

RIPPT BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA
FEBRUARY 13, 2020
5:30-7:00 PM
Columbine, Sheraton
DENVER, COLORADO

Minutes:

1. **Introductions** (and share faculty, PhD, Post-doc openings)- see list at end of document
2. **RIPPT Guideline additions and editorial changes.** Vote to adopt or suggest edits. See attachment **[see attachment]**
 - General formatting edits for consistency
 - Addition of Nominating Committee and Elections Process
 - Deletion of Office of Treasurer (not necessary)

Changes primarily to nominating committee and some formatting changes. Open to floor for questions. Clarification that nominating chair is one of the three members. Clarification that chair appoints steering committee. Changes were moved to accept and seconded. They were approved unanimously.

3. Update on DPT Post Doc Training Proposal Progress – John Buford, Jules Dewald

- Drafting a prospectus to inform others of initiative – **[rough draft attached]**

Summary of attachment: Have DPTs trained as researchers in a post-doc environment (without pursuing PhD). Discussion: ACAPT has agreed to 40K a year for 3 years to get the program rolling. Now reaching out other groups to work on matching funding.

Discussion focused some of the model, key points:

- downside of this model is that you don't end up with a PhD, would a better model be put the money to PhD training, so a degree is attached
- counterargument: MD's don't always get PhD, so why not build up our DPT as people that can support research
 - very few DPTs that have been successful in this- is this because they have not been supported or nurtured to get the training?
- Discussion around loan repayment grants as an option also.
- Discussion around right amount of money- will 60K be enough to bring in the DPT, how about the fringe?
- PhD training does not mean you have a guaranteed researcher. Many people who get a PhD do not end up as independent researchers.
- What is the metric following three years of advancement for the DPT post-doc?
- Maybe consider T32s that support this also. Getting NIH reviewers to support DPT applications.

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- This is a PILOT study to use as a model to get federal funding to support this.
- The success needs to be built on the candidate as well. How do we identify these individuals? Nationwide search that they could go to institution that could support.
- Charge from ACAPT board is that this will go back to the taskforce for refinement.
- Discussion about institutional nuances that would not allow these individuals to go forward (e.g. for T&P without a PhD)
- Also make efforts in supporting PhD training and consider option where we share this information with graduating students as a career option. This point was reflected by much of the membership, they we (RIPPT) need to do a better job of supporting our PhD students who are PTs.

4. Update regarding the RIPPT Webpage – Jules Dewald

IT person at Northwestern is working on this and the goal is to search by keywords. This will make it more accessible and therefore user-friendly.

5. RIPPT Strategic Goals – [see attachment]

The advisory committee has met and discussed these strategic goals. – not addressed in today's business meeting.

6. Interest in Half Day RIPPT meeting on Thursday before ELC for presentation, networking, business meeting, mentoring

Noted that ELC may be extending Sunday morning sessions to RIPPT and other groups. More to come on this.

7. RIPPT elections – nominating committee nominations and elections

Two positions on the nominating committee open, we currently have two individuals. No further nominations. Email Mary Rodgers if you want to put your name on the ballot

8. Next Steps?

- a. Possible motions for ELC? - none given at this time

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Started with discussion on importance of networking in RIPPT programs

Openings:

1. UNC- PhD students
2. Northeastern- PhD program started, accepting second cohort of students
3. VCU- a faculty position in April 2020- Pediatric focus
4. WashU- faculty position open summer 2020
5. MUSC- Health services research open potions
6. Delaware- Faculty opening, and post doc
7. University of Washington- Statistician in rehab medicine
8. USF- Opening faculty in in summer 2020
9. Temple- faculty opening in Public Health, post-doc in health outcomes
10. Univ Texas- Galveston- researchers hired at 100%, and faculty lines in PT
11. Buffalo- faculty in OT, applications for PhD in rehab sciences
12. University of Maryland- endowed professor position open
13. University of Kentucky- graduated student openings (multiple) and two faculty positions open
14. University of MN- one faculty opening, one post-doc open
15. Ohio State- OT open faculty position
16. University of Utah- AT faculty position open with biomechanics focus, and two post-doc
17. Georgia State Univ- DPT-PhD program opening
18. University of Texas El Paso- traditional tenure track (60-80% research)
19. UNLV- interviewing for open position now- tenure track
20. University of Pittsburgh- currently recruiting for MSK faculty position
21. University of Southern California- faculty positions open (research and clinical)

Questions? Here are your officers:

Debby Givens (Chair) deborah_givens@med.unc.edu

Mary Shall (Vice Chair) msshall@vcu.edu

Stacy Fritz (Secretary) fritz@sc.edu

Mary Rodgers (Nomination Com Chair) mroddgers@som.umaryland.edu

I. Name

The name of this consortium is the Research Intensive Programs in Physical Therapy, hereinafter referred to as RIPPT.

