

Academy News

American Academy of Physical Therapy

VOLUME 1



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2022 "ART OF SURVIVAL" CONFERENCE

The 2022 "Art of Survival" conference was the first live conference since COVID-19 and it was a HUGE success. For the first time in conference history, it was hosted both in-person and virtually. The three-day conference featured two roundtable discussions on reimbursement and diversity efforts, a course for current and future educators, as well as a neurological and orthopedic course taught by leaders in the industry. Students participated in a full day of programming focusing on belonging and student success strategies.

President Tillman presented three awards during the conference to members that displayed exemplary service to both the organization and the profession of physical therapy. Dr. Jennifaye Brown, a speaker at this year's conference, received the Clinical Excellence Award. Vernard Alsberry, PTA was awarded the community service award for his work in the Academy as well as in Hazel Crest, IL where he serves as mayor. Artis Newsome, PT was awarded the Fellows Award, the highest award in the Academy, for his years of service and commitment to the organization.

We also want to extend a special thanks to this year's conference committee, Dr. Vanessa LeBlanc, Dr. Dawn Brown, Dr. Jenna Kantor, and Dr. Gabrielle Jones for all of their hard work in planning the conference. We hope to see all of you next year at the AAPT's new headquarters in Cleveland, OH.



Dr. Jennifaye Brown
Clinical Excellence Award



Vernard Alsberry, PTA
Community Service Award



Artis Newsome, PT
Fellows Award

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Stay informed with conference updates, organizational activities, and more at our new website americanacademyPT.org



Growth Opps Provides Grant for New AAPT Headquarters and Executive Director

In June 2022, the AAPT, in conjunction with Sports and Spine Physical Therapy, Inc. was awarded a three-year grant by Growth Opportunity Partners (Growth Opps). Spearheaded by Leon Anderson, the Cleveland based financial institution funded the AAPT to have a brick-and-mortar headquarters in midtown Cleveland as well as hire an Executive Director. Dr. Kristin Rice, a long-time member of the AAPT and current conference co-chair, has been hired as the Executive Director and will be relocating to Cleveland in October.

The Growth Opps grant will be the first grant to allow the Academy to have a full-time position dedicated to the growth and the mission of the Academy. This opportunity will not only support membership growth and relationship building but allow the organization to establish financial sustainability. Special thanks to Leon Anderson and Sports and Spine Physical Therapy, Inc. for fostering this connection.

COLLABORATION BETWEEN AAPT AND APTA

In 2021, the AAPT and APTA established a memoranda of understanding (MOU) to increase collaborations between the organizations especially in the area of DEI initiatives. The MOU was drafted through efforts of AAPT President Rob Tillman and immediate past president of the APTA, Sharon Dunn. Since that time, the organizations have been meeting quarterly to identify ways to advance the profession of physical therapy and unify efforts to address underrepresentation of minorities within the profession.

Through this collaboration, the AAPT and APTA have joined together in several events. In 2019, Sharon Dunn, president of the APTA at that time, joined the AAPT for the conference in Chicago, IL. In October 2021, the Executive Committee was invited to the dedication of the Leon Anderson, Jr. and Lynda D. Woodruff Black PT Heritage Room in the APTA's new headquarters in Alexandria, VA. This year Carmen Elliott, Executive Director and Skye Donovan, member of the Board of Directors for APTA, were in attendance on the 2022 AAPT conference in Birmingham, AL. In February 2023, the AAPT will host a booth at the APTA Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) in San Diego, CA. In addition, the AAPT and APTA have joined forces to increase awareness of physical therapy in K-12 students. The AAPT is now an ambassador for the "PT Moves Me" initiative of the APTA. Since September 2022, the AAPT has presented "PT Moves Me" in four schools in North Carolina and is rolling out our new "Leveling Up Initiative." "Leveling Up Initiative" is a new program to increase high school and college students' exposure to minority healthcare professionals and provide them with the information they needed to be successful in pursuing healthcare careers.



A Message from the Executive Director

We are excited to bring back our quarterly newsletter. Each edition of the newsletter will contain updates of the current activities, provide member's highlights, and relay current issues within the physical therapy practice. If you have information that you would like to see in the newsletter or you would like to write an article for the next edition, please reach out to me via e-mail.

In order for the Academy to continue to grow and be successful, we need your support and participation. We are seeking volunteers for a number of activities including servicing the booth at Combined Sections Meeting (CSM), monthly facilitators for the Leveling Up Initiative, and journalists for our quarterly newsletter, "Academy News". All inquiries can be made at kristinrice@americanacademyPT.org.