Evolution of the Conference
Motivation for Conference Translational Research

➢ To improve human health, scientific discoveries must be translated into practical applications. Such discoveries typically begin at the “bench” with basic research……then progress to the clinical level, or the patient’s “bedside.”

➢ Scientists are increasingly aware that the bench to bedside approach to translational research is really a two-way street.

Motivation for Conference Knowledge Translation

- “Providing evidence from clinical research is necessary but not enough for the provision of optimal care.”

- The common element… is a move beyond the simple dissemination of knowledge. Knowledge creation and knowledge dissemination are not enough on their own to ensure the use of knowledge in decision-making.

Straus, Tetroe and Graham (2009)
Motivation for Conference From the APTA Strategic Plan

- Enhance APTA’s ability to identify and create the necessary infrastructure to support clinically oriented data collection and analysis that will lead to the enhancement of the provision of physical therapy services.
History

- Advocacy Academy (2007) - Questions in response to presentation by Yvonne Maddox, PhD, Deputy Director, NICHD, indicated that there was no consensus on how to create the optimum strategy to enhance translational research.

- Daofen Chen, PT, PhD suggested that APTA sponsor a conference to develop infrastructure.
History (cont’d)

➢ The Planning Group formed to outline the goals and format of the Conference.

Joan Bohmert
Gerard Brennan
Becky Craik
Tony Delitto
Edee Field-Fote

Charles Magistro
Chris Powers
Rich Shields
Daofen Chen
Ralph Nitkin
The Group met twice

- The format of the first meeting was quite different from where we are now... much more emphasis was placed on what needs to be done in the academic environment to increase research productivity of each of the education programs.

- Between the first and second meetings, the thinking of the Group on the goals of the Conference changed.
The second meeting essentially came away with a series of goals that will serve as the incentives for what we hope to accomplish over the next three days.

- Understanding the importance of a systematic approach to data collection.

- Develop model of what a data set for the process of care would look like.
History (cont’d)

☑ Ensure that participants understand what is meant by translational research.

☑ Reinforce Planning Group’s belief that research and practice are **Functions** that allows the roles of each to be clear and how they interact with each other to achieve synergy to enhance practice.
So, Where Are We Now

- Historically, researchers were off building their CV’s and criticized by clinicians for being “elitist.”

- We can’t exist like that any more if we want to advance the profession.

- Researchers should answer questions clinicians want answered.
Clinicians aren’t blameless either.

They are obligated to practice in a manner that is supported by evidence, not simply what they are comfortable doing or what may be biologically plausible.
So, Where Are We Now (cont’d)

However, clinicians and researchers are not as different as they think:

- Jules Rothstein, PT, PhD, FAPTA, in a presentation at 1991 Combined Sections Meeting, compared hypothesis testing to confirming a diagnosis. This resonated with the entire audience.
**So, Where Are We Now (cont’d)**

- Alan Jette, PT, PhD, FAPTA, made the point in his talk that knowledge dissemination does not equal knowledge utilization.

- We need to adopt strategies that will allow us to be able to translate knowledge into practice.
Vitalizing Practice and Research

- Presentations revolved around a number of similar themes
  - “If you can’t measure it, it doesn’t exist”
  - “You can’t improve what you don’t measure” (Delitto)
  - “You can only manage what you measure” (Brennan)
Vitalizing Practice and Research (cont’d)

✓ “We need to improve collaboration” (Baumgaertner)

✓ “Collaboration is essential” (Baumgaertner)

✓ “Involve everyone” (Hunter)
Paul A Rockar, Jr, PT, DPT, MS, has created partnerships with an academic program to create clinical research sites that will allow him to conduct clinical research that can evaluate efficacy and cost.

Mike Johnson, PT, PhD, OCS, has spoken to a definition of quality of care that implies generating evidence and practicing based on the evidence.
Vitalizing Practice and Research (cont’d)

- Joan A Bohmert, PT, MS, among other things, asked us to “ask the right questions.”
  - However, we need to be aware of the difficulties of continuing from a research “theme” to the articulation of a precise question.
Vitalizing Practice and Research (cont’d)

- Susan Horn, PhD, and Pamela Peele, PhD, talked about how, by asking the right questions and involving clinicians in the process, not only will clinical outcomes be achieved, but there will be cost savings as well. Susan also addressed the concept of Evidence Based Practice.

- This led to Larry Benz, PT, DPT, MBA, ECS, talk about designing a practice based on clinical excellence, as well as introducing the concept of patient loyalty, rather than patient satisfaction.
Future

- So, the goal of the conference is to develop the infrastructure that will allow us to create, disseminate, and use knowledge to enhance practice.

- The value of the conference will be evaluated during the upcoming years.

- These two days will not be the end of the process.
Thank You