



2024 Candidates

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Vice President

Jessica Jacobs – Vice President Candidate

Employer:

Anderson University – School of Physical Therapy

Education:

PhD in Educational Leadership – 2022

Clemson University, Clemson SC

Educational Leadership (Higher Education focus)

Dissertation: Transitional Experiences of Physical Therapy Clinicians to Physical Therapy Faculty Members: A Phenomenological Study

Neurological Physical Therapy Residency

Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC

2014

Doctor of Physical Therapy

Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC

2006 – 2009

Bachelor of Science

Presbyterian College, Clinton, SC

Biology

2002 – 2006

Related Experience:

I am the Director of Clinical Education and Associate Professor for Anderson University's School of Physical Therapy. I came onboard at the start of development for the PT program and assisted with the accreditation process, created policy and procedures around clinical education, and developed courses for the care of patients with neurological deficits. I have been a practicing PT for almost 15 years in the inpatient rehabilitation setting, specializing in neurological PT. Prior to moving into academia I served as Lead PT and organized daily patient and therapist schedules as well as coordinating student clinical experiences for the facility. I am an item writer for the National Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, and serve as the logistic and volunteer coordinator for Euphoria Greenville, Local Boys Do Good non-profit organization.

I have been a member of the APTA and APTA-SC for over 10 years. I have previously served on the Board of Directors as Secretary from 2018 – 2022. I am currently the chair of the programs committee for APTA-SC. I have been in that role since 2020.

Goals and Plans if elected?

If elected to the position of Vice President I plan to be an active member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. My previous experience as Secretary and program committee chair provides me with background knowledge of the working of the board. I

believe because I already have this background knowledge, I can jump in with assisting with current board initiatives and provide ideas for future growth of our chapter. I would like to see us continue to engage members through advocacy and continuing education. As one of the only voices for the PT profession within SC I believe it is important to continue to advocate with the licensing board and legislative needs.

Why are you qualified for this position?

I believe I am qualified for this position through my previous leadership roles within APTA-SC and work roles. I am an organized person who is hard working and loves new challenges. I have working relationships with many clinical partners through my role as the Director of Clinical Education. With these relationships, I can easily seek input from members of APTA-SC on important initiatives or needs of the chapter. I am familiar with Robert's Rules of Order and will be willing to learn more to take on the task of acting as the Chapter Parliamentarian, which is one role of the Vice President. I look forward to having the chance to serve SC's Chapter of the APTA.

Video: <https://youtu.be/qMGqCRVJDnQ>

Jacob N. Thorp -Vice President Candidate

Employer:

Charleston Southern University

Education:

MBA

Charleston Southern University

December 2025 (anticipated)

DHS

University of Indianapolis

Orthopedic Physical Therapy

August 2006

MSPT

Des Moines University – Osteopathic Medical Center

Physical Therapy

June 2001

BS

Trevecca Nazarene University

Biology – Cum Laude

May 1999

AAS

Professional Skills Institute

Physical Therapist Assistant – High Honors

April 1996

Related Experience:

I have been an active APTA member since 1999 serving in a variety of positions. At the state level, I currently I serve as the Vice President for APTA SC. In this position, I was a leader in establishing the position of an APTA SC Student Representative. I also recruited our current Lowcountry District Chair and the Chair of our Membership Committee. Prior to moving to North Carolina, I was an active member of two APTA NC committees that worked to pass laws that allowed clinicians to perform dry needling and spinal manipulation without restrictions. Nationally, I am a member of the Education and Orthopedic Academies. I am a current member of the Orthopedic Education Awards Subcommittee and previously served on the Education Committee from 2009-2015 where I was responsible for identifying speakers for CSM. Finally, I am a current member of several APTA SIGS including the Academic Faculty and Clinical Education groups and the Pain SIG where I was a member of the Nominating Committee from 2016-2019.

APTA (June 1999 – current)

Education Awards Subcommittee (Member), January 2022 – present

Academy of Physical Therapy Education (Member), March 2019 – present

Academic Faculty SIG, July 2019 – current

Clinical Education SIG, July 2019 – current
Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy (Member), January 2008 – present
Pain SIG (Member), January 2008 – current
Nominating Committee (Member), February 2016 – January 2019
Nominating Committee (Chair) 2018-2019
Education Committee (Member), February 2009 – January 2015

APTA SC (March 2019 – current)
Vice President, April 2022 – current
Nominating Committee, April 2021 – March 2022

American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists
January 2010 – December 2015

APTA NC (January 2008 – December 2019)
Spinal Manipulation Task Force Committee, October 2014 – June 2019
Education Committee, October 2011 – September 2013
Orthopaedic SIG (Founding Chair), October 2010 – September 2011

Goals and Plans if elected?

