

2021 Historian Report

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In so much as 2020 was a year marked by the unknown and constant challenges, 2021 was a year for adaptation and innovation. In the words of Academy President Joe Donnelly, the Academy “seized the opportunity to do things differently, and, perhaps doing things differently will allow for continued engagement and member involvement.” The year 2021 should be remembered for many accomplishments, including celebrating APTA’s 100th Anniversary and the implementation of a new strategic framework to guide the next 3 years of the Academy. Accomplishments of Academy leadership and governance support for the new strategic framework pillars (Diversity & Inclusion, Evidence to Best Practice, Positioning & Public Awareness, and Value & Payment). Updating bylaws, orientation programs, leadership coaching, and external partnerships all speak to the accomplishments of the Academy in 2021 and will drive an active organizational structure into 2022.

MEMBERSHIP

Total Academy membership at the close of 2021 was 18,112 members, an increase of 0.35% from 2020. A 4-year, year-over-year membership comparison to APTA change is seen in Figure 1 below. Prior to Covid-19, AOPT membership numbers had been relatively stable; however, financial constraints as a result of the pandemic impacted membership for both the APTA and AOPT in 2020. The 2021 membership numbers are favorable and indicate membership is stabilizing. Student membership continues to be significantly decreased and presents an opportunity for increased engagement. Total membership in the Academy (PT, PTA, SPT, SPTA members) represents 17.9% of overall APTA membership. This statistic has stayed relatively constant over the years. The Academy continues to be the largest in the APTA by a wide margin. The next largest section is the Academy of Sports Physical Therapy with 7,453 members.

Figure 1. Yearly Comparison to APTA

	AOPT Members	AOPT YoY # Change	AOPT YoY % Change	APTA YoY % Change
2021	18,112	+ 63	+ 0.35%	+1.71%
2020	18,049	- 1,363	- 7.02%	- 4.82%
2019	19,412	+ 39	+ 0.2%	- 0.13%
2018	19,373	- 340	- 1.72%	+ 2.51%

LEADERSHIP (as of 12/31/2021)

Academy Leadership:

President	Joseph M. Donnelly, PT, DHSc, OCS, FAAOMPT (Hon.)
Vice President	Lori Michener, PT, PhD, ATC, SCS, FAPTA
Treasurer	Judith Hess, PT, DHS, OCS, CMPT
Director	Annette Karim, PT, DPT, PhD, OCS, FAAOMPT
Director	Beth Collier, PT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT
Director	Janet L. Konecne, PT, DPT, OCS, CSCS
Director	Derrick Sueki, PT, PhD, GCPT, OCS FAAOMPT

Academy Committees:

- Membership Chair: Christine Mansfield, PT, DPT, OCS, ATC
- Education Chair: Nancy Bloom, PT, DPT, MSOT
- OPTP Editor: John Heick, PT, PhD, OCS, NCS, SCS
- ISC Editor: Guy Simoneau, PT, PhD, FAPTA
- Research Chair: Dan White, PT, ScD, MSc, NCS
- Practice Chair: James Spencer, PT, DPT, OCS, CSCS
- Finance Chair: Judith Hess, PT, DHS, OCS, CMPT
- Nominating Chair: Stephanie DiStasi, PT, PhD
- Public Relations: AOPT office
- Awards Chair: Marie Corkery, PT DPT, MHS, FAAOMPT
- Physical Therapist Assistant Steering Committee Chair: Jason Oliver, PTA

Special Interest Groups (SIGs):

- Occupational Health SIG President: Rick Wickstrom, PT, DPT, CPE
- Foot and Ankle SIG President: Christopher Neville, PT, PhD
- Pain Management SIG President: Nancy Durban, PT, DPT, MS
- Performing Arts SIG President: Laurel Daniels Abbruzzese, PT, EdD
- Animal Rehabilitation SIG President: Francisco Maia, PT, DPT, CCRT
- Imaging SIG President: Charles Hazle, PT, PhD
- Residency/Fellowship SIG President: Matt Haberl, DPT, OCS, ATC, CSCS, FAAOMPT

Academy Staff:

- Terri DeFlorian, Executive Director
- Tara Fredrickson, Assistant Executive Director
- Sharon Klinski, Managing Editor OPTP & ISC
- Namrita Sidhu, CPG Managing Editor
- Nichole Walleen, Account Executive/Executive Assistant
- Joyce Brueggeman, Bookkeeper

Centennial Scholars: The Academy sponsored the following individuals as APTA's Centennial Scholars, whose initiatives support the Academy's strategic framework:

