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president's **perspective**

The Next 25 Years

Maggie Donohue, PT



As 2012 comes to a close, I would like to thank our [Honorary Members](#) for launching the Federation way back in the 80s. It took vision and determination to create that organization and they did it!

We had a neat 25th Anniversary celebration at this year's annual meeting in Indianapolis. It was great that so many of you were able to attend.

If you want to review the first 25 years, be sure to visit our [history website](#).

What's next?

Well, I am not so bold as to predict the next 25 years! But I do want to share some of the projects and upgrades you will see in the near future.

License Portability

This year's Delegate Assembly passed the following motion on license portability (the ability to become licensed with minimal regulatory barriers for cross-jurisdictional practice).

The Delegate Assembly supports the goal of license portability for physical therapy. The board of directors is requested to identify and recommend

potential tools to improve the portability of physical therapy licenses and report to the 2013 Delegate Assembly.

Rationale:

At the 2010 Delegate Assembly, the delegates directed the board of directors to study the Nurse Licensure Compact and its applicability to physical therapy. In the report to the membership in 2011, the Nurse Licensure Compact was not recommended as a model for physical therapy; however, the Federation determined that there were other methods for improving portability. The Federation was requested to continue to study the issue of license portability and report back to the Delegate Assembly.

At the 2012 annual meeting, there were multiple presentations on issues and options for improving licensure portability.

The Federation should now explore the feasibility of potential tools that jurisdictions can use to improve the portability of licenses while assuring the protection of the public.

Beginning next year and beyond, expect to see more information, ideas and possible initiatives for improving portability between jurisdictions.

Minimum Dataset

Another important motion with implications for the future direction of the Federation was passed:

The delegate assembly supports and encourages the FSBPT member jurisdictions to work with FSBPT staff, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and other appropriate entities to define the components of a minimum dataset (MDS) of licensed physical therapists and physical therapist assistants and develop a database that includes the components of this MDS.

Rationale:

Currently there is no accurate analysis of workforce data related to physical therapy. HRSA has been working with the healthcare professions and regulatory bodies to gather health workforce data and intelligence to inform public policies and private sector investments in the workforce arena.

The intent is to help promote the supply and distribution of well-prepared health professionals and other workers to assure access to high quality, efficient care for the nation. HRSA has approached FSBPT to collaborate on developing such a database. FSBPT member boards would be critical for the development of this database.

The FSBPT board of directors believes this function is directly tied to the Federation's mission and the mission of its member boards but would like the delegate assembly to confirm its support.

This is another area where you can expect to hear more ideas/possible programs and projects for jurisdictions to participate in as they see fit.

Continuing Competence Trends

There is a demonstrative shift by member boards to address continuing competence. Many jurisdictions had no continuing competence requirements for renewal. But that is changing – you, our member boards, are pursuing the authority to require continuing competence. At least 20 boards are either in the planning stage or are at various milestones of completing this process.

Interest in FSBPT's continuing competence tools and resources – [aPTitude](#), [ProCert](#), the [Practice Review Tools](#) (PRTs) and [jurisprudence assessment tools](#) – is on the rise as well. A growing number of jurisdictions are requesting information, guidance and technical assistance from FSBPT.

Foreign Educated Initiatives

Last year, we hosted the “2011 NPTE Summit: exploring the future of assessment.” The purpose of the NPTE Summit was to provide an opportunity for input into the future direction of the NPTE in its role of public protection through assessment of minimal entry-level competence. We reviewed changes to the NPTE program that addressed cheating on the NPTE.

A natural progression of last year's summit was the topic of this year's Leadership Issues Forum – “Assuring the Competence of Non-US Educated Physical Therapists.” As a result, the Federation has begun exploring and evaluating models and programs to assess competence and to assist foreign-educated physical therapists to work effectively within the US healthcare system.

Hopefully, you've already heard about the Performance Evaluation Tool for the Supervised Clinical Practice of foreign-educated PTs. This was developed by FSBPT's Foreign Educated Standards Committee. You can read more about the topic in this Forum's article, *Coming to America: Supervised clinical practice as a requirement for licensure*.

We're looking at other ideas/programs that might be useful as well.

Improving Exam Services Products and Processes

The National Physical Therapy Exam continues to be our most important service to Federation members and so, we're always looking to improve the process for board administrators, candidates and physical therapy programs.

In the next year, the ADA request process will go paperless, we will provide candidates an opportunity to view their NPTE scores for free after taking the NPTE for a period of time and we will develop an online process for group Practice Exam and Assessment Tool (PEAT) purchases by schools.

INPTRA

Did you know that the Federation has been active in the development of the [International Network of Physiotherapy Regulatory Authorities](#) (INPTRA) since 2005? In 2011, FSBPT took on the Secretariat function for INPTRA, providing administrative support to the organization. FSBPT, along with regulators from Australia, Canada, Israel and the United Kingdom comprise INPTRA's board of directors.

INPTRA holds a meeting every four years in conjunction with the [World Confederation for Physical Therapy](#) Congress (WCPT); its next meeting will be May 1-4, 2015 in Singapore. Additionally, INPTRA has started hosting webcasts on international regulatory topics; maybe you've seen the email invitations. Attendance is light, but we are working on reaching more individuals around the globe.

INPTRA is currently developing a new website to provide regulators with information on different physical therapy regulatory models and provide resources to regulatory authorities around the world.

Enhancements to FSBPT websites

Although our website has tons of good information for regulators, candidates, faculty members and other stakeholders, it's not easy to find what you're looking for. We did not set out to hide the information. It's just that the sheer amount of information has expanded exponentially since the original site was developed.

Our goal is to improve the various FSBPT websites in stages. The first update will be the public website, www.fsbpt.org. After that, we'll work on the For Members section.

There's a lot going on in physical therapy regulation

We want to provide you with resources, support, technical assistance, and the best knowledge available on the vast and complex subject of physical therapy regulation.

Our goal is to stay alert for new opportunities to help us accomplish our mutual mission: ***to protect the public by providing service and leadership that promote safe and competent physical therapy practice.***

Maggie Donohue, PT served as President of the New Hampshire Board of Allied Health Professionals from 1998-2006.

Maggie has served as a Federation Delegate as well as a member and chair of the Ethics and Legislation Committee.

Maggie's general background includes a history of participation in several organizations including: APTA member: 1984-present; member, committee to create legislation for an independent PT board in New Hampshire; liaison for PT governing board and NHAPTA government affairs committee; liaison, private practice organization and insurers in New Hampshire; presenter for FSBPT, APTA and NHAPTA.