

Leadership Apprenticeship Program

Purpose:

The FPTA Board of Directors is pleased to announce the opening of the 2026 application process for the Leadership Apprenticeship Program. This program is meant to provide any member of the Association, interested in leadership, the opportunity to experience first-hand how the Board works. Three apprentices will be selected from three districts to complete a year-long apprenticeship with the Board. As an apprentice, you will be able to attend the Board Strategic Planning meeting, one Board of Directors meeting at the Annual Conference, and one Advocacy Day. At the end of the year, the apprenticeship class will be asked to produce:

- Work with PAC Chair to increase donors to the website at \$5 a month
- Review one article of the bylaws
- Review of board meetings for weekly digest
- Interview 2 board members with differing roles in conjunction with the leadership committee

Eligibility Requirements:

- Participation at some leadership or volunteer level at SIG, Committee, District, or within a professional role.
- Members in good standing of the Association for a period of at least two (2) years. Years of practice will be considered in lieu of Association membership.

*An interview may be necessary to assist in the decision-making process.

Deadline to Apply: December 15, 2025

[Apply Here](#)



FPTA Member Spotlight Amanda Thomas, PT, DPT

This week, our member spotlight is Dr. Amanda Thomas, who won the Excellence in Teaching Award this year at our 2025 Annual Conference.

□ Professional Background

- **What inspired you to pursue a career in physical therapy/physical therapy assisting?**

I was inspired to pursue physical therapy after witnessing how movement and play can transform a child's life. I've always been drawn to helping children reach their full potential, and pediatric PT allows me to blend science, creativity, and compassion to support families in meaningful ways.

- **How long have you been practicing, and what setting do you currently work in?**

I've been practicing for over 13 years and have had the opportunity to work across pediatric settings, including schools, outpatient clinics, and early intervention. I currently serve in academia, teaching and mentoring future pediatric physical therapists while leading research in 3D printing innovations for therapy and education.

- **What's your favorite part of working with patients or clients?**

My favorite part is watching a child gain independence and confidence, whether it's taking their first steps, mastering balance, or finding joy in movement. Every small milestone feels like a big celebration shared with the child and their family.

□ Professional Involvement

- **How has being a member of APTA/FPTA benefited you professionally or personally?**

Being part of APTA/FPTA has given me a strong professional community and ongoing access to resources that inspire evidence-based practice and advocacy. It's also helped me connect with incredible colleagues who share a passion for advancing pediatric care and education.

- **What advice would you give to students or early-career PTs/PTAs?**

Stay curious and seek mentorship early. Pediatric therapy and our profession as a whole thrive on collaboration and lifelong learning. Don't be afraid to ask questions, reflect on your experiences, and embrace creativity in your interventions.

- **What do you think are the biggest opportunities or challenges facing the field right now?**

One of our greatest opportunities lies in integrating technology, like 3D printing, simulation, and telehealth into therapy and education to make care more accessible and personalized. Our challenge is ensuring equitable access to these innovations while maintaining the human connection that defines our work.

□ Fun & Personal Side

- **If you could have dinner with any historical or famous figure, who would it be and why?**

I'd love to have dinner with Dr. Hugh Herr, a pioneer in bionic prosthetics and rehabilitation science. His ability to transform personal experience into groundbreaking innovation is deeply inspiring. His work reminds me how technology and empathy together can redefine independence and participation for people with limb difference.

- **What do you enjoy doing when you're not at work?**

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, staying active through Pilates and outdoor walks/runs, and exploring creative projects like 3D printing or DIY experiments. I also love listening to records, reading books, and traveling, activities that help me relax, recharge, and stay inspired for both teaching and clinical work.



APTA Consumer Perceptions

What do Americans really think and know about physical therapy, and what are their health

priorities? APTA partnered with Penta Research to survey more than 1,000 individuals across the life stages to find out.

APTA's new consumer perceptions report explores public awareness, usage patterns, and attitudes toward physical therapy.

Key findings highlight strong recognition of physical therapy's role in rehabilitation but ongoing gaps in awareness of its broader benefits, including injury prevention, women's health, and maintaining independence with age. The report also notes limited public knowledge about doctoral-level education, direct access, and opportunities to engage in a growing interest in wellness among women and recreational sports participants.

APTA will use these insights to shape its multiyear ChoosePT public awareness campaign, **PT For Future Me**, reframing physical therapists as essential partners in lifelong wellness — from pediatrics to older adults. Members can participate in this campaign using resources in the **ChoosePT Toolkit** during National Physical Therapy Month and beyond.

