

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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TRANSITION FROM PERFORMING ARTS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP TO PERFORMING ARTS COMMUNITY

The APTA Orthopedics Board of Directors has approved a change to its existing structure for Special Interest Groups. Beginning in 2026, all SIGS and engagement communities will be Communities of APTA Orthopedics. Each Community will have an APTA Orthopedics board member assigned to them as a liaison by the APTA Orthopedics president. The Community Leadership Team will be made up of the chair, vice chair, and APTA Orthopedics board liaison. Community Leadership Team terms are 2 years. No more than 3 consecutive terms may be served as chair or vice chair. As we transition, our PASIG VP, Melissa Strzelinski, will become the new Community vice chair. Since I am finishing my second 3-year term as PASIG president, we will hold an election this fall for a new Performing Arts Community chair, to take office at CSM 2026. Moving forward, the Performing Arts Community chair and vice chair will be appointed per the APTA Orthopedics board policy in consultation with the Community. Qualifications for the Leadership Team are presented below.

Chair

1. APTA Orthopedics member in good standing
2. Demonstrated leadership and engagement with the Community
3. Ability to effectively represent the Community

Vice Chair

1. APTA Orthopedics member in good standing
2. Demonstrated leadership and engagement with the Community
3. Ability to effectively represent the Community and take over leadership of the Community if the chair is unable to perform their duties

All other members of the Community leadership team, including nominating committee members, will be appointed by the Community. If you are a member of our Performing Arts Community and are interested in serving in a leadership role, please reach out to our current Nominating Committee chair, Samantha Harmon [samanthajharmon@gmail.com].

PRACTICE ANALYSIS KICKOFF 2025

The practice analysis kickoff for the revalidation of the Performing Arts Description of Fellowship Practice (DFP) took place **August 11-12, 2025** at APTA headquarters in Virginia. The Practice Analysis Team includes Laurel Daniels Abbruzzese (lead), Andrea Lasner, Marisa Hentis, Sarah Edery-Altas, and

The following is a list of current Performing Arts leadership team roles and may be subject to change:

Laurel Daniels Abbruzzese	President/Chair	2023-2026
Melissa Strzelinski	Vice President/Vice Chair	2025-2028
Samantha Harmon	Nominating Committee Chair	2023-2026
Amy Humphrey	Nominating Committee	2024-2027
Alyssa Arms	Nominating Committee	2025-2028
Jessica Rancour	Membership Chair	2025-2027
Michael Tsang	Research Chair	2024-2026
<i>vacant</i>	Communications/PR Chair	
Marisa Hentis	Performing Artist Screening Chair	2025-2027
Anna Saunders	Scholarship Chair	2025-2027
Janice Ying	Secretary	2025-2027
<i>vacant</i>	Practice Chair	
Danielle Farzanegan	Outreach Chair	2024-2026
Tiffany Marulli	PASIG Fellowship Advisory Board Chair	2024-2026
Sarah Edery-Altas	Podcast Liaison	2024-2025

Tiffany Marulli, with guidance from HumRRO consultant Dea Mulolli and the ABPTRFE staff. At the kickoff retreat, the team developed a practice analysis plan and created the first draft of the pilot survey. The purpose of this survey is to distinguish competencies required of leaders in physical therapy within the performing arts subspecialty practice. The results of this survey will be used to publish an updated Description of Fellowship Practice (DFP) for performing arts fellowship education.

This survey is the primary tool the commission uses to assess current perspectives on the frequency, importance, and level of judgment required for key aspects of performing arts practice. The results will inform updates to the Description of Fellowship Practice, which serves as the curriculum framework for fellowship programs over the next decade.

Before distributing the survey to a broader audience, a pilot is required to identify and address any issues, gaps, or unclear content that could affect the quality of the results. We hope to distribute the pilot survey by **October 2025**.

If you receive an email invitation to complete this Performing Arts 2025 revalidation pilot survey, it is because our team has identified you as an expert in the field and we value your input. **Please help us with this revalidation process!!!** The pilot survey will take approximately 60 minutes to complete. **We recognize the time commitment involved and sincerely thank you for your contribution to advancing physical therapy education.** Your participation by completing the survey counts towards a professional development activity for a board-certified specialist's certification maintenance efforts. Any specialist completing the survey will receive 1 MOSC credit towards their required 10 credits in a 3-year maintenance cycle.

The majority of our community members will receive the practice analysis survey after we analyze the pilot results. We hope that all of our members actively involved in performing arts practice or education with at least three years of orthopedic/sports clinical experience will participate in the revalidation process.

PASIG Student Research Scholarship

Student members of PASIG who have had their abstract accepted for CSM 2026 are invited to apply for a PASIG scholarship for CSM 2026. The topic must be related to performing arts and physical therapy to be considered for the scholarship.

The accepted abstract could be a platform or poster presentation. Once your abstract is accepted, you are welcome to apply for the scholarship. Note: You must show proof of your abstract acceptance to CSM 2026 and plan to attend CSM 2026.

