



president's perspective

Nancy R. Kirsch, PT, DPT, PhD, FAPTA

It is an honor and a privilege to have been elected to serve as President of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. I have some rather big shoes to fill as I assume the leadership role following Maggie Donohue and the outstanding presidents that preceded her.

Maggie summarized the many accomplishments of the Federation during her tenure, and that exhaustive summary is included in this issue of the *Federation Forum*. We are all aware that the accomplishments of the Federation are the result of the hard work of volunteers and staff collaborating together and that very effective relationship prevails regardless of the leadership of the organization. I look forward to us continuing the important work that is currently in progress, such as the Licensure Compact, implementing the eligibility requirements and CWT 6, enacting the more efficient school registration initiative, refining and further developing continuing competence, and supporting our member boards, to mention just a few areas.

We welcome a new board member, Ron Barbato, from Kentucky. As a result of the election, we shifted some of our jurisdiction liaison responsibilities. We all look forward to meeting our new jurisdiction Board Members or renewing established ties.

I encourage you to look at Maggie's review of the past few years of the Federation's accomplishments. I welcome each of you to pick an area of interest and, if not already volunteering, join us in bringing one of our many initiatives to fruition.

I look forward to working with you and hearing from you.

- Nancy

Maggie Donohue's Report: Taking Stock

from the 2016 Delegate Handbook

Beginnings and endings are great times to stop and savor all that we've accomplished in the six years since you elected me President. It has been a great privilege to lead this organization of dedicated volunteers – NPTE item writers, committee and task force members, physical therapy board members and staff members.

As I step down, I'd like to share with you how far we've come as an organization. I marvel at the number and scope of the projects we have completed in order to improve the regulation of physical therapy to ensure competent and safe physical therapy practice. As I turn over the Presidency, I can assure you that this organization has a solid foundation to move forward and reach new heights.

Thanks to everyone who has been instrumental in achieving these accomplishments!

Reports and White Papers Developed for Member Jurisdictions

- Licensure Portability Resource Guide
- Dry Needling Competencies Report
- Telehealth in Physical Therapy: Policy Recommendations Report
- Reentry of Physical Therapy Providers
- Framework for Considering the non-CAPTE Graduate's Experiences for Licensing (clinical deficit)
- Analysis of Practice for the Physical Therapy Profession
- Ethics Remediation Resources – recently updated
- FSBPT Basis for Action Document (for disciplinary actions) – recently updated
- Temporary Licensure
- PTs working as PTAs

National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE)

NPTE Security and Validity Improvements

- In the aftermath of the online NPTE copyright violations, the Delegate Assembly added “security” to the Examinations Area of Focus.
- Moved NPTE administration from continuous testing to four testing dates per year.
- Strengthened NPTE security and copyright violations sanctions.
- Developed a consistent set of eligibility rules for the NPTE, preventing unqualified candidates from seeking licensure.
- Increased the size of the NPTE item bank and substantially reduced item re-use, decreasing the utility of item harvesting.
- The NPTE development program continued to achieve Buros accreditation.
- Updated the Practice Exam and Assessment Tool (PEAT) to serve a wider variety of candidate and educator needs.
- Updated the English-proficiency requirement for PTs and extended the requirement to PTAs.

Improved Online Registration and Candidate Services

- The testing accommodations process went electronic.
- NPTE candidates can view their score reports for free for 30 days.
- Authorization to Test notices are emailed the day after candidates are made eligible.
- The Academic PEAT purchase process was automated.
- The candidate withdrawal process was automated.

- Board administrators can electronically export NPTE candidate eligibility lists to FSBPT.
- Communications with candidates was improved in the areas of payment deadline and scheduling reminders, test site ID requirements and rescheduling due to weather issues or technical problems.
- The enhanced NPTE registration system now includes schools in the registration process.
- FSBPT's online processing system was completely overhauled to dramatically enhance the user experience for different groups – jurisdiction staff, volunteer item writers, NPTE candidates and schools.

Supporting NPTE volunteers

- Improved the item writing process.
- Held regional off-site item writing workshops in cooperation with educational institutions around the country.
- Consolidated exam committees in order to eliminate duplication of item editing efforts.
- Created a volunteer recognition area (affectionately known as the “Wall of Fame”) in the FSBPT office.

Foreign Educated

FSBPT Leadership Focus

- 2012 Leadership Issues Forum Theme: Assuring the Competence of Non-US Educated Physical Therapists

Coursework Tool (CWT)

- Established interpretive guidelines for the CWT.
- As of 2014, all FSBPT member jurisdictions allow the use of the CWT.
- Adopted CWT 6 effective January 1, 2017.
- Revised the credential evaluation standards to be used by credential review agencies.
- Credential review agency standards were developed and made available to members.

Evaluating Experience in Equivalency Decisions

- Adopted criteria that would allow postgraduate work experience to be used for Clinical Education Hours on the Coursework Tool. It will help address the widening gap between the education of non-CAPTE graduates and CAPTE graduates.

Supervised Clinical Practice Performance Evaluation Tool (PET)

- Established a passing score for the newly-developed PET. The PET is used by jurisdictions to determine a foreign-educated PT's readiness to practice in US healthcare settings.

Preparing for US Healthcare Practice

- Coordinated with Duke University to develop an online course to prepare foreign educated physical therapists to work in the US healthcare environment.

