



APTA Honors and Awards

BOD Y04-21-03-01 [Amended Y12-20-03-21; Y04-20-06-07; BOD Y07-17-04-04; BOD Y04-13-03-09; BOD Y06-08-01-01; BOD Y03-07-02-02; BOD Y03-07-02-01; BOD 11-06-05-05; BOD Y03-05-04-06; BOD 05-02-02-02; BOD 04-98-01-01; BOD 08-95-01-01; BOD 11-92-09-40; BOD 03-85-24-87; Initial BOD 11-84-11-51 (consolidated BOD 03-84-19-70 and BOD 04-79-03-05); BOD 11-78-02-03] [Policy]

The American Physical Therapy Association, through its Honors and Awards Program, formally recognizes individuals, institutions, and APTA components (chapters, sections, and assemblies) whose contributions to the profession or to the association are outstanding, substantial and satisfy the approved criteria for the honor or award.

The association's honors and awards provide national attention and recognition for the contributions of the recipients, and they serve to enhance the reputation and public awareness of the entire profession. For individual members so recognized, association honors and awards represent the highest level of peer recognition.

I. Purposes of Honors and Awards

The purpose, eligibility requirements, criteria and procedures for each association honor or award shall be approved by the Board of Directors. The purpose of each association honor or award, including the specified nature of the contribution to be recognized, shall be stated clearly and shall not duplicate the purpose of any other association honor or award.

The purposes of association honors and awards shall be to:

- A. Recognize only the most outstanding contributions of individuals within particular categories representing the profession or the association as a whole, or representing specific areas in or related to practice, education, research, or to the literature in physical therapy.
- B. Serve as an incentive for the association's members and components (chapters, sections, and assemblies) in their achievement of outstanding and substantial contributions to the profession or to the association.
- C. Formally recognize outstanding and substantial contributions to the profession of institutions that are independent of the association.

II. Eligibility Requirements, Criteria, and Procedures for Honors and Awards

- A. The criteria for each association honor or award shall be clear, precise, measurable, related to the purpose of the honor or award, and useful in identifying the highest level of attainment of the contribution to be recognized.
- B. The procedures for each association honor and award shall be appropriate for the purpose, eligibility requirements, and criteria of the honor and award, except that the following procedures shall apply to all honors and awards:
 1. All association honors and awards requiring the submission and receipt of nominations or applications shall have a single, common due date for receipt, as well as a single, common, and identified program, unit, or individual within the association's headquarters to which or to whom to direct the nominations and applications.
 2. Nominations for an honor or award may be submitted by individual association members, chapters, sections, assemblies, or others.
 3. Nominations for each award and for the membership class Catherine Worthingham Fellow will be considered by Awards Committee subcommittees appointed by the Board of Directors.
 4. The members of each Awards Committee subcommittee will review its assigned award nominations and recommend potential recipient(s) to the Board of Directors for final approval. For all awards, the names of all individuals nominated for the honors and awards including those

