

My Perspective

Networking is a valuable tool for professional development. Beyond attending courses or conferences, how has networking with APTA members helped your professional development?



Networking with other professionals has helped grow my individual practice and allowed me to see opportunities within APTA and beyond. It has shown me that there is so much more to this profession than treating our patients. It's also about educating the health care consumer.

– Marissa Furka PT, DPT, GCS, Manahawkin, New Jersey



Networking with fellow APTA members really helps me to see the larger perspective. Yes, seeing our patients and all of the great work we do every day is important. But without APTA, and the enthusiastic individuals that are a part of it, we would have no support or advocacy in Congress to enable the great things that our profession is all about. APTA has helped me learn that professional development is not just about honing my clinical skills but also waking up and realizing that there is a lot of politics in what we do. APTA encourages us to take professional responsibility and contribute in ways beyond the clinical realm, giving of ourselves either with time or money to enable our profession to be a sustainable one with great job security and boundless potential for growth.

– Robyn Trout PT, DPT, Lanoka Harbor, New Jersey



Networking has allowed me to see the many underlying levels of who our clients and patients really are. Having a better understanding of the various clients to whom we provide service also has allowed me to meet new resources at the national, state, district, and community level that I have been able to use throughout my career. Not only does networking allow you to meet other professionals to compare your clinical, ethical, and professional viewpoints with, but it provides contact with and the opportunity to become involved with the legislative decision-making body that governs our wonderful profession. It also allows you to give back to your profession by becoming clinical instructors and by volunteering within APTA nationally as well as locally within state chapter levels. By becoming an APTA member and more involved within the profession you are provided the ability to strive for similar goals and accomplishments with that of your peers. Networking is “Education beyond the classroom.”

– Jeff Berry, PTA, Bennington, Vermont



My involvement in APTA and the Illinois Physical Therapy Association has helped me learn about my profession, learn from other professionals' experiences, and have a role in the future of the profession. Over the past 5 years, I have become involved in the state assembly and as a member of the district board. Meeting and working with other professionals has encouraged my professional growth, increased my professional knowledge, and assisted me in achieving my professional goals of passing my NCS [neurologic certified specialist] test and participating in research.

– Sarah Keller, PT, DPT, NCS, Wheaton, Illinois



Though networking, I was put in contact with Fox Rehab and had the opportunity to have a clinical affiliation with them, become a Fox employee, and be a student in their residency program.

– Heather Fletcher, PT, DPT, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

APTA'S SECTIONS AT A GLANCE

Connect with colleagues who share your interests by getting involved in one or more of APTA's 18 sections. Many give you the opportunity to participate in special-interest groups (SIGs) focusing on specific areas of physical therapy practice. SIGs are bulleted below.

Acute Care

Aquatic Physical Therapy

Cardiovascular and Pulmonary

Clinical Electrophysiology & Wound Management

- Electrophysiologic Evaluation
- Physical Agent Interventions: Electrotherapy, Thermotherapy, Light Therapy
- Wound Management

Education

- Academic Administrators
- Academic Faculty
- PTA Educators
- Clinical Educators

Federal Physical Therapy

Geriatrics

- Balance and Falls
- Health Promotion and Wellness
- Bone Health

Hand Rehabilitation

Health Policy and Administration

- Cross Cultural and International
- Technology

Home Health

Neurology

- Balance and Falls
- Brain Injury
- Degenerative Diseases
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Stroke
- Vestibular Rehabilitation

Oncology

- HIV/AIDS
- Hospice and Palliative Care
- Lymphedema

Orthopaedic

- Occupational Health
- Foot and Ankle
- Performing Arts
- Pain Management
- Animal Physical Therapy

Pediatrics

- Adolescents and Adults with Developmental Disabilities
- Early Intervention
- Pediatric Sports-Fitness
- School-based Physical Therapy
- Neonatology

Private Practice

Research

- Biomechanics
- Qualitative Research

Sports Physical Therapy

- Athletes With Disabilities
- College, University, and Pro Sports
- Emergency Response
- Female Athlete
- Golf and Golf Performance
- Hip
- Knee
- Residency and Fellowship
- Shoulder
- Sports Pediatrics

Women's Health

Learn more about section member benefits at www.apta.org/sections.