- Mary Beth Geiser, PT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT
- Yusra Iftikhar, PT, DPT
- Zach Walston, PT, DPT, OCS

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

The Academy has continued to make significant progress toward its vision of providing resources to optimize movement and musculoskeletal health. Part of the Academy's strategic framework is to promote the development and implementation of evidence to best practice. One initiative to achieve this is the publication of Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) and continuing to develop advanced methods for providing educational content through the Independent Study Course (ISC) program. The Academy continued to make significant progress towards both initiatives in 2021. Additionally, the Academy continued to provide resources to membership to address the challenges of treating during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Currently, there are 17 CPG topics covered with 8 being on their second update since initial publication for a total of 25 publications. At the close of 2021, there are 6 CPGs in the revision stage and 7 are in the development stages. The following CPGs were added in 2021, and published in the *Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy (JOSPT)*:

- *Clinical Guidance to Optimize Work Participation After Injury or Illness: The Role of Physical Therapists*; Daley et al. August 2021
- *Physical Therapy management of Older Adults with Hip Fracture*. McDonough et al. February 2021

The following CPG revisions were published in 2021:

- *Interventions for the Management of Acute and Chronic Low Back Pain: Revision 2021*; George et al. November 2021
- *Ankle Stability and Movement Coordination Impairments: Lateral Ankle Ligament Sprains Revision*; Martin et al. April 2021

The Independent Study Courses (ISCs) offered by the Academy have been transitioned to an online/online plus print system, available at orthoptlearn.org. Additionally, the ISCs continue to be an important contributor to the non-dues revenue of the Academy. Partly due to the need for learn-from-home continuing education, the ISC revenue continued to grow in 2021 due to the need to learn-from-home, the publication of *Current Concepts 5th ed.*, and the efforts of Academy staff.

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Academy has continued to make progress toward education and professional development on several fronts. The Academy has continued to advance participation at Combined Sections Meeting (CSM), increased growth of Orthopaedic Residency and Fellowship education, and continued to develop the Mentorship Program.

The 2021 Combined Sections Meeting was held virtually over the Month of February. Despite the change in format, the Academy continued to sponsor numerous valuable educational sessions. The 2022 CSM was held with both in-person (San Antonio, TX) and virtual options available. The Academy looks forward to providing continued course sponsorship in the new virtual format.

Orthopaedic residency and fellowship education has continued to increase in 2021. The American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education (ABPTRFE) recognized 134 accredited Orthopaedic Residency programs at the end 2021. Additionally, there are 15 candidate programs and 6 developing programs. The ABPTRFE recognizes 25 accredited Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy Fellowships, with 1 candidate program. There are 2 accredited and 2 candidate Spine Fellowship programs at the close of 2021.

The Membership Committee continued to sponsor the Mentorship Program in 2021 that again matched 15 students. Areas of mentoring include research, academics/teaching, manual therapy, leadership, and private practice. The program is led by Christine Mansfield, PT, DPT, OCS, ATC, Membership Chair.

GRANTS FUNDING

The Academy continues to support grant funding related to advocacy, residency and fellowship development, and small grants for researchers investigating orthopaedic practice issues. \$5,000 was awarded to the Colorado Chapter to support advocacy efforts. There will be five \$5,000 grants available in 2022. The projected funding for grant efforts by the Academy exceeds \$40,000 yearly. The AOPT is awarding 2 New Investigator grants and 1 Unrestricted grant totaling \$72,996.00 in 2022.

AWARDS PROGRAM

Award	2021 Recipient
Outstanding PT Student	Ashley Lea, SPT, MS, LAT/ATC Duke University
Outstanding PTA Student	Mason Delili, SPTA Somerset Community College
James A. Gould Excellence in Teaching Orthopaedic Physical Therapy	John Heick, PT, PhD, DPT Northern Arizona University
Rose Excellence in Research	Jason Falvey, PT, DPT, PhD, GCS

	University of Colorado
Richard W. Bowling - Richard E. Erhard Orthopaedic Clinical Practice	Michael F. Tollan, PT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT Olympic Sports & Spine
Paris Distinguished Service	<i>Not awarded in 2021</i>

SUMMARY

The Academy has made significant strides this year by implementing new strategic framework to guide operations for the next 3 years. The decline in Academy membership experienced in 2020 has stabilized and is not off pace from what the APTA overall membership has experienced over the same timeframe. There continues to be a lot to look forward to in 2022.