[Download Report](#)

The Impact of Administrative Burden on Physical Therapist Services

Administrative requirements imposed by payers continue to significantly burden physical therapists and negatively impact patient care, according to APTA's third and most recent survey on administrative burden.

Among the key findings:

- Wait times for prior authorization have escalated steadily over the last seven years, with 30% of survey respondents waiting one to two weeks for prior authorization approval.
- Prior authorization requirements negatively impacted patients' clinical outcomes, according to 85% of respondents. A similar number, 83%, of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that prior authorization has caused their patients to abandon treatment.
- In the latest survey, 75% of respondents said they had to hire administrative staff to keep up with the administrative demands.
- A majority of respondents, 57%, agreed or strongly agreed that administrative burden has led their practice to discontinue participation with a payer or network.

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Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER 19 Webinar - 1.5 CEs

Join the Neuro SIG for - Neuro Residencies: Everything You Want to Know about Neuro Residencies & More!

Summary of course:

This presentation will be targeted toward licensed physical therapists and student physical therapists who are considering a Neuro Residency within their career path. A panel of speakers including Residency Program Directors, Residency Program Graduates and current Residents will lead a presentation covering all aspects of Neuro Residency. The Program Directors will discuss the expected objectives that need to be met in every Residency program, the typical structure of a Neuro Residency program, benefits of a Residency program, application process and deadlines, and interview process. The Program Directors will also speak about how Neuro Residency programs do vary and some of the differences that exist within their programs. The Residency graduates and current residents will speak about the pros and cons of Residency, steps they took to prepare to apply and interview, typical day week/day of a resident, and overall perspectives. The presentation will conclude with open panel discussion to allow participants to ask as many questions as possible regarding Neuro Residency.

Register

NOVEMBER 20 Webinar - 1.5 CEs

DECEMBER 1 ZOOM Meeting

4th Quarter PTA Meeting

- Date: December 1, 2025
- Time: 7:00 PM
- Location: Zoom
- Recurrence: Quarterly
- Description: Join us for the PTA's quarterly meeting via Zoom. Agenda will be sent closer to the date.

JANUARY 17-18, 2026 Bradenton, FL

APTA Credentialed Clinical Instructor Program – Level 1 Certification Course

Event Dates & Times:

- Saturday, January 17th, 2026 | 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM (ET)
- Sunday, January 18th, 2026 | 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM (ET)

Location:

Manatee Memorial Hospital
206 2nd St. E
Bradenton, FL 34208

Trainer:

Gina Musolino, PT, DPT, EdD, MSEd

Register

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1, 2026 Bradenton, FL

FPTA Geriatric SIG Business Meeting & CEU Presentation titled: "Beyond Weight Loss: Exercise and Functional Preservation in Older Adults on GLP-1 Medications"

Summary of Webinar:

In this webinar, we will explore the essential role of Physical Therapists in preserving muscle mass and functional capacity in older adults using GLP-1 medications like Ozempic. Gain insights into evidence-based exercise strategies, sarcopenia assessment, and interdisciplinary collaboration to optimize metabolic health while maintaining strength and independence in our aging patients.

[Register](#)

APTA Credentialed Clinical Instructor Program – Level 1 Certification Course

Event Dates & Times:

- Saturday, February 28th, 2026 | 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM (ET)
- Sunday, March 1st, 2026 | 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM (ET)

Location:

Keiser University - Lakeland, FL
2400 Interstate Drive
Lakeland, FL 33805

Trainer:

Gina Musolino, PT, DPT, EdD, MEd

[Register](#)



**Feb. 27-28
2026**

STUDENT CONCLAVE

Fuel the Movement Hosted by
The Florida Gulf Coast University

 **FPTA**
FLORIDA PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

FPTA Student Member - \$55
Student Non-Member - \$60
FGCU Student Attendees - \$40

[Register Now!](#)

WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT

SOCCER GAME

NOVEMBER 22



TICKETS: \$16

RSVP BY NOVEMBER 10TH TO
EDISBROW1028@GMAIL.COM



RSVP

EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT

The background of the event poster is a warm, bokeh-style photograph of a pub interior. It features several glowing Edison-style light bulbs hanging from the ceiling, and a wooden bar counter in the foreground. The overall atmosphere is cozy and inviting.

