FOR THOSE WHO MEASURE SUCCESS IN MILESTONES, APTA’S PAST YEAR WAS IMPRESSIVE: MEMBERSHIP GAINS, ADVOCACY WINS, NATIONWIDE EXPOSURE FOR OUR #CHOOSEPT CAMPAIGN, AND MORE.

BUT EVEN MORE IMPRESSIVE IS THE WAY WE ACCOMPLISHED WHAT WE DID—THROUGH A COMMITMENT TO WORKING TOGETHER, SHARING IDEAS, AND LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER. THOSE QUALITIES ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY MILESTONE, BECAUSE THOSE QUALITIES ARE THE FOUNDATION FOR ACHIEVEMENT.

AS YOUR PRESIDENT, I REMAIN HUMBLED BY ALL YOU HAVE DONE TO SUPPORT OUR PROFESSION AND OUR ASSOCIATION, AND I’M HONORED THAT YOU HAVE ALLOWED ME THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING YOU.

WHEN WE LOOK AT THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO COME, AS WE MOVE BOLDLY TOWARD OUR FUTURE, WE MUST NEVER FORGET WHAT MADE 2017 SUCH A SUCCESSFUL YEAR.

JUST AS PHYSICAL THERAPY MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR OUR PATIENTS AND CLIENTS, COLLABORATION MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR OUR ASSOCIATION. LET’S MOVE FORWARD—TOGETHER.

APTA PRESIDENT SHARON L. DUNN, PT, PhD
BOARD-CERTIFIED ORTHOPAEDIC CLINICAL SPECIALIST
2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

GROWING STRONGER

We reached a milestone when APTA membership surpassed the **100,000 active member mark** with a year-over-year **growth rate not seen since 1994**. This good news is about more than just numbers: increased involvement means a stronger professional voice, more diverse perspectives to inform decisions, and growing opportunities for sharing knowledge. And, thanks to a streamlined system, it’s easier than ever for new or returning members to belong.

**100,000+ MEMBERS STRONG!**

**MORE GROWTH**

Combined Sections Meeting in San Antonio was another record breaker, with more than **11,000 registrants**. And 2017 ended with more than 13,000 already registered for CSM 2018 in New Orleans.

APTA’s new Financial Solutions Center helps members better understand financial planning and potentially qualify for **lower student loan interest rates**.

Learning Center webinars have been upgraded to a flipped classroom format that increases interaction with presenters.

**IN THE WORKS**

Coming in 2018: a **new system for volunteering** with more opportunities for engagement at the national and component levels.
ADVOCATING FOR THE PROFESSION

With the support of engaged members and components, we helped prevent Medicare changes that threatened patient access to home health care, opened the door for PTAs to participate in the Department of Defense’s TRICARE program, influenced increases in values for CPT evaluation codes, and minimized payment cuts generated by the American Medical Association’s review of “misvalued” codes.

MORE ADVOCACY

APTA joined a successful effort to move the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services away from an orthotics and prosthetics proposal that would have reduced patient options and placed additional burdens on PTs.

APTA launched efforts to have PTs and PTAs recognized as highly qualified providers of population health services to employers.

APTA developed a Utilization Management Toolkit to help members who deal with insurers that contract with third-party vendors of utilization management programs.

IN THE WORKS

APTA continues to urge Congress to follow through on legislation to end a hard cap on Medicare payment for physical therapy services.
ADDRESSING AN EPIDEMIC

The #ChoosePT campaign continued to educate the public about nonopioid options for pain. The award-winning television and radio public service announcements received nearly $5 million in donated airtime, reaching more than 377 million Americans in 45 states and the District of Columbia.

APTA chapters and members extended the #ChoosePT message—from chapter-sponsored events to crowd appearances on “Good Morning America” and “Today.”

APTA joined other national efforts to address the epidemic, including the Opioid Stewardship Action Team and the Integrative Pain Care Policy Congress, and participated in meetings with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, among others.

Pain is personal.
Treating pain takes teamwork.

