

Candidate Statement – Candidate for President



Matthew R. Hyland, PT, PhD, MPA

Question: What uniquely qualifies you for the role of President, and how does that contribute to the association's vision, mission, and strategic plan?

Response:

Sitting in the 2013 House of Delegates, I was inspired by our vision: "Transforming society by optimizing movement to improve the human experience." I knew then, if that's where we wanted to go, I wanted to be part of the team to lead us there. And now, as a 7 year Board member, including the last 3 as your Vice President, I believe I am the best candidate to advance the meaningful work that is underway towards achieving that goal.

At my core I am collaborative and strive to build consensus when leading teams such as PPAC. And, I have a demonstrated a track record of progressive leadership at all levels of our Association, from serving as local district chair to two-term chapter president of New York to being a member of the APTA Board of Directors for the past seven years.

When Dr. Tom McPoil delivered his McMillen lecture, he highlighted the dearth of physical therapy scholars. He defined a scholar as an individual who is an educator who maintains a clinical practice, lives a life of service and has an active scholarly agenda. As a clinician of 28 years, and private practice owner for 23 of those who is currently an educator with an active research agenda and still seeing patients, my career's journey has led me to become a leader with the knowledge and commitment to our Vision and have demonstrated the ability to see the entire landscape of our profession, or as Dr. McPoil put it, a physical therapy scholar.

During my Board service, we have faced many challenges and had to make important and sometimes difficult decisions: parting ways with our previous CEO; creating a contemporary and functional work environment for our APTA Staff; creating a new Association brand; and leading the profession through the pandemic. But now, we have even more critical issues to tackle. APTA is a microcosm of society, with both good qualities and ones needing improvement. The lack of diversity, equity and inclusion across our profession needs to be a priority for the next President and Board. We need to find new ways to address this fundamental issue. At the same time, we need to lead the way to help our members with unfair and burdensome productivity standards, and ongoing issues surrounding practice and payment. My leadership at the chapter and APTA board levels have given me the experience, knowledge, skills and perspective that make me uniquely qualified to be your President in addressing these challenges.

Our profession is, and will, continually face changes in the environment within which we operate and we must evolve in response to those changes. Reimbursement that affects practice viability and productivity standards that create ethical dilemmas leading to burnout must be addressed. We must be ready to address the anticipated external changes impacting our profession coming from a new Federal Administration and CMS, as well as the US healthcare system in a post-pandemic world. With clarity in our vision, mission, strategic plan, and advocacy needs I am excited by the opportunity to lead the APTA in meeting these challenges and turning them into opportunities.

Over the past couple of years, House/Board and Board/staff relationships have become stronger and more cohesive than ever, leading to an increased clarity of roles, respect, and collaboration combined with a laser focus on our Mission and Vision as we execute our strategic plan. We are in a very good position as an Association, our internal relationships are strong in our Federated model, and we are enhancing external relationships to advance the profession.

While we have made significant progress over the past several years, there is still more to do to strengthen our internal relationships with components. This includes greater alignment and collaboration of APTA, CAPTE, PT education, FSBPT and clinical practice. I am a staunch believer in our DE&I initiative, workforce planning, and aggressively addressing practice and payment challenges. We need to push the boundaries of clinical practice to allow us to practice at the top of our license, and make clinical practice easier by working to decrease administrative burden, decreasing student loan debt, and creating emphasis on quality versus quantity.

I believe that I have the knowledge, leadership experience and the commitment to lead our association and profession to achieve even greater heights as we enter our next 100-years. I know who we are and what we do and together we will move the profession forward.

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