GOALS THAT REPRESENT THE PRIORITIES OF THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

Goal I: Physical therapists are universally recognized and promoted as the practitioners of choice for persons with conditions that affect movement and function.

Goal II: Physical therapists are universally recognized and promoted as providers of fitness, health promotion, wellness, and risk reduction programs to enhance quality of life for persons across the life-span.

Goal III: Academic and clinical education prepares doctors of physical therapy who are autonomous practitioners.

Goal IV: Physical therapists are autonomous practitioners to whom patients/clients have unrestricted direct access as an entry-point into the health care delivery system, and who are paid for all elements of patient/client management in all practice environments.

Goal V: Research advances the science of physical therapy and furthers the evidence-based practice of the physical therapist.

Goal VI: Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants are committed to meeting the health needs of patients/clients and society through ethical behavior, continuing competence, collegial relationships with other health care practitioners, and advocacy for the profession.

Goal VII: Communication throughout the Association enhances participation of and responsiveness to members and promotes and instills the value of belonging to the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA).


These goals are based upon APTA Vision Statement for Physical Therapy 2020 (Vision 2020) developed by the Association in 2000. The goals encompass the Association’s major priorities as it moves toward realization of the ideals set forth in Vision 2020. The Board is committed to these
goals as the foundation from which to lead the Association. The Association’s awareness of cultural diversity, its commitment to expanding minority representation and participation in physical therapy, and its commitment to equal opportunity for all members permeate these goals. These goals are not ranked and do not represent any priority order.

Relationship to Vision 2020: Autonomous Practice, Direct Access, Practitioner of Choice, Doctor of Physical Therapy, Evidence Based Practice, and Professionalism; (Executive Department, ext 8516)

[Document updated: 01/27/12]

Explanation of Reference Numbers:
BOD P00-00-00-00 stands for Board of Directors/month/year/page/vote in the Board of Directors Minutes; the "P" indicates that it is a position (see below). For example, BOD P11-97-06-18 means that this position can be found in the November 1997 Board of Directors minutes on Page 6 and that it was Vote 18.