

Call for Poster and Platform Abstracts

2026 APTA Combined Sections Meeting
Feb. 12-16, 2026 | Anaheim, California



The specialty academies and sections of the American Physical Therapy Association hereby issue a Call for Poster and Platform Abstracts.

Proposal submission deadline: July 15, 2025, 11:59 p.m. PT

Visit [Submissions](#) for more information and to submit your abstract for poster and/or platform presentations.

Definitions. Posters are displayed for two (2) hours during a pre-assigned date and time during the conference. Assignment are made by the academy/section. Platform presentations are oral presentations of approximately five to 15 minutes. The schedule of platform presentations is coordinated by each academy's/section's program chair.

Authors and fees. A \$50 fee is collected at the time of submission for each abstract. The fee is not refundable. This defrays a portion of APTA's submission site cost.

- Individuals may submit up to two abstracts as presenting author but are allowed unlimited submissions as a secondary author.
- If an abstract is accepted for presentation as either a poster or a platform, the presenter must register for APTA CSM. There is no waiver of registration fees for presentation of a poster or platform.
- Each abstract can only be submitted to one academy/section; multiple submissions to different academies/sections may result in rejection of your abstract.

Submission. All abstracts must be submitted online. In the submission, you may specify your preferred presentation format (poster or platform). Each academy/section reviews abstracts submitted and makes the final decision regarding presentation format and date/time. After submission, abstracts cannot be sent to other academies/sections for review.

Note: Submitters are expected to ensure that all information is correct at the time of submission.

- Author information will appear exactly as submitted in all APTA CSM publications. Contact co-authors to ensure the accuracy of their information **before** finalizing your submission.

Abstracts are intended to represent scientific research, or noncommercial content, related to clinical practice. Advertisements are not acceptable. Abstracts require presenter/author information, including email (APTA profile email is preferred), credentials, contact information, institution(s), city, and state. Ensure that your contact information is correct, as all correspondence relating to submissions will occur via email. **If you are in your final year of school, use your personal email!** Notifications will be sent to the presenting author by Oct. 1, 2025.

New for 2026. Those submitting **Research Reports** will be asked to choose one Key Area that corresponds to the APTA Research Agenda for Physical Therapy. The six key areas are detailed below, and you can see more about the [APTA Research Agenda for Physical Therapy](#) (linked at left):

1. Population Health Research—Health within and across populations and generations; health disparities, social determinants of health, and the impact of health promotion or prevention efforts.
2. Mechanistic Research—Biological or behavioral processes, pathophysiology, or an intervention's mechanism of action.

3. Clinical Research—Diagnostic procedures, interventions, protocols, practices, technology, and factors affecting outcomes.
4. Education and Professional Development Research—Learning processes, human attributes, and institutions that shape educational and professional development outcomes.
5. Health Services Research—Social factors, financing systems, organizational structures and processes, technologies, and behaviors affecting healthcare access, quality, costs, and well-being.
6. Workforce Research—Workforce growth and attrition, provider demographics and characteristics, organizational structures and practice environments, geographical distribution of providers, and utilization of services.
7. None of the above—Please glance at the summary of the [APTA Research Agenda for Physical Therapy](#) before selecting this option.

Required Fields

Research Report

- Title.
- References.
- Abstract text:
 - Purpose/Hypothesis.
 - Number of subjects.
 - Materials and methods.
 - Results.
 - Conclusions.
 - Clinical relevance.

Case Study Report

- Title.
- References.
- Abstract text:
 - Background and purpose.
 - Case description.
 - Outcomes.
 - Discussion.

Special Interest Report

- Title.
- References.
- Abstract text:
 - Purpose.
 - Description.
 - Summary of Use.
 - Importance to members.

Theory Report

- Title.
- References.
- Abstract text:
 - Purpose.
 - Description.
 - Summary of Use.
 - Importance to Members.

Submitting Your Abstract

- Titles are limited to 15 words. There is a limit of 3,125 characters for the text of your abstract submission, including spaces. This does not include authors, institutions, or references.
- For references, provide a minimum of five to seven current bibliographic references that are no more than seven years old (2018 and later).
- APTA membership requirement: If none of the authors are active APTA members, you must add a sponsor who is an APTA member. Contact the academy/section research chair (listed below) if you need a sponsor.
- **If you are a student in your final year, use your personal email. Do not use your school email!**
- If you have questions concerning content for a specific section, contact the academy/section research chair using the information below.

APTA Academy/Section Research Chairs (as of May 5, 2025) *indicates primary contact

APTA Component	Contact	Email
APTA Acute Care, an academy of the American Physical Therapy Association	Barbara Smith, PT, PhD	barbie3169@yahoo.com
APTA Academy of Aquatic Physical Therapy	Marty Biondi, PT, PhD	martybiondi14@aol.com
APTA Academy of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Physical Therapy	Aaron Thrush	thrusha@clevelandclinicabudhabi.ae
APTA Academy of Clinical Electrophysiology & Wound Management	Deborah Wendland, PT, DPT, PhD	wendland_dm@mercer.edu
APTA Academy of Education, a component of the American Physical Therapy Association	Michael Buck, PT, MSPT, ATC, PhD	mbuck@binghamton.edu
APTA Federal, a section of the American Physical Therapy Association	Ignacio Gaunaurd, PT, MSPT, PhD	igaunaurd@med.miami.edu
APTA Geriatrics, an academy of the American Physical Therapy Association	Jessie Van Swearingen, PT, PhD, FAPTA	jessievs@pitt.edu
APTA Hand and Upper Extremity Physical Therapy, an academy of the American Physical Therapy Association	*Ann Lucado, PT, PhD Saurabh Mehta	lucado_am@mercer.edu mehtas1@etsu.edu
APTA Home Health, an academy of the American Physical Therapy Association	Konrad Dias, PT, DPT, PhD	k.dias@csus.edu
APTA Leadership & Innovation, a component of the American Physical Therapy Association	Allison Butcher	allisonhall2012@gmail.com
Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy	Emily Fox, PT, DPT, PhD	ejfox@phhp.ufl.edu
APTA Oncology, an academy of the American Physical Therapy Association	Steve Morris, PT, PhD Linda Koehler, PT, PhD Andrew Ray, PT, PhD	gsmorris.onc@gmail.com koeh0139@umn.edu andrew.ray@roswellpark.org
Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy	*Jeff Taylor, PT, DPT, PhD John Borstad	jtaylor@orthopt.org borstadj@oregonstate.edu
APTA Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy	*Monica Rivera, PT, MSPT, DSc Alyssa Fiss, PT, PHD	morivera@mail.fresnostate.edu afiss@twu.edu
APTA Pelvic Health, an academy of the American Physical Therapy Association	Laura LaPorta, PT, PhD	llaporta@regis.edu
APTA Private Practice, a section of the American Physical Therapy Association	This section does not have posters or platform sessions.	
APTA Academy of Research, a component of the American Physical Therapy Association	Jena Ogston, PT, PhD	jogston@css.edu
American Academy of Sports Physical Therapy	Mark Paterno, PT, PhD, MBA Stephanie Di Stasi, PT, PhD	mark.paterno@cchmc.org Stephanie.distasi@osumc.edu

Contact: eventprogram@apta.org