



November 16, 2022

ATTN: Steven Chesbro, PT, PhD, EdD  
Vice President, Education  
American Physical Therapy Association  
3030 Potomac Avenue, Suite 100  
Alexandria, VA 22305

Dear Steven:

On behalf of the Board of the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT), I wish to express our interest in participating in the APTA Collaborative for Physical Therapy Education. As one of the co-developers of the Education Leadership Partnership's *Vision for Excellence in Physical Therapy Education*, and as one of the only stakeholder organizations whose members are colleges and universities where there are physical therapist education programs and physical therapist educators, ACAPT has a clear and obvious interest in achieving all six pillars of the vision.

In ACAPT's current strategic plan, we have identified several initiatives in which our work will help to contribute to the achievement of the Vision. These, and other activities, include:

#### **Accessibility of Education**

- Provide career resources and advising that support an understanding of the full cost and benefits of education.
- Create anti-racist and anti-bias policies and programming that will stimulate academic programs to strive for equity, diversity, and inclusion and support them in that effort
- Support clinicians, students, and programs participation in career pathway development, by focusing on underserved, underrepresented, and marginalized populations.
- A task force on Clinical Education Placement Capacity and Process Innovation began in March 2022 and is gathering data, conducting a survey of site coordinators of clinical education (SCCEs) and exploring options for transforming the current placement process to maximize availability and efficiency.
- A task force is investigating pre-admission observation hours practices and helping to determine if alternative experiences are a better way for incoming students to prepare.
- ACAPT's Student Leadership Development Committee has hosted multiple webinars to help students discover the how to move from clinician to faculty.

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC PHYSICAL THERAPY (ACAPT)  
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- ACAPT also worked with several faculty to offer webinars to historically-black colleges and universities (HBCUs), the APTA California Chapter and others to deliver a webinar explaining: *Value of a PhD, post-professional education & career in PT academia.*

### **Collaboration and Networks**

- Establish the framework needed to transform clinical education in PT
- Increase the quantity and quality of academic/clinical partnerships that promote excellence in academic physical therapy.
- Promote clinical and academic partnerships that support the provision of learning and delivery of person-centered care
- The National Interprofessional Education Consortium has been working to address IPE practice in clinical education
- ACAPT is a member of the National Collaborative for Improving the Clinical Learning Environment and the Federation of Associations of Schools of the Health Professions

### **Competency-Based Education**

- ACAPT has already committed to provide up to \$8,400 for the Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) Development Kickoff Workshop
- Develop and promote sharing of best practices for teaching and learning
- Play an active and effective role in influencing outcomes that contribute to the achievement of academic excellence for all physical therapist education programs and their clinical partners

### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

- Conduct the National Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Summit
- Share research and data analytics related to diversity, equity, and inclusion to inform best practices.
- Develop resources that help educators understand the benefits of cultural humility and a diverse team, as well as of the barriers created by overt and implicit bias.

### **Education Research and Data Management**

- Create the Center for Excellence in Academic Physical Therapy
- Actively engage in the collection of and access to comprehensive data in order to establish trends that promote excellence
- Bring together an engaged community of researchers to inform best practices and to offer professional support for education stakeholders through training, career resources, grant-writing support, mentorship, and more
- Offer educational programming that responds to opportunities and challenges identified by data trends



- ACAPT has committed to fund GAMER in 2023, 2024, and 2025 at up to \$11,500 per year
- ACAPT continues to co-fund mini-GAMER at CSM and ELC
- ACAPT has an Education Research Committee which helps, in part, to support the Education Research Network jointly developed by the Education Leadership Partnership
- ACAPT has a partnership with Exxat to collect critical baseline data in clinical education that will promote better outcomes within the academic-clinical partnership.

#### **Infrastructure, Capacity, and Faculty Development**

- Raise programmatic expectations toward levels that promote excellence in academic physical therapy
- Promote a healthy balance and sustainability in the supply and demand in DPT graduates to meet the workforce needs of the future
- Advocate for continued high quality and sustainability in academic physical therapy
- ACAPT is developing a multi-phased hybrid leadership training program for institutional teams

ACAPT, as a partnering organization to this Collaborative, would communicate the collaborative efforts and outcomes of the work at least annually. Additionally, should ACAPT be approved as a partnering organization to this Collaborative, we will identify a primary and secondary representative to serve on our behalf.

Sincerely,

Mark Reinking, PT, PhD, ATC, FAPTA  
ACAPT President