



March 31, 2021

President Joseph Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Vice President Kamala Harris
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President and Madame Vice President:

On behalf of the 100,000 members of the American Physical Therapy Association, we write to commend you and your administration on your actions to address the impact of the SARS-CoV-2 virus on our nation, communities, and citizens. Your leadership to increase access to vaccinations and to promote effective public health practices has been extraordinary.

The next phase of this public health challenge must address the required rehabilitation and recovery of individuals impacted by the virus.

On March 18, 2021, the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation sent a letter to you urging the development of a comprehensive national crisis plan to address the needs of people with post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2, or PASC, which has previously been called "long COVID." APTA stands in support of AAPM&R and the three major components needed for a crisis response: resources to build necessary infrastructure; equitable access to care for all patients; and continued funding for research that advances medical understanding of PASC.

This is a critical time to act to address the health of the individual and ensure our path to recovery as a country. PASC has significant and growing ramifications on our health systems and economy. An incomplete response has the potential to exacerbate the opioid crisis and racial and ethnic health disparities. As AAPM&R states, this will require national leadership, a multidisciplinary approach, and collaboration across the health community.

APTA was proud to serve on the Obama administration's opioid workgroup, and we are committed to assisting this effort and joining forces with the administration, Congress, and the rest of the health professional community to help establish and implement a national action plan to address this current health emergency.

APTA urges your administration to take immediate action to ensure that people with PASC have access to the care they need. The physical therapy profession has a proud history of helping our nation move forward from tragedy — from the wounds of war, from infectious diseases such as polio, and from an overreliance on dangerous prescription drugs. We stand ready to collaborate with you and our health professional colleagues to advance the health of our country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon L. Dunn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharon L. Dunn, PT, PhD
President