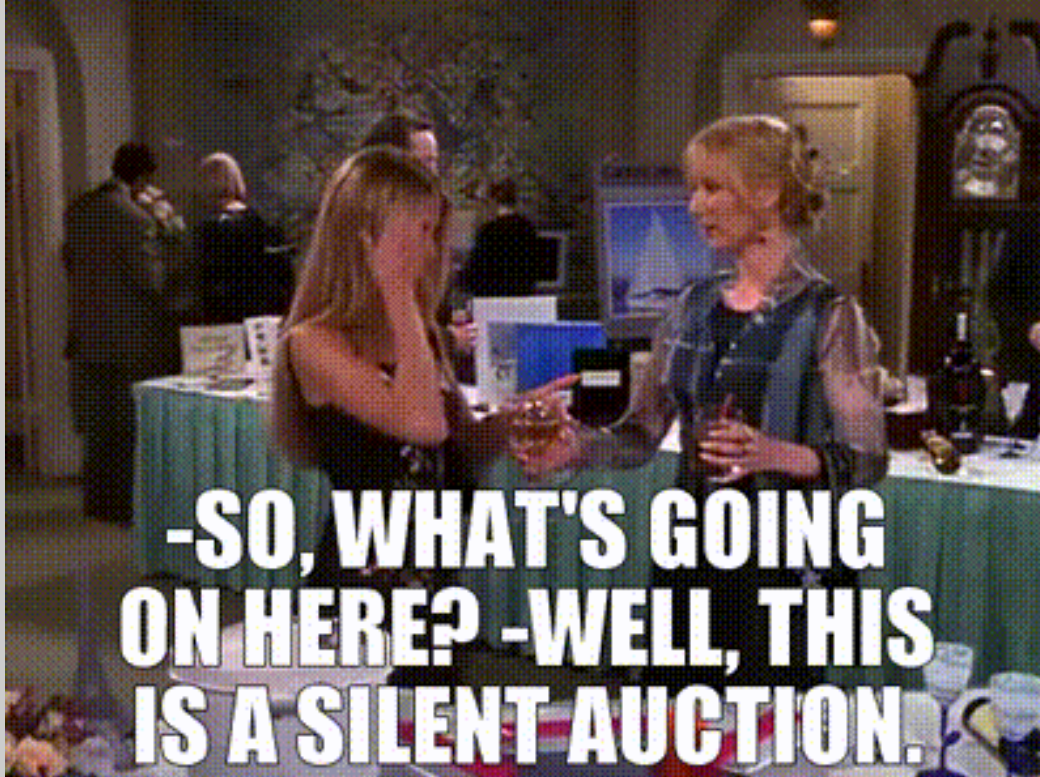
EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT

PUB Night at UCF

Thursday, November 13th
6:00 - 8:00 pm

Bar Louie
4100 N. Alafaya Trail
Suite 167 & 17, Orlando, FL 32826





Missed your chance to bid at the PAC Silent Auction during Conference? Good news — a few great items are still available! ☐ Here's your opportunity to grab something special while supporting the PAC's important advocacy work. Don't wait — these remaining items won't last long! Use the link below to view the items.

Items for Auction



2025 FPT-PAC

The money raised for the Florida Physical Therapy Political Action Committee (FPT-PAC) will be used in our efforts to modernize the Practice Act in Florida. The Florida Practice Act governs every physical therapist and physical therapist assistant in the state. We need your support to modernize the act and remove barriers to providing physical therapy services. [Donate Today](#)

Guardian of the Profession \$1,000+

Anthony Cere
Thomas Eberle
Catherine Patla

President's Circle \$500- \$999

Jamie Dyson
Dillon Janes
Amando Mendoza
Ellen O'Brannon
Jessica Carter Peer

Ambassador \$250-\$499

Jacob Barr
Mark Bishop
Aimee Brueck
David Capote
Barbara Connolly
Dan Curtis

Deborah Reese
Kathy Swanick

Brenda Dorman
David Esack
Gina Musolino
Ketul Shah
Juan Jose Villeda

Century Circle
\$100-\$249

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Jeffrey Berner
Erienne Blanchard
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Klaus Blandon
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Yvonne Budd
Nicholas Cannatella
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Melinda Cumbaa
Christine Davidson
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Lisa Farrell
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Donna Goldson-Piper
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Amanda Grant
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Karina Ingegneri
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Stephane Larocque
Melissa Lazinski
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