efforts.

REPRESENTING ACADEMIC PT IN A CHANGING POLICY ENVIRONMENT

Directors discussed higher education accreditation policy, student financing, clinical education and the academic workforce. ACAPT will continue assessing developments and engaging partners in ways that support member programs and the profession.

Your opportunity: Share how federal policy changes, student financial pressures, clinical education challenges, and workforce needs are affecting your program. These experiences help ACAPT communicate the impact of policy decisions to federal policymakers and other stakeholders.

CONNECTING WITH YOUR BOARD LIAISONS

The Board reaffirmed expectations for regular communication between directors and the institutes, committees, commissions and other volunteer groups they support. Leadership groups will receive appropriate Board summaries and opportunities to raise questions and recommendations.

Your opportunity: Tell us what your institution needs most. What challenges are emerging? What resources would make the greatest difference? Where can ACAPT provide the strongest collective voice for academic physical therapy?

We are grateful to ACAPT volunteers, institutional members, staff and our ELC 2026 Board Meeting sponsor, CLASP, for their continued investment in academic physical therapy. We look forward to sharing additional opportunities as initiatives take shape.

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Catch up with ACAPT

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