Eligibility:

1. Must be a Doctor of Physical Therapy student in an accredited physical therapy program, or a fellow in an accredited physical therapy fellowship program when the research was conducted (not necessary to be a student or fellow when research is presented)
2. Abstract has been accepted to CSM
3. Must plan to attend CSM
4. Must be listed as an author on the presentation
5. Must participate in presenting the poster/platform at CSM

Deadline: **November 30th**

Criteria for selection:

1. The importance of the contribution of the abstract to the physical therapy management of performing arts physical therapy
2. The clinical implications derived or suggested from the abstract
3. The quality of the writing
4. The clarity of the clinical information/data presented

Link to apply: <https://www.orthopt.org/scholarship-application-pasig.php>

Not a PASIG Member?

Joining is easy! PASIG membership is free to APTA Orthopedics members. Simply click [here](#) to join.

Notification of the Award:

The recipient of the award will be notified in January (just prior to CSM for which the scholarship is being offered) by the PASIG scholarship chairperson, Anna Saunders [annarosemary@gmail.com].

PASIG Education Updates—Melissa Strzelinski

- One presentation has been accepted for CSM 2026: "Raising the Bar: New Practice Guidelines for Concussion Management in Dance and Circus Arts" [24560].
- The figure skating glossary update is in the final stages of editing and should be ready for release in early 2026.
- A new podcast team has been assembled and is currently working on production of a "Management of the Touring Artist" episode. This episode will be released early fall 2025 and a potential marching band episode will be released before the year's end.
- Two virtual PASIG panels are in the works for early fall and winter 2025 featuring topics related to **neuropathic pain** and **performing arts fellowships**. Stay tuned!

PASIG PARTNERSHIPS

PAMA, IADMS, AATA

Athletes and the Arts (AATA)

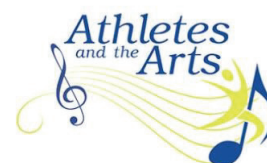
In January 2025, APTA Orthopedics leaders and AATA leaders signed the memorandum of understanding to formalize our collaboration with Athletes and the Arts.

Athletes and the Arts (www.athletesandthearts.com) is a nonprofit of 18 independent sport and performing arts organizations with a mission of optimizing health and performance across performing arts.

PASIG Secretary Janice Ying and PASIG Student Scholarship Chair Anna Saunders are serving as our liaisons and represented PASIG/APTA Orthopedics at the AATA meeting in D.C. in July 2025.



PAMA



PERFORMING ARTS MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (PAMA)

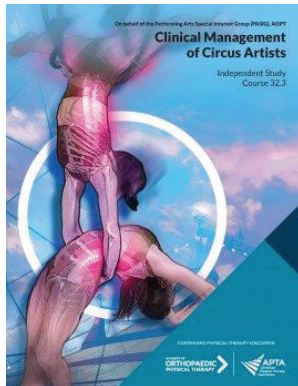
PASIG members were well represented at the 43rd Annual PAMA International Symposium held in Washington, D.C. July 10-13, 2025. Our members presented many inter-professional education sessions and posters to a multidisciplinary community of medical professionals working with performing artists. This year's PAMA symposium was co-chaired by PASIG member Dr Emily Scherb, PT.



Independent Study Course: Clinical Management of Circus Artists

We continue to promote our PASIG Independent Study Course.

“We teach physical therapists how to treat circus artists and performers so they can grow their clinical practice.”



This course provides a comprehensive review of circus arts in the United States and why an increasingly greater number of physical therapists may be called upon to evaluate and treat this growing population of artists. The authors discuss the various disciplines and apparatus used in circus arts, providing

a background for the epidemiology and mechanism of injuries specific for various performers. The unique physical demands and characteristics of circus artists are discussed. A review of common circus injuries and associated risk factors, along with considerations of beliefs and conceptions artists have about injuries and health care, is also provided. In each monograph, the uniqueness of physical therapy care as it relates to the circus artists is highlighted. The course is complemented with extensive figures, videos, and case examples.

The ISC can be found on the APTA Orthopedics website:

<https://www.orthopt.org/course/32-3-clinical-management-of-circus-artists>

STAY ENGAGED

One of the ways that you can stay connected with performing arts colleagues is through our PASIG Facebook community, which currently includes 467 of our PASIG members. [<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1546315278934871>] You must be a member of the APTA Orthopedics Performing Arts SIG to join. This is a closed group where members seek advice, post research articles and practice guidelines, and post service and job opportunities. Currently, there are discussion posts related to upcoming continuing education courses and the International Association for Dance Medicine & Science (IADMS) annual conference. Ask a question, post an announcement ... We hope to see you there!

SPOTLIGHT YOUR UNIVERSITY OR RESIDENCY/FELLOWSHIP

Showcase your university or residency-fellowship with an exciting opportunity for you and your students to publish in *Orthopedic Physical Therapy Practice* (OPTP), APTA Orthopedics' clinical magazine. Here is how it would work:

- **Contact APTA Orthopedics** to express interest (limited to 1 university issue per year)
- **Coordinate scholarly projects** with your students (ideally, you have scholarly projects that are close to completion)
- **Internally vet articles** internally with university professors to select your best work
- **Submit the top 5 to 6 articles** showcasing your students to OPTP Managing Editor, Sharon Klinski at sklinski@orthopt.org