- recommended by the Awards Committee subcommittees, will be presented to the Board of Directors for consideration and final approval.
5. The members of the Catherine Worthingham Fellows Subcommittee will review the nominations received for this membership category and submit all names nominated for the membership category, including those recommended by the subcommittee, to the Board of Directors for final election.
 6. Determination of award recipients by the Board may be accomplished by voting in person, via electronic means, or by a hybrid of both.
- C. The eligibility requirements for each association honor and award:
1. Shall require membership in APTA if the honor or award is made to individuals who should be expected to satisfy [Membership Qualifications Prescribed by the Board of Directors](#) for any membership category other than Honorary; and
 2. Shall exclude from eligibility, during their respective terms or periods of service as outlined below:
 - a. APTA employees (exception: an association employee shall not be excluded if the services that constitute the basis for the award nomination were performed at a time when the individual was not an APTA employee);
 - b. Members of the Awards Committee Subcommittees having review or recommendation functions with respect to the awards under their purview;
 - c. Members of the Catherine Worthingham Fellows Subcommittee with respect to nominations for the Catherine Worthingham Fellow membership category;
 - d. Members of the Board of Directors; and
 - e. Former APTA Board members who are within 12 months following their retirement from the Board.
 3. A posthumous award may be awarded at any time to a deceased member as long as they were a current member at the time of death. The Board of Directors may make an exception to this criterion if there are extenuating circumstances pertaining to current membership at the time of death.
 4. Those who are closely associated with a nominee in either a personal or professional manner where a conflict of interest may exist, are required to recuse themselves during discussion and voting concerning that nominee. In addition, the following groups shall not nominate, write letters of support, or endorse members or nominees for awards or for the membership categories Catherine Worthingham Fellow and Honorary Member:
 - a. Current members of each Awards Committee subcommittee with respect to the honor or award(s) under their respective purview.
 - b. Current APTA staff members.
 - c. Current members of the Board of Directors.
 5. The final election or selection of recipients for all association honors and awards shall be as set forth in V. APTA Honors and VI. APTA Awards.
 6. Due to the sensitive nature of the review and election or selection process for national honors and awards, members who serve on the Awards Committee subcommittees shall keep all deliberations confidential. The recommendations presented by the Awards Committee subcommittees to the APTA Board of Directors and the decisions of the Board pertaining to the election or selection of honorees or awardees will be final, and the reasons for those recommendations and decisions shall not be disclosed.
 7. The confidentiality of association honors and awards recipients, except for the Mary McMillan Lecture Award, shall be maintained until the recipients have received official notification from the APTA Board of Directors. The confidentiality of the Mary McMillan Lecture Award shall be maintained until the announcement is made at an official APTA national event.
 8. An association honor or award need not be given annually.
- D. The purposes and criteria of association honors and awards shall be reviewed and evaluated periodically to determine if the criteria are accomplishing the stated purposes and if they conform to this Policy on Honors and Awards.
1. All recommendations including discontinuation of an honor or award will be presented by the Awards Committee subcommittees and association staff to the APTA Board of Directors, or Physical Therapy Fund Board of Directors as appropriate, for final approval.

III. Guiding Principles for Honors and Awards

Association honors and awards given to individuals shall be subject to the following guiding principles:

- A. The granting of an association honor or award to an individual shall not preclude that individual from being considered for, or being given, any other association honor or award at the same time or at another time.
- B. No more honors or awards will be given than the number identified for each honor or award. An award recipient may receive no more than two awards in APTA's Honors and Awards Program in the same program cycle.
- C. Recipients will be recognized at an official APTA national event.
- D. Recipients of the Mary McMillan Lecture Award and John H.P. Maley Lectureship Award must present these lectures at an official APTA national event, and therefore selection is contingent on the recipient's ability to attend the national event at which the lecture is scheduled.
- E. Nominations for awards considered by the Awards Committee subcommittees and not selected for an award during the first year of submission are eligible to be resubmitted for the next year's Honors and Awards Program (i.e., one year after the original nomination submission), if the nominee continues to meet the eligibility and criteria for selection for the award. Staff will review nominations for continued eligibility. Resubmission of nominations for an award in subsequent years (i.e., after the second year of consideration) will require that the nominee continue to meet the eligibility and criteria for selection for the award, the consent of the nominator, and an update of the nomination package. (Exceptions are the Mary McMillan Scholarship Award, Minority Scholarship Award, Dorothy Briggs Memorial Scientific Inquiry Award, Chattanooga Research Award, and Jack Walker Award).
- F. Honors and awards presented at the annual Honors and Awards Ceremony shall be the newly selected Catherine Worthingham Fellows, recipients of the Mary McMillan Scholarship Award and Minority Scholarship Award, and recipients of the association's Honors and Awards Program. Whenever possible, individuals for whom APTA awards are named shall be invited to present the award at the Honors and Awards Ceremony. Reimbursement requests for travel costs incurred by presenters will be reviewed per compliance with APTA's established protocols.

IV. Funding

- A. For the honors and awards, funding shall be through the general funds and subsidiaries of the association.
- B. For a corporate-sponsored award originating from an organization external to the association, funding shall be borne fully by that organization.

V. APTA Honors

The following honors have been established by the Bylaws of the American Physical Therapy Association.

- A. Catherine Worthingham Fellows of the American Physical Therapy Association
The purpose of this honor and the provision that members are elected as a Catherine Worthingham Fellow by a ballot vote of at least two-thirds of the entire membership of the Board of Directors, are stipulated in the Bylaws of the American Physical Therapy Association, Article IV. Membership, Section 1: Categories and Qualifications of Members, J. Catherine Worthingham Fellows of the American Physical Therapy Association.
- B. Honorary Membership
The purpose of this honor is stipulated in the Bylaws of the American Physical Therapy Association, Article IV. Membership, Section 1: Categories and Qualifications of Members, I. Honorary.

