

Call for Session Proposals

APTA Combined Sections Meeting
Feb. 4-6, 2027 | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



The specialty academies and sections of the American Physical Therapy Association hereby issue a Call for Session Proposals.

Proposal submission deadline: April 15, 2026, 11:59 p.m. PT/2:59 a.m. ET

Proposals for APTA CSM educational sessions and preconference courses are submitted online through APTA's submission site. The decision to accept or reject a proposal, and matters regarding the final content, format, and scheduling of any presentation, rests with each academy/section as represented by that entity's program chair.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Proposal submissions for education sessions must contain the following:

- Title (15 words maximum).
- Session description (250 words maximum).
- Session learning objectives (four maximum).
- Minimum of five to seven current bibliographic references, no more than seven years old at time of CSM presentation (2020 and later)
- Timed outline of content that aligns with learning objectives.
- Total of content related to differential diagnosis (expressed in minutes).
- Speaker information, including name, degrees/credentials, institution, city, state, and speaking experience for each speaker.
- Biographical information for each speaker.
- Keywords to help potential attendees search for the session topic.
- Teaching and learning assessment methods.
- Recommended content level (fundamental, intermediate, advanced).
- Conflict of interest disclosure.

Failure to submit with any of the above components may result in your session being rejected.

Proposal submissions for preconference courses must contain the following:

- All of the above pertaining to educational session submissions, **plus:**
- A commitment that, if selected, the submitter will provide a 25-question, multiple-choice posttest to assess learning. Each question must correspond with a learning objective. This learning assessment is required for continuing education unit approval.

Important things to remember when submitting your proposal:

- **The same proposal may not be submitted to multiple sections.**
- The APTA academies/sections have agreed to limit a speaker to three accepted sessions within their individual programs. This includes both primary speaker and co-speaker positions.
- Speaker information will appear exactly as submitted in all APTA CSM publications. Contact co-presenters to ensure the accuracy of this information before finalizing your submission.
 - Proposals may be for 90-minute (1.5 hour) educational sessions or for one- or two-day preconference courses.
 - If you have content exceeding 90 minutes (1.5 hours) for an educational session, you may submit two 90-minute (1.5 hour) sessions, designating in the title that it is part 1 or part 2.
- Selection of proposals will be based on foundation in evidence, clarity of proposal, probable interest to

participants, fiscal feasibility, and space and time constraints.

- Proposals should reflect cultural and/or ethical components related to clinical practice and research, as related to session content.
- Proposals should be devoid of any promotional content.
- Use your APTA member login to access the submission site and submit your proposal. If you do not have a member login, you can create one or contact Member Success at 800-999-2782.

Acceptance of speaker responsibilities:

If your proposal is selected for an educational session or preconference course, you will be asked to sign a form agreeing to speaker responsibilities. Please be mindful of deadlines related to your proposed sessions.

- Every speaker or co-speaker must sign their speaker agreement(s) in their Speaker Center in Confex, if accepted for a session/course.
- You agree to meet all deadlines (deadline reminders will be sent to chairs); however,
- If you cannot meet a deadline, you must contact APTA Events Programming staff at eventprogram@apta.org with notification.
- Please include reference to your academy/section and the title of your approved session or course in all communications to streamline processing by staff.

Speaker registration benefits:

If your proposal is accepted, speakers of that session may be eligible for registration benefits through APTA. Information will be communicated in your Confex Speaker Centers and you will be reminded of what items will be needed leading up to CSM 2027. Please read all of the information provided on this process before taking any registration actions.

APTA Academy/Section Program Chairs (as of December 31, 2025)

APTA Component	Contact	Email
APTA Acute Care, an academy of the American Physical Therapy Association	*Enjeen Woolford, PTA James Crick, PT, DPT	enjeen@gmail.com James.crick@osumc.edu
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APTA Academy of Clinical Electrophysiology & Wound Management	*Neely Sullivan Deborah Wendland, PT, DPT, PhD	nsullivan@selectrehab.com wendland_dm@mercer.edu
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APTA Federal, a section of the American Physical Therapy Association	*Laura Riebel, PT, DPT, MBA	Laura.k.honan@gmail.com
APTA Geriatrics, an academy of the American Physical Therapy Association	*Jake Raecker, PT, DPT Emma Phillips	Jake.raecker.dpt@gmail.com ochs.emma@gmail.com
APTA Hand and Upper Extremity Physical Therapy, an academy of the American Physical Therapy Association	*Marisa Pontillo, PT, PhD, DPT	pontillo77@gmail.com handspc@handpt.org

APTA Home Health, an academy of the American Physical Therapy Association	Nikki Gilroy, PT, DPT	Nikki.Gilroy@pennteam.upenn.edu
APTA Leadership & Innovation, a component of the American Physical Therapy Association (formerly known as the Health Policy & Administration Section)	*Allison Kellish, PT, DPT, PhD Neeka Menard, PT, DPT, MHA	Neekamenard@gmail.com
Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy	*Heather Salon, PT, DPT Rebecca Martin, PT, DPT, PhD Rebecca (Becky) Bliss	hsalon@partners.org rmartin@wildfirept.com rbliss@kumc.edu
APTA Oncology, an academy of the American Physical Therapy Association	*Jeannette "Jet" Lee, PT, PhD Laura Leigh Fuss	jetlee@sfsu.edu Laura.leigh.fuss@gmail.com
Academy of Orthopedic Physical Therapy	Jay Grimes, PT, DPT, PhD, ATC	grimesj@sacredheart.edu
APTA Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy	*Stacey Marguerite, PT, DPT Kimberly Klug, PT, DSc	stacey@staceypediatrics.com kklug@carrollu.edu
APTA Pelvic Health, an academy of the American Physical Therapy Association	*Ariana Alexander, PT, DPT Truly Moore, PT, DPT	programming@aptapelvichealth.org csm2@aptapelvichealth.org
APTA Private Practice, a section of the American Physical Therapy Association	*Kate Spencer, PT, DPT	Kate.Spencer.pt@gmail.com
APTA Academy of Research, a component of the American Physical Therapy Association	Harshavardhan Deoghare LaDarius Woods, PT, DPT, PhD	Harsha.deo@gmail.com ldwoodspt@gmail.com
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*Indicates this person is serving as chair when more than one contact is listed.

Last Updated: 03/17/2026

Contact: eventprogram@apta.org