

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

4. Governance and Leadership

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

Chair, Vice-Chair (chair-elect), Secretary, 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

5. Dues

There are no dues associated with Membership or Associated Membership