#ChoosePT
MoveForwardPT.com

IN THE WORKS

Coming in 2018: Stay tuned for new #ChoosePT TV and radio public service announcements.
2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

IMPROVING OUTCOMES

The Physical Therapy Outcomes Registry launched in 2017. This game-changer is positioned to become the most extensive centralized repository for physical therapy outcomes data, which will inform clinical decisions, track outcomes, and demonstrate the value of physical therapist services. APTA is collaborating with sections to develop condition-specific outcomes modules.

MORE EVIDENCE

APTA continued to collaborate with sections to develop clinical practice guidelines (CPGs).

PTNow’s ArticleSearch was upgraded to provide rapid discovery of full-text scientific literature from across multiple evidence-based repositories.

Physical Therapy (PTJ), APTA’s scientific journal, got a makeover through a partnership with Oxford University Press. Readers of PTJ experience enhanced web features and virtual issues as the journal moves to be online-only by 2019.

IN THE WORKS

Coming in 2018: Several new CPGs will move from development to release, including a guideline on total knee arthroplasty developed in collaboration with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.
WORKING TOGETHER

APTA, chapters, and the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy collaborated to achieve a history-making goal: adoption of the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact in 14 states. That is more than enough to begin establishing a system that will allow PTs and PTAs to practice in multiple states under a single license and privilege arrangement.

MORE COLLABORATION

APTA’s Board of Directors recommended that the Education Leadership Partnership—represented by APTA, the Education Section, and the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy—explore the future of physical therapy education.


ALSO IN 2017

APTA’s 180 staff at the association’s headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, participated in APTAServe, an in-house volunteer initiative to benefit the local community and charities.
2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

APTA turns 100 in 2021. We are looking to our future by thinking about our past—a proud history built by the pioneers of our profession who made bold moves on behalf of their patients and clients. Meanwhile, we’re setting our sights on our own bold moves toward the centennial—and the next 100 years.

HIGHLIGHTS

APTA prepared to build the workplace and workforce for the future through the construction of a new association headquarters set to open in 2021 and a commitment to a workplace culture that values collaboration, dedication, and compassion.

APTA appointed a centennial steering committee to plan for a 100th birthday celebration in 2021 that will shine a spotlight on the physical therapy profession.

APTA continued to protect our history through a comprehensive digitization effort—preserving documents, photographs, and other media from the profession’s first 100 years.

IN THE WORKS

APTA will enhance efforts to improve the profession’s diversity and to empower the next generation of PTs and PTAs through expanded engagement opportunities.
APTA members make this association the dynamic organization it is. This year, our members were energized, engaged, and devoted to transforming society. The results speak for themselves.

The commitment that drew us to the physical therapy profession is the same commitment that drives us to improve the lives of our patients and clients through APTA. It’s the same commitment that drives us to think about where we could take this profession in the future. Collectively, we are a force.

I am grateful to be able to serve our profession and you, our members. Thank you for an outstanding year.

Justin Moore, PT, DPT
APTA CEO
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

For APTA’s House of Delegates (House), the future is now.

During its 3-day session, the 2017 House passed motions that articulated the PT’s professional scope of practice, set in motion an investigation into an innovation program, and made commitments to increase diversity and inclusiveness in the profession, among other policies. The common thread: nearly every approved motion had implications for the profession’s future.

Of note was the adoption of a definition of the PT professional scope of practice, the culmination of a multiyear effort to capture all that PTs do without resorting to a list of activities that risked missing something or becoming outdated. This definition completes the association’s effort to recharacterize how the profession thinks about scope-of-practice issues under 3 domains: personal scope (what the PT is educated, trained, and personally competent to perform), jurisdictional scope (the activities associated with physical therapy in state practice acts), and professional scope, a more global description of the practice of physical therapy.