VI. APTA Awards

The following awards have been established by APTA's Board of Directors.

- A. Education Awards
 1. Dorothy E. Baethke-Eleanor J. Carlin Award for Excellence in Academic Teaching
This award acknowledges an individual who has made significant contributions to physical therapy education through excellence in academic teaching as exemplified in the professional and teaching careers of Dorothy E. Baethke and Eleanor J. Carlin.
 - a. Criteria for Selection
Nominees for this award must demonstrate:
 - 1) Exceptional teaching effectiveness in the academic setting;

- 2) Distinct expertise in at least one subject area to which the academic teaching has been directed; and
 - 3) Excellence as a role model for academic teaching for students, faculty, and clinicians.
- b. Criteria for Eligibility
Nominees for this award must be:
- 1) Physical therapists who have been actively engaged in teaching physical therapist students (entry or advanced level) or physical therapist assistant students in formal education for at least five years;
 - 2) Clinical or academic educators and have a faculty appointment of any rank (part-time or full-time) or receive compensation for their teaching responsibilities; and
 - 3) In an academic setting with one or more accredited physical therapist or physical therapist assistant education programs, or advanced level programs for physical therapists, from which students earn an academic qualification.
2. Signe Brunnström Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching
This award acknowledges an individual who has made significant contributions to physical therapy clinical education through excellence in clinical teaching, has served as a role model in clinical teaching, and has demonstrated expertise in at least one area of practice to which the clinical teaching has been directed as exemplified in the professional and teaching career of Signe Brunnström.
- a. Criteria for Selection
Nominees for this award must demonstrate:
- 1) Exceptional teaching effectiveness in the clinical setting;
 - 2) Excellence as a role model in clinical teaching; and
 - 3) Distinct expertise in at least one area of practice to which the clinical teaching has been directed.
- b. Criteria for Eligibility
Nominees for this award must be:
- 1) Physical therapists who have been actively engaged in clinical teaching of physical therapist students (entry or advanced level) or physical therapist assistant students for at least five years;
 - 2) Center coordinators of clinical education or clinical instructors, and must be employed or self-employed in a clinical setting (individuals holding full-time faculty appointments within an academic setting are not eligible for the award);
 - 3) In a clinical setting, under an arrangement or contract with one or more accredited physical therapist or physical therapist assistant education programs, or advanced level programs for physical therapists, and must occur with students earning academic qualifications; and
 - 4) Distinct experts in at least one area of practice to which the clinical teaching has been directed.
3. F.A. Davis Award for Outstanding Physical Therapist Assistant Educator
This award recognizes the importance of the role of physical therapist assistant educators in ensuring the continued provision of graduates who participate in the provision of high-quality physical therapist services. The award is intended to encourage physical therapist assistant educators to provide their students with the best foundation possible to serve as productive members of the health care team.
- a. Criteria for Selection
Nominees for this award must demonstrate:
- 1) Commitment to physical therapist assistant education and to their students;
 - 2) Commitment to the advancement of physical therapist assistant education through participation in activities occurring at the state and national level;
 - 3) Current or past participation in activities that serve to advance, promote, and define physical therapist assistant education; and
 - 4) Commitment to service and to the profession.
- b. Criteria for Eligibility
Nominees for this award must:

- 1) Teach, or have taught, in an accredited physical therapist assistant education program from which students earn an academic degree, or in a developing physical therapist assistant education program that has established a formal liaison with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.
4. Margaret L. Moore Award for Outstanding New Academic Faculty Member
To acknowledge an outstanding new faculty member who is pursuing a career as an academician and has demonstrated excellence in research and teaching as exemplified by the professional career of Margaret L. Moore.
 - a. Criteria for Selection
Nominees for this award must demonstrate:
 - 1) Distinct expertise in at least one subject area to which research and teaching efforts have been directed;
 - 2) Past, current, and potential contributions to scholarly activities;
 - 3) Teaching excellence in the academic setting; and
 - 4) Commitment to service to the institution and to the profession.
 - b. Criteria for Eligibility
Nominees for this award must:
 - 1) Be physical therapists who, from the starting date of their first academic appointment as core faculty until the time of nomination, have been actively engaged in teaching physical therapist (professional or postprofessional) or physical therapist assistant students for two to five years;
 - 2) Have a full-time academic faculty appointment of any rank;
 - 3) Be employed in an academic setting within one or more accredited physical therapy education programs or an advanced level program for physical therapists from which students earn an academic degree; and
 - 4) Possess distinct expertise in at least one subject area to which research and teaching efforts have been directed.
5. Outstanding Physical Therapist Fellow Award
This award honors recent fellowship graduates in order to recognize the intrinsic value of postprofessional training, and thereby promote and provide for the development and accreditation of fellowship education programs in physical therapy.
 - a. Criteria for Selection
Nominees for this award must:
 - 1) Demonstrate evidence of current and potential contributions to the physical therapy profession;
 - 2) Exemplify ethical standards of professional conduct and the core values that distinguish physical therapy as a caring profession;
 - 3) Demonstrate promotion of best practice patterns within clinical practice through teaching, mentoring, and scholarly work;
 - 4) Have made contributions to the American Physical Therapy Association at the national, component, and/or district levels; and
 - 5) Demonstrate dedicated service to the community through activities that enhance quality of life, function, and societal well-being.
 - b. Criteria for Eligibility
Nominees for this award must be:
 - 1) Current APTA members in good standing at the time of nomination and selection;
 - 2) Within two years immediately following graduation from a fellowship program accredited by the American Board of Physical Therapy Fellowship Education. This period includes the one year preceding the nomination;
 - 3) Nominated by a representative of an ABPTRFE-accredited physical therapist residency and/or fellowship education program. Self-nominations are not permitted for this award; and
 - 4) Licensed or regulated as required by the jurisdiction where the nominee is practicing.
6. Outstanding Physical Therapist Resident Award

This award honors recent residency graduates in order to recognize the intrinsic value of postprofessional training and thereby promote and provide for the development and accreditation of residency education programs in physical therapy.

a. Criteria for Selection

Nominees for this award must demonstrate:

- 1) Evidence of current and potential contributions to the physical therapy profession;
- 2) Promotion of ethical standards and professional conduct;
- 3) Promotion of best practice patterns within clinical practice through teaching, mentoring, and scholarly work;
- 4) Contributions to the American Physical Therapy Association at the national, component, and/or district levels; and
- 5) Dedicated service to the community through activities that enhance quality of life, function, and societal well-being.

b. Criteria for Eligibility

Nominees for this award must be:

- 1) Current APTA members in good standing at the time of nomination and selection;
- 2) Within two years immediately following graduation from an ABPTRFE-accredited residency program. This period includes the one year preceding the nomination;
- 3) Nominated by a representative of an ABPTRFE-accredited physical therapist residency education program. Self-nominations are not permitted for this award; and
- 4) Licensed or regulated as required by the jurisdiction where the nominee is practicing.

7. Minority Initiatives Award

This award recognizes the plans, initiatives, and services developed by accredited physical therapist professional education programs or physical therapist assistant education programs in the areas of recruitment, admission, retention, and graduation of minority students; the recruitment and retention of minority faculty; and the provision of services that can assist students of racial and ethnic minority groups.

a. Criteria for Selection

Applicant programs for this award must demonstrate that:

- 1) The program has developed planned, comprehensive initiatives that assist in the recruitment, admission, retention, and graduation of minority students, and that demonstrate effectiveness, achievement, and a sustained level or increase in the number of minority students over a period of at least three years; and/or that the program has developed planned, comprehensive initiatives that can sustain or increase the number of minority faculty recruited, employed, and retained over a period of at least three years;
- 2) The program has developed initiatives that provide services that assist students and/or faculty from racial and ethnic minority groups; and
- 3) The physical therapist professional education program or the physical therapist assistant education program provides institutional support for the initiatives and efforts put forth by the program being nominated.

b. Criteria for Eligibility

Applicant programs for this award must be:

- 1) Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association. Initiatives that assist minority students or faculty must have been ongoing for at least three years.

B. Lecture Awards

1. John H.P. Maley Lectureship Award

This award acknowledges and honors a physical therapist member of the American Physical Therapy Association who has made a significant contribution to the profession in the area of clinical practice.

a. Criteria for Selection

Nominees for this award must demonstrate:

- 1) A recognized and significant contribution to physical therapy in the area of clinical practice; and
- 2) Acknowledged skills in the organization and presentation of written or oral communications and the ability to present a worthy lecture.

b. Criteria for Eligibility

Nominees for this award must:

- 1) Be physical therapists who are current members of the American Physical Therapy Association; and
- 2) Have made a distinguished contribution to the profession of physical therapy in an area of clinical practice.

