

2016 House of Delegates Summary

- HOD statements regarding the role of the Association and the role of the physical therapist in prevention, wellness, fitness, health promotion, and management of disease and disability were amended. Both HOD statements added language regarding “efforts that enhance community design to promote safe physical activity and active forms of transportation for individuals and populations of all ages and abilities”.

Both also added a statement that “Physical therapists making healthy personal lifestyle choices that include engaging in active forms of transportation and meeting national guidelines for participation in physical activity and exercise.”

- The Consumer Protection Through Licensure of the Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant HOD statement **was amended to promote consistent communication within and external to the profession in the presentation of credentials and letter designations. The preferred order is as follows:**

1. PT/PTA (the regulatory designation)
2. Highest earned physical therapy-related degree
3. Other regulatory designations
4. Other earned academic degree(s)

All other designations, such as American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties certifications, credentials external to APTA, and other certifications or professional honors, should not use acronyms or abbreviations but should, if used, be written out. In the case of stationary, business cards, signage, advertising, or signature lines, such descriptions should be placed below the line containing the name and letter designations specified in 1 through 4 above.

Some examples include:

Tamica Dallas, PT, DPT

Board-Certified Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Clinical Specialist

Denna Dilullo, PT, ATC/L, MS

Board-Certified Sports Clinical Specialist

Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist

Bob Smith, PTA, BS

Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist

- An educational campaign regarding designation was adopted to encourage membership compliance with the newly adopted changes in the Consumer Protection Through Licensure of the Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants HOD statement.
- A motion to implement steps to “assist consumers, the health care community, and others in identifying certified clinical specialists in each specialty area” was passed.
- Oncologic physical therapy was approved as an area of specialization.
- A motion passed to “have the American Physical Therapy Association pursue strategies to encourage research publications, clinical practice guidelines, and payment policies to accurately

reflect the available evidence rather than represent physical therapist practice or physical therapy research as a single or limited set of interventions.”

- A motion passed unanimously to have “the American Physical Therapy Association evaluate existing and emerging data available from internal and external sources, such as the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy and the Commission on Accreditation in Physical 8 Therapy Education, to identify potential effects of student loan debt upon the physical therapy profession, and develop a plan with feasible options to address the identified issues with implementation initiated no later than June 2018.”
- A motion passed to have “the American Physical Therapy Association develop and promote a plan to achieve practice authority for ordering and performing imaging studies across practice settings.”
- Richard L. Lieber, PhD, was elected as an Honorary Member of the American Physical Therapy Association.
- A motion passed to have the APTA review all current Board of Directors documents with recommended changes/ deletions/ amendments made to the HOD by 2019.
- A motion passed to have the APTA “commit to the preservation of the histories of the physical therapy profession and the association and to making appropriate historical information accessible to society in preparation for the APTA centennial celebrations by developing and implementing short-term and long-range plans to preserve and display these and future histories.”
- Bylaws were changed to include “post-doctoral research fellowship” student in the “definition of a post-professional student”.
- Bylaws were changed to make the bylaw deadline coincide with the main motion deadline.
- Motion passed unanimously to “endorse the national efforts addressing the opioid health crisis”.