

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rick Wickstrom, PT, DPT, CPE, CME

This summer I had the opportunity to engage with APTA leaders as a first time Ohio Delegate to the APTA 2023 House of Delegates. A groundswell of support is building to remove access barriers and strengthen the public perception that physical therapists have a unique practice focus as entry-point healthcare professionals to optimize movement, evaluate disability, and justify accommodations that advance participation in work, school, sports, and daily living.

RC11-22 motion was passed in the 2022 HOD and has influenced improvements in the FSBPT Model Practice Act to reference that the PT scope of practice includes “participation-focused examinations.” Now that we have declared this to be part of our scope of practice, we need to establish a better structure to let physical therapists know how to do it and encourage them to do it. Otherwise, we aren’t really making gains in this area to achieve APTA’s vision.

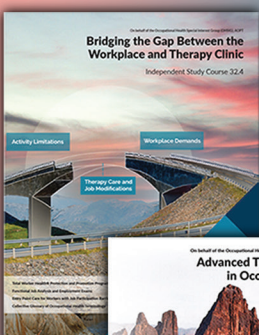

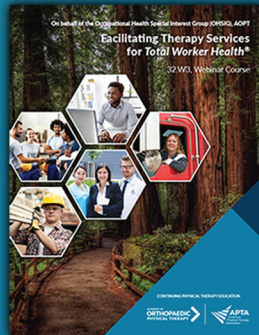
At the 2023 HOD, a new RC 15-23 motion was passed as a charge to foster coordination between academies, public relations, and advocacy resources within APTA. Although we have content experts in the Health Promotion and Wellness Council and in multiple academies to help advance this area of practice, additional APTA resources are needed to drive opportunities and prepare members to deliver participation-focused examinations for physical activity clearance as an important focus of a physical therapist’s

practice in all settings. Further, there is momentum building to recognize physical therapists as primary care clinicians in settings.

After the APTA House of Delegates concluded with a commitment to fostering a better governance process, I was fortunate to join delegates and other leaders for an extra day in Washington, DC to participate in Federal Advocacy Day. It was inspiring to encourage our House Representatives to support bills that benefit the patients we serve. The APTA introduced bills that week for “The Physical Therapist Workforce and Patient Access Act of 2023” (HR 4829) and for The EMPOWER Act to support General PTA Supervision (HR 4878 and S 2459).

Now that the summer dust has settled from this summer action, our OHSIG focus will resume on driving interest and opportunities related to our Occupational Health Practitioner Certificate that was launched early this year. We will soon release a new expanded member profile and external search to drive OHP Program marketing and referral opportunities to OHP Certificants. I am looking forward to networking and highlighting our OHP program at the APTA Private Practice Annual Meeting.

If you have an interest in occupational health, you are welcome to attend our OHSIG Annual Meeting. This will be held in person at CSM 2024 before the start of the OHSIG’s featured presentation: *Innovative Workplace Strategies for Promoting Musculoskeletal Health and Well-being Using the Total Worker Health® Approach*. This will be a panel presentation by speakers Cory Blickenstaff, PT, MSPT; Michael Kean, CSP; Katia M. Costa-Black, PT, PhD; and Stewart Levy, RPh, MBA.






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