2. Mary McMillan Lecture Award

This award acknowledges and honors a member of the American Physical Therapy Association who has made a distinguished contribution to the profession and provides the recipient with an opportunity to share their achievements and ideas with members through a lecture presented at an APTA national event.

a. Criteria for Selection

Nominees for this award must have made distinguished contributions to the profession of physical therapy in the following areas:

- 1) Administration: the skilled process of planning, directing, organizing, and managing human, technical, environmental, and financial resources effectively and efficiently. Administration includes the management, by individual physical therapists, of resources for patient and client management and for organizational operations.
- 2) Education: the process of imparting information or skills and instructing by precept, example, and experience so that individuals acquire knowledge, master skills, or develop competence. In addition to instructing patients and clients as an element of intervention, physical therapists may engage in education activities such as the following: planning and conducting academic education programs for physical therapists, other providers, and students; planning and conducting education programs for local, state, and federal agencies; and planning and conducting programs for the public to increase awareness of issues in which physical therapists have expertise.
- 3) Patient Care (Patient and Client Management): providing services to patients and clients who are at risk for, or who have, impairments, functional limitations, disabilities, or changes in physical function and health status relating to injury, disease, or other causes. The physical therapist integrates the five elements of patient and client management – examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, and intervention – in a manner designed to optimize outcomes and promote health, wellness, and fitness.
- 4) Research (Critical Inquiry): the process of applying the principles of scientific methods to read and interpret professional literature; participate in, plan, and conduct research; evaluate outcomes data; and assess new concepts and technologies. Examples of critical inquiry activities include analyzing and applying research findings to physical therapy practice and education; disseminating the results of research; evaluating the efficacy and effectiveness of both new and established interventions and technologies; and participating in, planning, and conducting clinical, basic, or applied research.

b. Criteria for Eligibility

Nominees for this award must be:

- 1) Physical therapists who are current members of the association.

c. Procedure for Selection

The Mary McMillan lecturer shall be elected by a confidential ballot vote of the Board with at least two-thirds of the entire membership of the Board voting in the affirmative for the award.

C. Practice/Service Awards

1. APTA Humanitarian Award

This award recognizes association members whose demonstrated leadership and outstanding humanitarian volunteerism have improved the quality of life of individuals throughout the world. This award specifically rewards individuals who embody and apply the compassionate nature of the physical therapy profession by actively expressing a commitment to humanity and exhibiting admirable degrees of selflessness in their efforts to address key health concerns.

a. Criteria for Selection

Nominees for this award must demonstrate:

- 1) Extraordinary humanitarian services and volunteerism;
- 2) Activities that exemplify the advancement of physical therapy; and

- 3) Sustainable activities that benefit humanity and demonstrate advocacy for promoting greater quality of life and expansive reach.
 - b. Criteria for Eligibility
Nominees for this award must be:
 - 1) Current APTA members in good standing at the time of nomination and selection; and
 - 2) Able to detail and record activity that spans a period of at least one year preceding the nomination for the award.
2. APTA Societal Impact Award
This award recognizes and rewards association members who demonstrate leadership, commitment and dedication to addressing issues related to societal welfare. This award specifically recognizes individuals who exemplify the compassionate nature of the physical therapy profession by exhibiting a distinguished commitment toward philanthropic initiatives, raising public awareness on key societal issues, and demonstrating how physical therapy can be applied to address these issues.
 - a. Criteria for Selection
Nominees for this award must demonstrate:
 - 1) Activities to address and positively impact societal welfare;
 - 2) Contributions through leadership, influence, service, or achievements and sustained efforts to improve the societal welfare over a period of at least one year preceding the nomination for the award; and
 - 3) Philanthropic initiatives and advancement of physical therapy through activities of a high moral caliber and charitable nature.
 - b. Criteria for Eligibility
Nominees for this award must be:
 - 1) Current APTA members in good standing at the time of nomination and selection; and
 - 2) Able to detail and record activity that spans a period of at least one year preceding the nomination for the award.
3. Lucy Blair Service Award
This award acknowledges and honors physical therapist and physical therapist assistant members of the association whose contributions to the association at both the national and component levels, like those of Lucy Blair, have been of exceptional value.
 - a. Criteria for Selection
Nominees for this award must demonstrate:
 - 1) Contributions and service in the realm of any area(s) of concern to the association as a whole or to the association's components, or elements relative to the national association; and
 - 2) Contributions made through an individual's service on one or more elected or appointed groups, in one or more elected or appointed positions, and/or in one or more other capacities at the national and component levels of the association.
 - b. Criteria for Eligibility
Nominees for this award must be:
 - 1) Current APTA members in good standing at the time of nomination and selection.
 - c. Procedure for Selection
The Lucy Blair Service Award recipient shall be elected by a confidential ballot vote of the Board with a majority of Board members voting in the affirmative for selection.
4. Henry O. and Florence P. Kendall Practice Award
This award acknowledges an individual who has made outstanding and enduring contributions to the practice of physical therapy as exemplified by the professional careers of Henry O. and Florence P. Kendall.
 - a. Criteria for Selection
Nominees for this award must demonstrate:
 - 1) Duration of clinical practice;
 - 2) Effect on shape, scope, and quality of physical therapist practice;
 - 3) Effect on other physical therapists' ability to practice;
 - 4) Effect on the development of physical therapy as a caring profession; and
 - 5) Quality and quantity of contributions to the association.

