

Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy - 2020 Historian Report – Tyler Shultz, PT, DPT, OCS

Driven by the global COVID-19 Pandemic, there is no doubt that 2020 was a year full of challenges and change for individuals, organizations, and society. Unfortunately, many individuals faced isolation, financial hardship, and the stress of dealing with personal effects of the pandemic. At the same time, many professional organizations struggled with the ability to provide members with resources needed to continue to provide patient care in this new healthcare landscape. Despite numerous challenges, the Academy continued to provide its members with leadership and resources. Additionally, the Academy continued to experience healthy membership levels, clear leadership, and continued to make contributions to the profession in the terms of education, research, and advancing orthopaedic physical therapy practice.

MEMBERSHIP:

The current strategic position of the Academy was set up by the current and past leadership and staff, and supported by the hard work from many section volunteers. 2020 marks the end of the previous strategic plan, and the new Strategic Framework will be implemented in January 2021.

Total Academy membership at the close of 2020 was 18,049 members, a decrease of 7% from 2019. The AOPT membership decrease of 7% was marginally higher than the 5% decrease experienced by the APTA as a whole. A four-year, year-over-year membership comparison to APTA change is seen in Figure 1 below. AOPT membership numbers were stable over the previous 3 years, however the decline in membership in 2020 is likely due to financial constraints due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Total membership in the Academy (PT, PTA, SPT, SPTA members) represents 18.2% of overall APTA membership, despite decreased membership overall, this statistic has stayed constant. The Academy continues to be the largest section in the APTA by a wide margin. The next largest section is the Academy of Sports Physical Therapy with 7,228 members.

	AOPT Members	AOPT YoY # Change	AOPT YoY % Change	APTA YoY % Change
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%
2017	19,713	+ 173	+ 0.88%	+ 6.07%

Figure 1.

LEADERSHIP (as of 12/31/2020):

Academy Leadership:

President	Joseph M. Donnelly PT, DHSc, OCS, FAAOMPT (Hon.)
Vice President	Lori Michener, PT, PhD, ATC, SCS, FAPTA
Treasurer	Kimberly L. Wellborn, PT, MBA
Director	Aimee Klein, PT, DPT, DSc, OCS
Director	Tara Jo Manal, PT, DPT, OCS, SCS, FAPTA
Director	Janet L. Konecne, PT, DPT, OCS, CSCS

Academy Committees:

- Membership Chair: Megan Poll, PT, DPT, OCS
- 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: Kimberly L. Wellborn, PT, MBA
- Nominating Chair: Michael Bade, PT, DPT, PhD, OCS, FAAOMPT
- Public Relations Chair: *Vacant*
- Awards Chair: Marie Corkery, PT DPT, MHS, FAAOMPT

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
- Nichole Walleen, Account Executive/Executive Assistant
- Aaron Czappa, Clinical Practice Guidelines Managing Editor
- Joyce Brueggeman, Bookkeeper
- Melissa Greco, Administrative Assistant
- Avery Gerstenberger, Marketing Intern

Centennial Scholars: The Academy welcomes the following individuals to represent the Academy in APTA's Centennial Scholarship program:

- 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 towards 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 2020. Additionally, the Academy provided resources to membership to address the challenges of treating during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Currently, there are 15 CPG topics covered with 6 being on their second update since initial publication for a total of 21 publications. At the close of 2020, there are 6 CPGs in the revision stage and 9 are in the development stages. The following CPGs were added in 2020, and published in the *Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy (JOSPT)*:

- *Physical Therapy Evaluation and Treatment after Concussion/Mild Traumatic Brain Injury*; Quatman-Yates et al. In collaboration with the Neurology Section and Sports Section.

There were no guideline topics with published revisions in 2020.

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. The high-quality repository of topics continues to be developed and made available to both members and non-members of the Academy.

The AOPT worked individually and in collaboration with other Academies and with the APTA to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Academy provided a resource list, which included information in the form of webinars, resource documents, and discussion forums. These resources provided membership with information regarding patient care, residency and fellowship education, and regulations.

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 2020 Combined Sections Meeting was held February 12-15 in Denver CO. The Academy accepted and presented 27 educational sessions and sponsored 1 pre-conference courses. 2021 CSM will be held virtually and the Academy looks forward to providing continued course sponsorship in the new virtual format.

Orthopaedic residency and fellowship education has continued to increase in 2020. The American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education (ABPTRFE) recognized 117 accredited Orthopaedic Residency programs at the end 2020. Additionally, there are 22 candidate programs and 13 developing programs. The ABPTRFE recognizes 43 accredited Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy Fellowships, with 3 candidate programs. There are 3 accredited and 2 candidate Spine Fellowship programs at the close of 2020.

The Membership Committee continued to sponsor the Mentorship Program in 2020 which matched 15 students. Areas of mentoring include research, academics/teaching, manual therapy, leadership, and private practice. The program is led by Megan Poll, PT, DPT, OCS, Membership Chair.

RESEARCH:

In 2020 the Small Grant Program sponsored by the Academy awarded over \$63,000 to researchers to further orthopaedic physical therapy research.

AWARDS PROGRAM:

Award	2020 Recipient
Outstanding PT Student	Lauren Gough, SPT Thomas Jefferson University
Outstanding PTA Student	Blake Eldridge, SPTA Somerset Community College
James A. Gould Excellence in Teaching Orthopaedic Physical Therapy	Morey Kolber, PT, PhD, OCS Nova Southeastern University
Rose Excellence in Research	Jason Falvey, PT, DPT, PhD, GCS University of Colorado
Richard W. Bowling - Richard E. Erhard Orthopaedic Clinical Practice	<i>Not awarded in 2020</i>

Paris Distinguished Service	Joseph Godges, DPT University of Southern California
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SUMMARY:

Despite the lingering effects of a global pandemic, the Academy continued to make progress consistent with past year-to-year performance and should expect continued positive trajectory. Although membership numbers were down slightly, it should be noted that last quarter numbers suggest a quick recovery back to pre-Covid membership numbers, despite overall APTA membership being the lowest in November 2020. In 2021, the Academy looks forward to celebrating the APTA's 100-year Anniversary.