II. Formation and Purpose

RIPPT is a consortium within the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT) whose purpose is to promote academic excellence by strengthening the community of research-intensive physical therapy programs in the Academic Council.

Objectives of RIPPT

- A. Promote the importance of organized research to contribute to improved health care and excellence in physical therapy education.
- B. Establish a forum for research-intensive programs to share strategies for organizing, building, and supporting their research enterprises.
- C. Develop an exchange that will promote research collaborations across institutions.
- D. Serve as a resource for programs that are attempting to develop into research-intensive programs.
- E. Develop a set of accepted benchmarks of research activity

III. Structure

1. Membership:

Members may hold office in RIPPT and vote on motions, elections, and other RIPPT business. Associated members may serve on committees and speak at meetings but may not hold office or vote.

- A. Member Criteria – must meet both of the following
 - 1) ACAPT member physical therapy programs that meet the guidelines of a research intensive program. The guidelines include:
 - a. Faculty members have access to a PhD or comparable doctoral program (e.g., ScD) wherein they can serve as the primary advisor for the training of graduate students (N.B.: the program need not be within Department)
 - b. Faculty members have a history of mentoring PhD/ScD students and or post-doctoral trainees
 - c. The program attracts substantial external research funding
 - d. Research productivity is part of the annual review and criteria for promotion for the research intensive faculty members (N.B.: research productivity need not be a criterion for every faculty member).
 - e. Physical space, equipment, and financial resources are sufficient to support the research program
 - f. At least one faculty member currently has an R01 or equivalent federal level award
 - 2) Program is in good standing by contributing RIPPT requested benchmarking data annually

B. Associated Membership

- 1) Programs that are attempting to develop into research-intensive programs.
- 2) Programs that have not contributed requested benchmarking data

C. ACAPT representatives apply for RIPPT membership by emailing the secretary of RIPPT. Those applying for full membership will state that they meet the guidelines of a research intensive program. After review by the Executive Committee, those applying for full membership will be asked to submit the benchmarking data. Until such time that the data are submitted, the program will be considered an associated member.

2. Meetings:

- A. Membership meetings will occur at CSM and ELC.
- B. Leadership meetings will be in-person at CSM and ELC. The leadership will also use teleconference and email communication.

3. Nominating Committee and Elections

A. Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee consists of three members. Members of the nominating committee are not officers of the consortium. The term of office for each member of the Nominating Committee shall be three years. One new member shall be elected each year. The Nominating Committee shall foster activities that maintain and promote a pool of nominees in order to develop a slate for election each year.

B. Elections and Functions of the Nominating Committee:

The Nominating Committee Chair shall oversee the functions of the Nominating Committee and elections. The duties of the committee are as follows:

- 1) Prepares a ballot for leadership positions and coordinates the nomination process; all attempts will be made to include a minimum of two candidates per office, when possible.
- 2) Determines eligibility of prospective candidates.
- 3) Contacts prospective candidates to obtain consent to serve.
- 4) Requests short biography from each candidate to be sent with consent to serve form
- 5) Prepare a slate of one (1) or more names for each office to be filled. The slate (i.e. list of candidates), shall be published in communications to Consortium members and distributed to the membership at least 30 days prior to the election.
- 6) Conducts elections by electronic and mail ballot in conjunction with the Executive Office
- 7) Notifies winners of election and welcomes them
- 8) Notifies individuals not elected and maintains a record of their consent to service for future considerations and needs that may support the work of the Consortium

3.4. Governance and Leadership

- A. The leadership team will consist of five-four elected positions

Chair, Vice-Chair (chair-elect), Secretary, ~~Treasurer~~, and Nominating Committee Chair

B. Term of Office

Each position will serve a two-year term.

The vice-chair will become chair after serving a two-year term as vice-chair.

C. Steering committee

The chair will appoint 2-3 members of the RIPPT to serve on the RIPPT steering committee. The chair will select the members of the steering committee with thoughtful consideration to diversity including university type, region, and gender. The immediate past-chair will also be a member of the steering committee.

D. All members of the elected leadership and steering committee will come from programs meeting the criteria for full membership. At least 1 member of the steering committee will be from the associated membership category.