If I am re-elected as the Vice President, I will continue to promote member engagement and autonomous practice in South Carolina. As an educator and founding DPT Program Director, my passion is to create opportunities for our students to both learn and invest in our profession. This includes collaborative activities between schools and participation in events at the state and national levels. Today's students will be tomorrow's leaders. I believe that if they are given opportunities to contribute to their profession as a student, they are significantly more likely to remain active throughout their career. I will also continue to advocate for unrestricted, direct access. This must include grassroots lobbying and education to the community and other key stakeholders.

Why are you qualified for this position?

I've been licensed to perform physical therapy since 1996. First, graduating from PTA school in 1996 then earning my MSPT in 2001. After six years of full-time clinical practice, I transitioned to the role of a core faculty member. I have had the privilege of teaching hundreds of students about APTA's core values and how to practice evidence-based physical therapy. In March 2019, I joined the ranks as the founding DPT Program Director at Charleston Southern University. During my tenure as an educator, I have remained an active clinician and managed the faculty practice at East Carolina University. Since moving to Charleston, I provide pro bono physical therapy services at both Barrier Island Free Medical Clinic and the Greer Transitions Clinic at Roper St. Francis Hospital. I remain passionate about promoting our profession through service to both my community and membership with APTA. Thank you for considering me for re-election to this position.

Video: <https://youtu.be/ytYG3WWuZbg>

Delegate

Aaron Embry – Delegate Candidate

Employer:

Tufts University - Department of Rehabilitation Sciences - Doctor of Physical Therapy Program - Boston, MA

Education:

2016 – 2021 Doctor of Philosophy – Health and Rehabilitation Science, Medical University of South Carolina

2007 – 2008 Master of Science in Clinical Research (MSCR), Medical University of South Carolina

2007 – 2008 Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy (t-DPT), Medical University of South Carolina

2004 - 2007 Master of Science in Rehabilitation Science – Physical Therapy (MSRS-PT), Medical University of South Carolina

2002 Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile – Santiago (International Study Abroad – Spanish Immersion)

1999 – 2002 Bachelor of Arts (BA) – Biology & Spanish, Clemson University

1998 – 1999 Bachelor of Science – Biology, Howard University

Related Experience:

American Physical Therapy Association (2004 – present)

- APTA Association Leadership Scholars – Mentor (2021)
- APTA Centennial Scholars – Mentor (2022 & 2023)
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (2021 – 2023)
- DEI Roundtable Discussion Planning Group (2000)
- DEI Staff Work Group (2017-2020)

American Physical Therapy Association – South Carolina (2004 – present)

- SCAPTA / APTA South Carolina Elected Positions
 - APTA SC Immediate Past President (2020-2021)
 - SCAPTA President (2016-2020)
 - SCAPTA President-elect (2015-2016)
 - SCAPTA Vice President (2014 – 2015)
 - SCAPTA Director (2010 – 2012; 2012-2014)
- SCAPTA / APTA SC Committees
 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Chair (2021 – present)
 - Public Relations Committee Chair (2014 – present)
 - Federal Affairs Key Contact (2009 - present)
 - Legislative Committee Chairperson (2017 – 2020, 2009 – 2013)
 - Conference Committee (2012 - 2020)
 - Federal Affairs Liaison (2011 – 2013)

- Membership Committee (2009 – 2011)
- Legislative Committee (2007 – present)
- Student Special Interest Group (2006-2007)
- Practice Committee (2006 - 2008)
- SCAPTA / APTA SC Task Forces
 - Strategic Planning Task Force (2012, 2017)

Health Policy & Administration: HPA The Catalyst (2010-present)

- HPA The Catalyst: LAMP Projects Committee Chairperson (2013-2016)
- HPA The Catalyst: LAMP Leadership – Faculty

Academy of Amputation and Limb Difference - member

Goals and Plans if elected?

My primary goal as a delegate will be to listen carefully to the perspectives of APTA South Carolina members and ensure they are considered in any decisions that might impact our ability to work at the top of scope, provide excellent and inclusive education, and or secure funding to advance the practice of physical therapy through meaningful scholarship. My second goal will be to further develop relationships on behalf of South Carolina in the House that foster innovation and forward thinking that promote the generation of future RCs. Finally, I would like to work with current and past delegates and APTA SC Board to develop a pathway, program, or materials for individuals interested in being a delegate, but who might lack the experience or foundational knowledge of process to gain helpful insight and exposure that better positions our chapter to develop a cadre of potential future delegates.

Why are you qualified for this position?