- b. **Criteria for Eligibility**
Nominees for this award must have:
 - 1) Engaged in extensive clinical practice for at least 15 years;
 - 2) Positively and substantially affected the shape, scope, and quality of physical therapist practice;
 - 3) Had an impact on other physical therapists in a manner that has significantly increased their abilities to practice physical therapy; and
 - 4) Contributed to the overall and widespread development of physical therapy as a caring profession.
- 5. **Marilyn Moffat Leadership Award**
This award acknowledges and honors a physical therapist who has made sustained and outstanding leadership contributions at the component, national, international, or community levels that have had an impact upon the advancement of the physical therapy profession.
 - a. **Criteria for Selection**
Nominees for this award must demonstrate:
 - 1) Significant leadership that has had a lasting impact on the development and progression of the physical therapy profession;
 - 2) Leadership contributions that were sustained and continuous over a 15-year period or more;
 - 3) Contributions leading to a measurable change, revitalization of an idea resulting in change, or creation of an opportunity for change within the physical therapy profession;
 - 4) Exceptional leadership ability within the physical therapy profession through service to their local community, to APTA and its components, or to international physical therapy associations, through elected or appointed groups, elected or appointed positions, or other volunteer capacities; and
 - 5) Recognition by peers for their service and contributions to the physical therapy profession and association.
 - b. **Criteria for Eligibility**
Nominees for this award must have:
 - 1) Sustained and continuous positive leadership contributions over a period of 15 years or more; and
 - 2) Leadership contributions of an exceptional value to the Association and to the physical therapy profession.
- 6. **Outstanding Physical Therapist-Physical Therapist Assistant Team Award**
This award recognizes outstanding clinical practice interaction between physical therapists and physical therapist assistants who are a part of a highly functional PT-PTA Team.
 - a. **Criteria for Selection**
Nominees for this award must demonstrate:
 - 1) A PT-PTA team relationship characterized by trust, mutual respect, adaptability, cooperation, and an appreciation of individual and cultural differences;
 - 2) A relationship that involves direction, supervision, and effective communication;
 - 3) A relationship that has been enhanced through mentoring, continuing education, and professional development; and,
 - 4) A positive effect on the quality of physical therapy care provided to patients/clients in their practice setting as a result of their ability to work as a team; and,
 - 5) Contributions to the enhancement of the overall delivery of physical therapy services in their practice setting as a result of their teamwork.
 - b. **Criteria for Eligibility**
Nominees for this award:
 - 1) Must have been engaged in providing clinical services for at least three years;
 - 2) Must be licensed or regulated if required by the jurisdiction where the individual is working; and
 - 3) May include one or more physical therapists and one or more physical therapist assistants.
- 7. **Outstanding Physical Therapist Assistant Award**

This award acknowledges and honors a physical therapist assistant member of the American Physical Therapy Association who has made a significant contribution to the profession in the area of clinical practice.

a. Criteria for Selection

Nominees for this award must demonstrate:

- 1) Contributions to the former Affiliate or National Assemblies, PTA Advisory Panel, the Representative Body of the National Assembly, PTA Caucus, and the American Physical Therapy Association, at the national, component, and/or district levels;
- 2) Service to the community through activities that enhance quality of life and function;
- 3) Representation and promotion of the role of the physical therapist assistant through education, practice, and/or research as a part of the PT-PTA team;
- 4) Promotion of ethical standards and professional conduct among peers, students, and patients and clients;
- 5) Pursuit of career development through continuing education (courses, workshops, in-services, etc.); and
- 6) Service as a role model and inspiration to patients and clients, peers, and students to perform at, or strive to achieve, their optimal potential.

b. Criteria for Eligibility

Nominees for this award must have:

- 1) Been engaged in providing clinical services for at least five years under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist;
- 2) Been licensed or regulated if required by the jurisdiction where the individual is working; and
- 3) Experience working in more than one practice or educational setting.

