



2019 Candidate Statements

Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy

Candidate for President Position: Nancy R. Kirsch, PT, DPT, PhD



Current and past work experience:

I currently hold the position of Vice Chair of the Rehabilitation and Movement Sciences Department at Rutgers University, which consists of PT, OT, Speech and the Research Unit. I also serve as the Program Director for the Doctor of Physical Therapy programs with one campus in Newark and the other in Blackwood New Jersey. Prior to these positions, I was the owner of a private practice for 25 years with a primary focus on the treatment of adults with neurological and/or orthopedic problems and treated children in the school setting. Prior to going into private practice, I worked in an acute rehabilitation hospital and acute care.

Licensure experience:

I have been serving on the New Jersey Board of Physical Therapy Examiners for 28 years in two nonconsecutive terms. I am currently a hold over on my second term. I served as Board President for 11 years.

Federation experience pertinent to position:

I served on several committees including the FSBPT Finance Committee prior to serving on the FSBPT Board of Directors, one year as Director and two terms as Vice President - prior to becoming President three years ago.

Other experience pertinent to position (i.e., same position with another organization):

I served as President of the New Jersey chapter of the APTA from 1979-1981 and President of the Faculty at UMDNJ from 1979-1981.

Candidate Statement:

I have had the pleasure of serving in the office of President of the Board of Directors of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy for the past three years and would be honored to continue in that position for another term. During my tenure on the Board, I have been privileged to work with people who are passionate about the benefits of safe and effective physical therapy practice and the challenges of regulating the provision of that care.

One of my objectives as President, has been to work with the Board and our very capable committees to raise the awareness of the effects of risks on professional's judgment and capacity to treat patients, as well as the supports that can be put in place to assist practitioners in providing safe and effective care. In addition, I see my role as working with the Board to conceptualize and deliver products and services that are consistent with our mission and promote access to, and the safe delivery of, physical therapy services, such as the PT Compact.

It is an honor to serve on the FSBPT Board of Directors. If I am elected for a second term of office, I will continue to work with our members, the Board and staff to meet our strategic objectives. I appreciate the Nominating Committee for considering me for the office of the President.

Candidate for Vice President Position: David Relling, PT, PhD



Current and past work experience:

Professor and Chairman, Department of Physical Therapy, University of North Dakota, member North Dakota Board of Physical Therapy (2010-present)
Licensed physical therapist in ND and MN. My clinical experiences as a physical therapist have occurred primarily in the acute care setting. At the same time, I have experience in cardiac rehabilitation, geriatrics, and general orthopedics. Currently, I am professor and chairman of the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of North Dakota.

Licensure experience:

North Dakota Board of Physical Therapy (2010-2020)

I was appointed to the ND Board of Physical Therapy in July 2010 and re-appointed by the governor for a five year term which will end in 2020. During my time on the board, I have been active in revising the rules and regulations, reviewing and revising the statute, and updating our jurisprudence assessment. I have held the positions of Vice President and President (2014-2016) of the ND Board of Physical Therapy.

Federation experience pertinent to position:

FSBPT Board of Directors, Vice President (current), FSBPT BOD, Director

Initially appointed as a director to the FSBPT Board of Directors in 2010. Subsequently elected to the FSBPT BOD in 2012 and re-elected in 2015. In 2016, I was honored to be elected vice president for the FSBPT BOD. While a member of the FSBPT BOD, I have had the opportunity to serve on the Compensation and Investment Committee, Exam Security Subcommittee, and Bylaws Subcommittee. I am an ex officio member of the PT Licensure Compact Executive Committee. Liaison experiences include FSBPT Exam Committees, FCCPT, Institute of Credentialing Excellence (ICE), 8-9 jurisdictions, two NPTE Standard Setting workshops, two NPTE practice analysis committees, and the NPTE Eligibility Task Force. In 2010, I was inducted into the Academy of Advanced Item Writers. Prior to my experience on the BOD, I was co-chair of the Exam Development Committee for the NPTE-PT 2008-10; a member of the Exam Development Committee for the NPTE-PT 2007-2010; and an Item Writer in 2005 and 2008.