Other actions taken by the House included a call for a plan to help ameliorate the administrative burdens placed on PTs; expansion of a policy to emphasize the PT’s role in disability evaluation and determination for purposes such as transportation, employment, and insurance; and bylaws changes that permit chapters to assign full representation to representatives of PTAs, and that allow more chapter membership flexibility for APTA members who are uniformed personnel, or whose spouses or partners are in the uniformed services.

COMPONENT COLLABORATION

The leaders of APTA components inspire members to advocate for the profession, connect and learn from one another, and make a difference in society. They also assemble throughout the year to ensure efforts are aligned for the greatest impact. In 2017, they met virtually and at Combined Sections Meeting and NEXT to discuss issues such as:

- APTA’s collective identity and culture as the association approaches its centennial in 2021
- Strategies to reach 100,000 members in 2017—and we did it!
- Increasing diversity at all levels of APTA
- Forging fruitful relationships with other entities
- Providing member resources through APTA’s Financial Solution Center
- Envisioning an innovative future for clinical education
- Engaging members in meaningful ways

Successful collaborations among components and APTA included support of the #ChoosePT campaign against opioid abuse, such as those undertaken by the Kentucky, Florida, and Oregon chapters; piloting a combined leadership retreat among Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire chapter leaders; hosting joint conferences such as the Tennessee and Georgia chapter meeting; the Education Leadership Partnership with the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy, the Education Section, and APTA; supporting the Physical Therapy Outcomes Registry; and developing joint chapter and section programming.

Another 2017 success story is the adoption of the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact in 10 additional states (after 4 adopted the compact in 2016). This triggered the formation of the Physical Therapy Compact Commission in April and began the implementation process. It is anticipated that individual licensees will be able to start applying for compact privileges through the commission in the first half of 2018.

APTA thanks all of our volunteers across the organization. You are APTA. We are better together.
WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2018

1. REGISTRY RISE
Through continued integration of electronic health record systems, increased alignment with clinical practice guidelines, and ongoing onboarding of clinicians, the Physical Therapy Outcomes Registry will impact patient care across the country.

2. MIPS REPORTING
PTs could be required as early as 2019 to report quality measures through the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). Voluntarily reporting in 2018 will help PTs prepare, provide benchmarking data, and benefit APTA’s advocacy efforts to involve PTs in the move toward value-based care.

3. ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT MODELS
In the shift to value-based payment, PTs will see the adoption of alternate payment models (APMs) across all settings. Even though PTs that bill Medicare Part B aren’t yet eligible for MIPS, they can join an APM and reap their potential bonus payments.

4. ACCURATE CPT CODING
Entering the second year of tiered CPT codes for physical therapy evaluation, accuracy and consistency will be key. Data will inform possible value adjustments in the future and will reflect emerging new payment systems.

5. FOCUS ON DIVERSITY
After the Celebration of Diversity raised more than $60,000 for the Minority Scholarship Fund during its 25th anniversary event in 2017, APTA will continue working on a comprehensive plan to increase diversity and inclusiveness in the profession.

6. TRANSFORMING SOCIETY
The 2018 Honors and Awards ceremony at NEXT Conference and Exposition in Orlando will recognize the first-ever recipients of 2 new APTA awards: the Humanitarian Award and the Societal Impact Award—both showing how members are transforming society, per APTA’s vision for the profession.

7. INTERSTATE COMPACT GROWTH
With the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact infrastructure moving into place, PTs and PTAs in participating states could start applying for state-crossing practice privileges later in 2018.

8. OPIOID ALTERNATIVE
The #ChoosePT public awareness campaign is ongoing, and so too are APTA’s efforts to best position PTs to collaborate with other health care providers to ensure people with pain have safe and effective alternatives to opioids.

9. NEW COUNCIL
The Council on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Wellness joins the existing Council of Health Systems Physical Therapy and the Frontiers in Rehabilitation Science and Technology Council to provide networking opportunities and alignment of efforts related to APTA’s mission and vision.

10. MORE ENGAGEMENT
A new volunteering system will provide expanded opportunities for engagement as APTA continues to develop a nationwide community of active members who are dedicated to transforming society.