Continuing Competence

- Launched aPTitude to track continuing competence activities, which is used by over 26,000 licensees and almost 500 vendors.
- Developed oPTion, an online self-assessment tool for PTs.
- Launched the ProCert certification program.
- Developed Jurisprudence Assessment Modules (JAMs) for Georgia, Hawaii, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Oregon.

Member Board Support & Recognition

- Developed the Leadership Issues Forum (LIF) for jurisdictions to learn more about and discuss in-depth current regulatory issues.
- Instituted annual meeting educational sessions presented by member jurisdictions.

- Conducted 2010 & 2015 membership surveys.
- Held first Board Chair Forum at the annual meeting.
- Hosted FSBPT's 25th anniversary celebration.
- Supported Georgia during the NPTE lawsuit and move to fixed-date testing.
- Assisted Texas in acing its sunset review.
- Helped Virgin Islands update their 1969 practice act.
- Created a new award for jurisdictions, the Excellence in Regulation Award.
- Hosted a number of webinars on Fixed Date Testing & Relevant Research, aPTitude and ProCert, and the NPTE eligibility process.
- Offered annual FSBPT-funded board member and board staff training.
- Developed a policy to provide direct assistance to member jurisdictions.
- Updated the public website and Members Area website.

Licensure Portability

- Delegate Assembly supported the goal of licensure portability.
- Delegate Assembly endorsed the concept of a physical therapy licensure compact.
- Explored the online "Physical Therapy in the Canadian Health Care Context" for foreign educated PTs in Canada.
- Explored common licensure application service and credential verification service; found that these processes might be incorporated in licensure compact and NPTE eligibility standards processes.
- Four states have adopted the licensure compact: Arizona, Oregon, Missouri, and Tennessee.

Exam, Licensure and Disciplinary Database (ELDD)

- Improved ELDD system to speed up data processing from jurisdictions.
- Improved automatic transmissions of disciplinary actions into the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).
- More than tripled the number of disciplinary actions and doubled the number of licenses in the ELDD.
- Created ELDD Stars as a way of ranking state participation in the database.

Minimum Data Set (MDS)

- Delegate Assembly voted to encourage and support members of a physical therapy Minimum Data Set (MDS) at the jurisdiction level.
- Developed MDS data points for physical therapy.
- Created the survey for members to collect MDS data.

Support for/work with outside organizations

- Financially supported the Consumer Advocacy Center in dealing with scope of practice issues.
- Became the Secretariat for the International Network of Physiotherapy Regulatory Authorities (INPTRA).
- Financially supported the 2014 ACAPT Clinical Education Summit.
- Participated in APTA Work Force Task Force.
- Made presentations on the Licensure Compact to APTA Public Policy Advisory Committee and Chapter Presidents, APTA State Policy & Payments Forum.
- Organized the first face-to-face Healthcare Regulatory CEO group for CEOs from medicine, nursing, OT, social work, PT, psychology & pharmacy.

- Collaborated with APTA on resources for consumers, students, boards, licensees on recognizing poor care, fraud and abuse.
- Shared Continuing Competence Initiative with APTA component leaders.

While this is the end of our most recent accomplishments and the end of my presidency, remember that every end is just a new beginning! Thanks again for allowing me to represent you for the last six years. It has been wonderful!

Warmly,
Maggie Donohue, PT



Former President Maggie Donohue, PT received her physical therapy education from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (Now, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey). She initially worked in a large trauma hospital and now is a partner in Foothills Physical Therapy. She served on the Advisory Committee to the New Hampshire Board of Medicine. She was a member of the legislative committee to create an independent PT board and then served as Chair of the Physical Therapy Governing Board and President of the New Hampshire Board of Allied Health professionals from 1998-2006. During her time on their board, she worked to pass legislation to improve direct access in New Hampshire. Maggie served as a Federation Delegate, attended the 1999 Summit and was a member of and then chaired the Ethics and Legislation Committee. In 2006, she was elected to the FSBPT Board and served as President from 2010 until November 2016. 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 the PT governing board and NHAPTA government affairs committee; liaison, private practice organization and insurers in New Hampshire; and presenter for FSBPT, APTA and NHAPTA.

President Nancy R. Kirsch, PT, DPT, PhD, FAPTA received her PT degree from Temple University, her Masters in Health Education from Montclair University, Certificate in Health Administration from Seton Hall University, her PhD concentration in ethics from Rutgers University (formerly UMDNJ), and a Doctor of Physical Therapy from MGH Institute of Health Professions. She practiced in a variety of settings including in-patient rehabilitation, acute care, long term care and home care. She owned a private practice for twenty years and currently practices in a school based setting. In addition, she is the Director of the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Nancy has been a member of the New Jersey Board of Physical Therapy Examiners since 1990 and was chairperson of the board for 12 years. She served as an evaluator for FCCPT. Nancy has been involved with the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy in the following capacities: she served two terms on the Finance committee and also served on several task forces, in addition to the Board of Directors. Nancy has been active in the American Physical Therapy Association since she was a student. She served the New Jersey Chapter as Secretary and President, and as a delegate and chief delegate to the House of Delegates. She served the national association as a member of the ethics document revision task force. She also served a five year term on the APTA Ethics and Judicial Committee and the APTA Reference Committee. She received the Lucy Blair Service Award and was elected a Catherine Worthingham Fellow from National APTA and received an Outstanding Service Award and the President's Award from the FSBPT.