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**ORAL HISTORY SNAPSHOTS**

**Reflections of Key Leaders Across Time**

*Dr. Rowe, thank you so much for helping ACAPT document its evolution and impact! From your perspective, how do you think ACAPT has influenced the profession and its education thus far?*

The Comission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) sets a standard that is critical for our professional education, but it is a minimum standard. ACAPT, however, focuses on excellence, a profound difference that moves us beyond the minimum and toward a higher set of standards to ensure we prepare the best possible practitioner. ACAPT also has shown a strong spirit of collaboration in its roles in the Education Leadership Partnership (ELP). As a member of ELP’s Board, I see each partner serving a unique role. APTA focuses on the health of society, the Academy of Physical Therapy Education (formerly the Education Section) promotes our global role as educators in the classroom or clinic, and ACAPT seeks excellence by ensuring the effectiveness of its institutional members and their educational programs. Together, the partners of ELP will move our profession forward!

*Has ACAPT made a specific contribution to ELP that you feel demonstrates its impact?*

ACAPT has made at least three significant contributions to ELP. First, ACAPT is a true team player working very collaboratively, while still maintaining loyalty to its own mission and vision. ACAPT’s representatives have led some initiatives, supported the other partners in other initiatives and embraced the opportunity to work together to achieve ELP’s mission. Second, ACAPT has provided leadership in seeking standardized outcomes, implementing the excellence in benchmarking project, and promoting diversity in the profession. Its prior investment in these projects has helped to frame ELP’s agenda and provided a “head start” on defining ELP’s priorities. ELP didn’t have to “start from scratch”! The partners also are benefitting from ACAPT’s prior work in clinical education, holistic admissions and MERC (Medical Education Research Certificate). Finally, by virtue of its effectiveness in relationship building, ACAPT has “budged the needle” away from acting independently in silos and toward a group effort. I give ACAPT all the credit for this contribution - they were fantastic!

*How would you describe the strengths and possible downfalls of ACAPT‘s approach to strategic planning?*

I thought the planning process was very, very strategic and thoughtful. The Board engaged a phenomenal moderator who facilitated a fantastic process. It was open and transparent with plenty of time for people to provide their perspectives and reflect on others’ thoughts. The process also spanned several meetings - not one moment in time – which enabled items to be tackled in order and action to be sequenced. It was brilliant.

*Do you remember any people that influenced the process in different ways or influenced you as you sat at the table with ACAPT?*

I attend ACAPT meetings as a liaison from the APTA Board of Directors and always have wanted to be respectful of that role and careful that I represented my thoughts well in relation to that role. During one of the strategic planning sessions that you led, Susie, I thought I was not expressing my thoughts well. I remember the encouragement and feedback you gave me that I had been “spot on” in my comments. That was very powerful to me that my views may have had some sort of validity!

*Using your crystal ball, what do you think ACAPT should aspire to in the next 2-5 years?*

If ACAPT can accomplish even some of the activities currently on their agenda, it would be fantastic! Initiatives in bench marking, holistic admissions, clinical education, and standardized outcomes and competencies are just a few. Continuing to collaborate with their ELP partners to move physical therapy education through a continuum also is critical. Currently, our educational system is entrenched and moving like a glacier, and the hard work is yet ahead. We need a vision, resources and (perhaps the most challenging) a way to convince others to “jump on board” to make change in education. Responding to “that’s the way we have always done it” or “this is what my Dean wants” will require recognition of ACAPT as a thought leader by the institutions that host professional education. ACAPT clearly has the potential to guide the educational system forward. I hope that happens!

*Do you think that ACAPT should embrace PTA education in some unique way?*

There are unbelievable complexities to that question. Initially, it didn’t make sense to incorporate PTAs in the structure of ACAPT because the problems each was trying to manage were so different. I remember Leslie Portney being open-minded and listening to the problems and issues facing PTA education. PTA programs do have unique issues that need to be managed and they need resources to do that. I think now ACAPT might consider developing a division or structure similar to CAPTE’s where there is a central panel, a PT panel and a PTA panel. In this scenario, the central ACAPT panel could address topics like global educational activities and other commonalities - an approach that could reduce silos and redundancies in education. That is why I see the value in ACAPT taking that on at this point in their history/

*Thank you, Dr. Rowe, for your perspectives about ACAPT and for your participation as a leader in APTA and ELP!*