E. The Chair is the Liaison to the ACAPT Board of Directors

4.5. Dues

There are no dues associated with Membership or Associated Membership

Need for a rigorous post-doctoral research fellowship program for highly qualified DPTs

The transition from a Master of Science to the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree (DPT), as the entry-level qualification for clinical practice since the year 2000, had a negative impact on the number of DPTs seeking PhD training and Physical Therapy programs are now facing a faculty shortage and difficulty recruiting DPTs into their PhD programs. The Research Intensive Programs in Physical Therapy (RIPPT) consortium of the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT) conducted a survey of their member institutions that shows that PhD programs that enroll DPTs are at only 50% capacity. The survey also showed that the main factor contributing to the decreased interest in PhD programs among DPTs is the income loss. This shortage will and is already having an impact not only on the numbers of research trained PT faculty but also on the number of rehabilitation researchers supporting the field of Physical Therapy.

The proposed fellowship program seeks to address this shortage of research capable physical therapists by providing a rigorous post-doctoral research training to DPTs that will allow successful pursuit of a rehabilitation research career. Graduation from research intensive physical therapy programs capable of providing substantial research experiences and the proliferation of “research physical therapist” positions at academic medical centers has cultivated a growing and capable cohort desiring mentorship and training to become an independent investigator. We thus foresee recruiting highly qualified DPTs with strong research backgrounds to complete a targeted set of courses while receiving strong research mentoring in a federally (NIH or equivalent) funded rehabilitation science laboratory for a period of 3-4 years. This novel component of the proposed training program seeks to increase the research capacity of rehabilitation clinician scientists and is crucial for the growth and development of the scientific underpinning of targeted physical therapy interventions. The subsequent criteria for the proposed fellowship that will be provided are based on the recent findings of an ACAPT task force that confirmed the need and the feasibility for the DPT postdoctoral research training fellowship as well as reviewer feedback on a recently reviewed T32 training grant at Northwestern University that proposed this avenue of research training and got a positive review.

Qualifications of the DPT postdoctoral candidates:

- Undergraduate education in research intensive universities.
- DPT education in a research intensive DPT educational program.
- Publication record generated during the candidate’s undergraduate and graduate PT education.
- Excellent GPA and standardized test results (e.g., GRE) and strong recommendations from previous undergraduate and graduate mentors.
- Clear research interests/ideas that allow for a match in a PT related federally funded research lab.

Required Institutional Profile and training environment:

- Research intensive institution with expertise in basic and translational research.
- The training site should have a culture and infrastructure that has a history of successful support for NIH funded principal investigators.

- Laboratories with existing pre-docs (PhD students) that will allow for combined training of pre-doc (basic science) and DPT post-docs (clinical) as a group.
- Presence of suitable graduate coursework at the hosting institute in the area of research methods, statistics, etc.
- Presence of funding opportunities for DPT post-doc candidate at the hosting institute via CTSA or a CTR award.
- A minimum of 75% protected research time.

Qualifications of DPT postdoctoral fellowship mentors:

- Evidence of past and current federal funding at the R01 level.
- History of mentoring of pre-, post-doctoral fellows that have done well.
- History of successful funding of pre- and post-doctoral candidates.
- Current pre-doctoral students.

Funding needs to demonstrate the potential for the DPT postdoctoral fellowship as a successful research training model for Physical Therapy scientists:

- Funding for 2 DPT postdoctoral fellows a year at \$60K per fellow with the support of ACPT, APTA, APTE, PT foundation and F4PTR. This will support the first year of funding of the DPT postdoc research with some additional support of the home institution.
- The home institution needs to agree to support of the fellows in year 2 and 3! This can be done with support of CTSA grants as well as federal and foundation postdoctoral grants.
- Simultaneously NIH training grants submissions need to be made to support this avenue of research training as current K12 rehabilitation research training support will no longer be provided by the NIH in 2-3 years from now.

Proposed Strategic Goals
2019-2021

As a committee would like to advance the following goals:

1. RIPPT leadership develops consistent communication processes (leadership and consortium)
 - a. leadership video conference calls every 5-6 weeks to develop plans and assess outcomes (including task forces)
 - b. action plans after each meeting to keep work moving forward
 - c. establish timelines for agendas of business meetings and circulation of minutes
 - d. establish proactive communications with ACAPT board and external entities (e.g. Education Leadership Partnership, Research Section, APTA, Student Conclave, etc...) to advance our goals
2. RIPPT proposes at least 1 motion at the ACAPT business meetings to advance excellence in physical therapy education and research related to the goals of RIPPT
 - a. This motion is crafted and vetted by the committee prior to the meeting
3. RIPPT is one of the drivers in pushing forward a national agenda to address the shortage of research faculty with PhDs for DPT education programs
4. RIPPT has a presentation at ELC – either a preconference symposium, during conference, or during business meeting time – assign to members and be inclusive of a variety programs/participation
5. RIPPT explores the membership's interest in developing a mentorship program for directors and faculty
6. RIPPT leadership meets with the Foundation for Physical Therapy Research to advocate for a small indirect award to large competitive grants