

Bio and Candidate Statement: Due January 26, 2018

Nominees must submit a completed bio and candidate statement by the above deadline to be considered a candidate and placed on the ballot for election.

1. Please provide a brief bio of not more than 200 words.

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 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 degree 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.

2. CANDIDATE STATEMENT: Please respond to the following question with no more than 200 words: Briefly describe your qualifications for the position you are seeking and the pressing issues or initiatives that you believe RIPPT should address, and how these issues are consistent with the ACAPT strategic plan.

As an early career investigator at a research-intensive university and an active member of the American Physical Therapy Association, Foundation for Physical Therapy and the American College of Rehabilitation, I am well-qualified to serve as the RIPPT nominating committee chair. 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.

Please return this completed document to the attention of the RIPPT nominating committee chair by fax to (804) 828-8111 or email as an attachment to msshall@vcu.edu