

Communication to Section Members regarding proposed name change:

Orthopaedic Section Members:

The Orthopaedic Section, APTA, Inc. is seeking a name change to the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy. In accordance to Article XV. Amendments of the Bylaws of the Orthopaedic Section, APTA, Inc., the initial step in the process is to bring forth the proposed amendment for discussion at the Annual Section Membership Meeting. The purpose of this communication is to introduce the proposed amendment and provide rationale for the proposed name change.

Proposed Amendment to Article I. Name and Relationship to American Physical Therapy Association:

This corporation, The Academy of Orthopaedic Section Physical Therapy, APTA, Inc. (the “Section Academy”) shall be a component of the American Physical Therapy Association (the “Association”).

Background: A name is a term used for identification. A name should accurately reflect and define how an organization is known. The term Section has limited meaning and refers to a part or portion of something. By using the term Section in our name, it limits the accurate representation of who we are as an organization both within the APTA and to external entities.

The APTA vision statement adopted in the 2013 APTA House of Delegates, "Transforming society by optimizing movement to improve the human experience", is reflective of a more external view of the healthcare environment and the relationship of the entire human experience. The Section hopes to make a more external statement as well, with our name change to the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy. The name change aligns with our mission and vision statements:

Mission: The mission of the Orthopaedic Section, APTA, Inc. (Orthopaedic Section) is to promote excellence in orthopaedic physical therapy.

Vision: The Orthopaedic Section will be a world leader in advancing orthopaedic physical therapy to optimize movement and health.

This name change clarifies the Section’s identity, branding and recognition within outside stakeholder interactions and collaborations. APTA Sections are well recognized internally-not externally. The Orthopaedic Section strategic plan is directed at also promoting and expanding the Section’s role as an advocate and resource for Orthopaedic Physical Therapy fostering quality patient/client care outside the physical therapy profession. The title “Academy” in this context is more easily linked with those outside the physical therapy profession and will better explain to external stakeholders what we do and coincide with the practice, education and research goals of the Section.

Description and Purpose of an Academy:

An academy is an APTA membership group focused on the science, advancement and practice of physical therapy in a clearly defined clinical practice arena. Academies support the vision of the profession and the mission of the association.

Primary Functions of an Academy:

- Serve as content experts for the association and advance clinical practice with a specific patient population
- Develop the evidence base for the content area
- Establish best practices in the content area
- Propose, develop and advance specialization/sub-specialization activities through new proposals and support for ABPTS and residency and fellowship activities

Responsibilities of an Academy:

- Represent the interests of its members to the APTA Board of Directors, House of Delegates, chapters and other governance entities and in collaboration with APTA to external groups
- Provide education and develop educational resources for members
- Develop and propose changes to APTA policies and procedures that enhance the position of the profession

The Orthopaedic Section, founded in 1974, has a long and rich history of being visionary when determining how best to meet patient and societal needs related to Orthopaedic physical therapy. The name change represents an evolution of the Orthopaedic Section with a focus on defining best practices through support of translational research, development of Clinical Practice Guidelines and the Physical Therapy Outcomes Registry, development of quality education opportunities, support of residency and fellowship programs along with many other efforts designed keep pace with the ever changing healthcare climate. The term “academy” is also a better descriptor for the organization’s current role as an expert body for healthcare provider issues related to healthcare and payment reform, and as liaisons to various external groups. The time is now to make the name change to better reflect the Section’s role internally and externally and better align with the mission, vision and strategic plan of the Section.

The following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) were created to assist members with a better understanding of the purpose and process. Further questions should be directed to Terri DeFlorian, Executive Director, Orthopaedic Section.

FAQs:

Will the Section continue to be part of the APTA? Yes, the Section will still operate as a Section of the APTA. APTA bylaws will not be changed to create any new governance for academies.

What are the advantages of pursuing a name change to “Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy”?

- Better understood by external groups
- Better reflects the Section’s purpose and identity
- Create distinction and focus for clinical groups
- Similar term used in other medical professions
- Promotes consistency with other APTA Sections who have made the change to Academy
- Reduce tasks beyond content expertise for academies (reduce tendency to become mini-APTAs)

Have other Sections changed their names? Yes, to date, the following Sections have changed their names to better define the Section and its purpose:

- Academy of Acute Care Physical Therapy
- Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy
- The Academy of Hand & Upper Extremity Physical Therapy
- Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy
- Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy

Will Section members have an opportunity to provide feedback? Yes, during the Annual Section Membership meeting at Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) 2018, members will have an opportunity to discuss the proposed name change. Following the discussion, a vote will be taken to adopt the proposed amendment. In order for any proposed amendment to be adopted, the Section must receive by the deadline valid ballots from at least five percent (5%) of the eligible voters and at least two thirds (2/3) of the valid ballots must contain a vote in favor of the proposed amendment. It will be important to have a robust number of members present at the 2018 Annual Section Membership meeting to participate in the discussion and vote on the amendment.

How will the name change be approved? The name change will require three main steps:

- 1) A vote by membership to approve the bylaw amendment,
- 2) A vote by the APTA Sections to endorse the name change, and
- 3) Approval by the APTA Board of Directors

Once the above steps are complete, the Section will provide updates to the membership and branding material will be updated.