As a previous APTA SC delegate, I have firsthand knowledge of how the House operates and workload required to be a good delegate. I have a passion for moving the profession forward by seeking consensus while challenging longstanding norms that no longer serve us as a profession in our mission to provide high quality education, advocacy, research, and clinical care. I have experience in all four stated domains with additional expertise in the areas of diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and justice concepts in healthcare which positions me to be an effective delegate representing South Carolina in the largest governing body in the physical therapy profession. I have an attention to detail in evaluating policy language and a collaborative approach to analyzing the impact of proposed policy. I have the time available to dedicate to the role of delegate and look forward to serving the association in this capacity.

Video: https://youtu.be/5dVo_Jr1zKs

Kenneth L Miller – Delegate Candidate

Employer:

Medical University of South Carolina

Education:

PhD (c) currently at Texas Woman's University, Dallas, TX
DPT from Touro College, Bay Shore, NY
BS/MA from Touro College, Dix Hills, NY
BS from Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY

Related Experience:

I have served on multiple Boards in my career starting as appointed chair positions within the Home Health Section and APTA Geriatrics. I currently serve on the APTAG BOD (elected) serving my second term. I was voted to be on the executive council from the BOD. I have served as chair of many committees, work groups and task force at the national level and would be honored to serve the membership of APTA SC as a delegate to the APTA.

APTA Member since 1992

Member of APTA Geriatrics for > 12 years

Member of APTA Home Health > 12 years

BOD for APTAG x 5 years

Served in practice committee and task forces x 12 years

Served as APTA HH Practice Chair > 10 years

Goals and Plans if elected?

My goals of being a delegate for APTA SC are to advocate for improved access to care for SC residents and to help APTA move forward with technology efforts to streamline barriers to care such as excessive EMR time/documentation requirements and insurance burden of justifying care needs.

Why are you qualified for this position?

I believe that I am qualified to serve as an APTA SC delegate based on my experience of working for multiple professional associations for more than 12 years in leadership positions. I am passionate about advocating for changes to PT education and practice to help make a clinicians job more manageable. My PhD work is in the area of burnout and improving job fulfillment and their wellbeing. Serving in the House of Delegates will allow me to be a voice for change.

Video: <https://youtu.be/Y8gL97v0Z5U>

Board of Directors

Kenneth Felder – Board of Directors Candidate

Employer:

Roger C. Peace: Inpatient Rehab

Education:

Medical University of South Carolina

College of Health Professions: Doctor of Physical Therapy, 2017 Graduate

Related Experience:

Community involvement include: Greenville Technical College Physical Therapy Assistant Program Advisory Committee from 2021 to current, previously served on the Greenville Area Parkinson's Society (GAPS) Board of Directors, and former 2021-2022 Clinical mentor for the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Neurological Residency Program. In my professional role, I am a Program Lead for the Traumatic Brain Injury Program and a lead therapist on the rehab unit.

I previously served on the APTA-SC Nominating Committee from 2020 to 2023, and served as the Chair from 2021-2023.

Goals and Plans if elected?

If elected as a Director, my goal is to help optimize our mission and purpose as the state chapter in order to help our members and non-members stay up to date on all changes that may impact our practice regulations and help the organization continue to strive for and maintain optimal practice rights, so that we can provide the best patient centered care possible, as a state and apart of the national organization. Another goal would be to help maintain and increase our active memberships, to garner more representation in our professional organization.

Why are you qualified for this position?

After having previously served 3 years on the Nominating committee, two of which was serving as chair, getting to slate current and past leadership, the knowledge of the skills and leadership qualities of current and past leadership and utilizing the skills from my time serving on the Greenville Area Parkinson's Society's Board and leadership roles within current job, I believe I have the capacity to serve as a Director, if elected.

Video: <https://youtube.com/shorts/6D28IRgwbIA?feature=share>

Leigh Ann Frick – Board of Directors Candidate

Employer:

Self-employed, Care Navigation Consulting

Education:

BSPT Ohio University, MBA Clemson University

Related Experience:

I am active in many associations; ADVION, NARA, AAPACN, APTA, NAP. I am on the Foundation Board at AAPACN, I am chair of the Awards and Nominating Committee for NARA, I am the Chair of the Ohio University Alumni BOD for the Physical Therapy Division and participated in many other committees.

I have been a member since I was licensed in 1993, I have served one term as a Director and am asking for your support for another term.

Goals and Plans if elected?

I am interested in working to have a better relationship with the LLR; I believe progress has been made here and would like to continue to build on that relationship.

Why are you qualified for this position?

I am an active member of our profession on a national level and have been focused at the state level in this role for the past 3 years.