Other experience pertinent to position (i.e., same position with another organization):

As a Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of North Dakota, I have had the opportunity to serve and lead departmental, school and university committees. These leadership positions honed my skills to work effectively with others, to communicate clearly, and to seek optimal outcomes for the group and entire organization. I was appointed Chair of the UND PT Department in July 2014 and continue to develop skills to be a more effective leader and communicator.

Candidate Statement:

I am honored to be considered for re-election to the position of Vice President on the BOD of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. The Federation is an organization of exceptional individuals, dedicated to achieving the mission of protecting the public. I am grateful and humbled to have the opportunity to interact, learn from, and serve the many people associated with the member jurisdictions and their Federation. My experiences with the Federation began as an Item Writer and progressed to an appointment as an Exam Development Committee member and eventual co-chair. The experience with the exam exposed me to valuable information regarding item types, the item bank, test content outline, exam form development and exam security.

As a member of the Board of Directors, I have been able to capitalize on the knowledge of exam development during the NPTE Summit, two practice analyses, and adoption of the current exam content outlines. I believe my experiences with the NPTE will be beneficial to the Federation as critical issues of examination security, exam development and item development are determined and communicated. While I am from a less populated jurisdiction, my experiences within FSBPT have provided an understanding of the complexity of supporting

member jurisdictions in regulating the profession of physical therapy. My previous years on the FSBPT BOD have provided learning opportunities through regulatory training, strategic planning, the Leadership Issues Forum and the Annual Meeting to engage board administrators and jurisdictional board members in conversations to understand the myriad of issues facing regulatory bodies.

I believe that the characteristics of integrity, hard work, humility, and accountability are integral to an effective leader of the Federation. I feel my interactions with members, volunteers, staff and leadership have demonstrated these characteristics during my previous service for the Federation. I truly appreciate your consideration of my candidacy for the position of Vice President on the BOD of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy.

Candidate for Nominating Committee Member Position: Debra “Debbie” Kubota, PT



Current and past work experience:

Co-owner, Ergo@Work Hawaii (current)

Currently, I am a co-owner of an ergonomic consulting business, Ergo@Work Hawaii. We provide ergonomic consultation services to employers, emphasizing injury prevention through on the job coaching and training. Previously, I have held clinical and administrative positions in an acute rehabilitation facility and a Health Maintenance Organization, which included work experience in acute care, sub-acute rehab, skilled nursing facility, and outpatient clinics. I have also worked as a physical therapist in public schools as well as in the home health setting.

Licensure experience:

Hawaii State Board of Physical Therapy (7 years)

I have been involved in licensure of PTs throughout my tenure on the Hawaii State Board for the past 7 years. In 2013, I participated on a Board Working Subcommittee to research and promote PTA Licensure for the drafting of a legislative bill. The bill was drafted and successfully passed by the legislature in 2014 and now we have PTA licensure in Hawaii.

Federation experience pertinent to position:

FSBPT Excellence in Regulation Committee (current), FSBPT Resolutions Committee (current), Membership Survey Task Force, Hawaii Jurisprudence Assessment Module, Oregon Jurisprudence Assessment Module, FSBPT Education Committee

Other experience pertinent to position (i.e., same position with another organization):

Although I have served on the Board of Directors for my church organization, I have not served on the Nominating Committee for another organization.

Candidate Statement:

I am interested in serving on the Nominating Committee to help make a positive impact on the future of the FSBPT. The Nominating Committee is the key force behind ensuring that our organization has the right leadership to continue to be successful for years to come.

