



president's **perspective**

The 2011 NPTE Summit

By Maggie Donohue, PT



Last time I wrote this column I was thinking about changes and transitions. How little did I know how much change was on the way. The Georgia ruling requiring changes in our exam program; more than a dozen WebEx meetings were held to inform and receive feedback from as many of you as possible; a new public member was appointed; and the annual board retreat focused on the exam process. Looking back, I can see all these events as necessary steps the Federation needs to bring us to the threshold of the future.

We are hosting the 2011 NPTE Summit in Dallas, Texas on July 29-31, 2011. The NPTE Summit will be our first step across that threshold and the start of our journey to the future. It will be a process of questioning. What is the purpose of the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE)? Are we accomplishing that purpose? What are the all ways we can assess entry-level competence? What are the most effective ways? How do we design a test to prevent compromise? These are some of the questions the NPTE Summit will ask, seek to answer, or set the direction for future exploration.

We have invited about 100 jurisdiction board members, board administrators, and FSBPT committee members. Additionally, we have invited representatives from APTA, the APTA Academic Council, CAPTE, the APTA Student Assembly, and educators. The hope is that this broad spectrum of representation will enhance the outcome of the NPTE Summit.

My early participation with FSBPT came at the 1999 Summit. During that experience I found the organization to be open to hearing ideas without judgment and expecting full participation from all members. I plan to help recreate that environment for this summit. That means that all of you need to come prepared to open yourselves to all the possibilities, to be willing to suspend your beliefs, and to stand on that threshold with me and see the future.

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.