Curt Kindel – Board of Directors Candidate

Employer:

Anderson University- Chair/Professor of Physical Therapy

Education:

The Pennsylvania State University- University Park, PA
Biomechanics- Ph.D. in Kinesiology 2015

Saint Francis University- Loretto, PA
Master of Physical Therapy 2001

Saint Francis University- Loretto, PA
Bachelor of Health Science 1999

Related Experience:

For the past two years I have had the opportunity to Chair the School of Physical Therapy at Anderson University. This involves management and decision-making for the good of the organization, in addition to organizing and leading faculty and students. I have been on various faculty committees including Faculty Senate Secretary, Institutional Review Board (IRB), Faculty Affairs Committee member, and Faculty Status Committee member in my 17 years of academia. At the national level, I've also held roles on the Biomechanics SIG of the Research Academy of the APTA.

I have been an APTA member since 2001, and an orthopaedic section member since 2007. I have done two educational session presentations at APTA-SC's annual meeting in the last 4 years. I have also presented three posters at APTA-Combined Sections Meeting in the last three years. As stated above, I also held a Nominating Committee position in the Biomechanics SIG of the Research Academy.

Goals and Plans if elected?

I would like to continue to direct the SC chapter of the APTA in a positive direction at the forefront of our profession. Our state is very attractive to young, energetic physical therapists and I believe that we can utilize that energy to grow and push our profession into new areas. I believe there continues to be a lack of understanding from the public of what we do and how we can help promote health in all populations. I am excited to possibly play a role in the direction of the South Carolina chapter.

Why are you qualified for this position?

I am qualified for this because of my experience in academics and leadership (as seen above). As a faculty member, I have learned the value of a team, much like the Board of Directors functions. I've learned how decisions take time, but they involve getting all members behind a decision. From a leadership standpoint, I also have learned the value in communicating with members so that they are informed and understand the direction of the organization.

Video: <https://youtu.be/ZUp6Zt6iOvE>

Matthew Palmer – Board of Directors Candidate

Employer:

National HealthCare Corporation. I work as a Physical Therapist, Senior Rehab User Analyst, and Geriatric Clinical Residency Director.

Education:

A.S. – Utah Valley University - 1999
B.S. - Brigham Young University - 2003
DPT - University of South Carolina - 2007

Related Experience:

I have been a member of SCAPTA on and off since 2004. I am at a point in my career where I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve in the association sharing the knowledge and abilities, I have developed over the last 16 years as a physical therapist.

Goals and Plans if elected?

With over 16 years of experience in geriatric PT, I hope to support the profession in providing exceptional care to our geriatric population. It is essential that SC have many physical therapists that specialize in Geriatric Physical therapy. I hope to be an advocate for policies and procedures that will allow our seniors to receive the care they need to improve their quality of life as they age. With the knowledge and experience I have in geriatrics I can provide the understanding necessary to represent Geriatric PTs as decisions are made that may affect their practice. I would like to help remove barriers to providing safe, effective, and efficient patient care.

Why are you qualified for this position?

As a Board Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist, I have a robust knowledge of geriatric PT. Additionally, I am the NHC Geriatric Clinical Residency Director and am very involved in providing meaningful clinical education. As the Senior Rehab User Analyst of NHC I understand the importance of data driven decision making supporting evidence-based practice. Working hand in hand with our compliance team I promote accuracy and accountability in process development and implementation. I have an excellent knowledge of Medicare regulation and service as a resource to my company's 1500 therapists in ensuring proper implementation of Medicare and State rules and regulations. Having led multiple rehab teams I understand the challenges that face therapists in today's complex regulatory environment. As a practicing PT, I know what patients need to optimize their quality of life and how PTs can provide it.

Video: <https://youtu.be/Wnt1O9w89mA>

Nominating Committee

Bradley Saunders – Nominating Committee Candidate

Employer:

Carolina Physical Therapy

Education:

B.S. Biology- St. John Fisher University

Doctor of Physical Therapy- University of South Carolina

Related Experience:

I currently oversee operations for approximately 90 employees at 11 sites in an outpatient orthopedic private practice. I am involved with recruiting, educating, marketing, scheduling, financials, purchasing, clinic growth, patient management, and leadership development. I am a credentialed CI, our ACCE, and assist with adjunct work at local PT and PTA programs.

I have been a member for 12 years, I have held minimal roles but assisted with CEU submission approvals and just recently helping with program assisting for the APTA-SC conference.

Goals and Plans if elected?

I would like to continue to help physical therapy in South Carolina be at the forefront of care, recognition in the community, and progression towards autonomy and respect for practitioners by other providers and patients.

Why are you qualified for this position?

I am comfortable networking and reaching out to therapists across multiple settings to continue to foster a growing pool of nominees and future leaders in the state.

I enjoy listening and learning from those with expertise and the structure of the committee to have members for 3 years, affords me ample opportunity to learn.

Video: <https://youtu.be/MDT7KpdBqpg>