I have been involved on the Hawaii State Board of Physical Therapy for the past 7 years and have been fortunate to attend the FSBPT Annual Meetings every year. During this time, I have served in the following capacity: delegate and alternate delegate representing Hawaii, FSBPT Member Survey Task Force Member, subject matter expert for the Hawaii Jurisprudence Assessment Module (JAM), item writer for the Oregon JAM, Education Committee member and Chair, Excellence in Regulation Committee member and most recently, Resolutions Committee member. Throughout these experiences, and particularly through my administrative background, I've had the privilege of honing my own leadership practices in order to navigate particularly challenging situations. While this opportunity would be a new experience for me, I am excited for the chance to learn from the current committee members and believe that my leadership background could bring a different perspective and new voice to your decision-making process.

Throughout my FSBPT involvement, I have encountered and interacted with numerous individuals from many jurisdictions. Whether the encounters were brief or developed into long-lasting relationships, each one has allowed me to learn more about specific individuals, many of whom embody the characteristics and qualities that I believe would make them great candidates for consideration by the Nominating Committee. If selected, I will strive to promote the most qualified candidates who are in alignment with our organization's vision, and possess leadership skills, passion, tenacity, and just the right demeanor to rise to the challenge of propelling the FSBPT into a bright and successful future. I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Candidate for Nominating Committee Position: Sherise Smith, PT, MSPT, CBIS



Current and past work experience:

- Team Leader and Clinical Coordinator for Northern Nevada Rehab Without Walls, Reno, NV (2002-Present)
- Physical Therapist overseeing clinic in an active retirement community, RehabWorks/IHS, Reno, NV (1999-2002)
- Director of Outpatient Services, Continental Medical Systems Rehab Hospital of Nevada-Reno, Reno, NV (1998-1999)
- Senior Physical Therapist of designated brain injury unit and hospital start up lead therapist, Continental Medical Systems Rehab Hospital of Nevada-Reno, Reno, NV (1996-1998)
- Staff Physical Therapist in home health, RehabWorks, Reno, NV (1991-1996)
- Staff Physical Therapist, The Las Vegas Institute of Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine, Las Vegas, NV (1989-1991)
- Staff Physical Therapist, acute and inpatient rehab, Washoe Medical Center, Reno, NV (1988-1989)

Licensure Experience:

- Board Chair, Nevada Physical Therapy Board (January 2018-present)
- Vice Chair, Nevada Physical Therapy Board (2 years)
- Board Member, Nevada Physical Therapy Board (5 years total)
- Legislative Liaison, Nevada Physical Therapy Board (2 years)
- Board Liaison to Continuing Competence Committee (one year)
- Licensed physical therapist in Nevada for 31 years

Federation Experience pertinent to the position:

- Member, Foreign Educated Standards Committee (2 years)
- LIF Participant (3 years)
- Annual Meeting Participant (4 years)
- Voting Delegate for Nevada at Annual Meeting (3 years)
- Alternate Delegate for Nevada at Annual Meeting (1 year)

Other experience pertinent to position (i.e., same position with another organization):

- Secretary, Board Member and Founding Chapter Director of ThinkFirst Northern Nevada (2011-Present)
- Previous Secretary and Treasurer, Nevada Physical Therapy Association
- Previous Secretary and Founding Officer, Brain Injury Association of Nevada
- Member APTA, Nevada Chapter of APTA and Neurology Section and Brain Injury Special Interest Group
- Certified Brain Injury Specialist

Candidate Statement:

I have been honored to be involved in the Federation for the past five years through attendance at several LIF Meetings and Annual Meetings, being involved as an alternate delegate and voting delegate, and serving on the Foreign Educated Standards Committee for two years. Through these experiences, I have grown to have a deep respect for this organization and would like to remain involved when my term on the Nevada Physical Therapy Board ends in 2020.

I have developed a passion for regulation and would like to be a part of continuing to move the Federation forward. I have a strong ability to work collaboratively with others and to be a facilitator and communicator. I have collaborated as the Chairperson in my jurisdiction to implement a new Continuing Competence Model, as well as to introduce legislation for our state joining the PT Compact and legislation for dry needling. I feel that my

strengths and skill set as a strong collaborator are a good fit for the position of Nominating Committee member. Thank you for considering me for this role of Nominating Committee Member.