D. Publications Awards

1. Dorothy Briggs Memorial Scientific Inquiry Award

This award recognizes a physical therapist member of APTA for an outstanding article in Physical Therapy prepared while they were a student.

a. Criteria for Selection

The following criteria will be used to evaluate all nominated articles:

- 1) The article is written clearly and concisely;
- 2) There is a clear theoretical basis for the paper;
- 3) The review of literature and other introductory statements provide evidence for the importance of the paper to physical therapy;
- 4) Elements in the paper are described with sufficient clarity to permit replication by others; and
- 5) The paper represents a useful contribution to the knowledge base of physical therapy.

b. Criteria for Eligibility

- 1) Authors of eligible manuscripts must have been APTA members at the time of the manuscript's publication and at the time of nomination. Authors need not have been APTA members at the time of data collection and manuscript preparation;
- 2) All articles authored and published in Physical Therapy during the current year are eligible, except Literature Reviews, Professional Perspectives, and Clinical Perspectives, provided that the studies were undertaken when the principal author was a student in an educational institution and that the articles to be judged are part of the requirements of the educational program in which the student is enrolled. If the paper has more than one student author, each will be considered a co-winner of the award, if otherwise eligible. If more than one article has been written for a study and these articles were published in the same year, then the primary author can designate that the articles be judged as one article for the purpose of this award. If the additional articles have different principal authors then these articles may be considered as separate candidates for the award; and
- 3) Any manuscript meeting the criteria will be considered if the primary author is eligible for the award, even when co-authors are not members of the association.

2. Chattanooga Research Award

This award encourages the publication of outstanding physical therapy research articles, including both basic and clinical research.

a. Criteria for Selection

Nominated articles must:

- 1) Demonstrate a significant contribution to physical therapy;
- 2) Present a novel and innovative research study or theoretical model that addresses an important area of physical therapy;
- 3) Have a clearly stated purpose with supportive rationale and appropriate methodology;
- 4) Clearly present the results and/or theoretical framework with appropriate discussion of application and impact on clinical practice or future physical therapy research; and
- 5) Be well organized, and clearly and concisely written.

b. Criteria for Eligibility

- 1) The first author of eligible papers must have been an APTA member at the time of the manuscript's publication and at the time of nomination. The first author need not have been an APTA member at the time of data collection and manuscript preparation;
- 2) For papers with multiple authors, each author who is eligible for the award will be considered a co-winner of the award;
- 3) All reports of scientific studies authored and published in Physical Therapy during the current year are eligible, provided that the studies were not undertaken for obligatory academic requirements when the authors were students;
- 4) Candidates for this award will designate that their articles be considered for the Chattanooga Research Award rather than the Jack Walker Award. Candidates can be eligible for only one award for a given article; and
- 5) Case studies and case reports do not meet the purpose and intent of the award.

3. Jules M. Rothstein Golden Pen Award for Scientific Writing

This award recognizes a member who has demonstrated superior writing skills in one or more articles published in Physical Therapy, and who has collaborated with or encouraged others to make similar contributions to Physical Therapy.

a. Criteria of Selection

Nominees for this award must:

- 1) Be a physical therapist who has made a significant contribution to health care by writing in the areas of theory, practice, basic or clinical research, education or administration;
- 2) Have published in at least two different health care professional journals or contributed to at least two books, monographs, or proceedings from scientific meetings;
- 3) Reflect in their scientific writing expertise of subject matter, innovation of ideas, and clarity of expression; and
- 4) Provide electronic examples of the nominee's published writings. These examples should be from health profession publications, both within and outside the discipline of physical therapy. Publications can include scientific journals, books, monographs, or proceedings from scientific meetings, podcasts, webinars, online courses, and other publications.

b. Criteria for Eligibility

Nominees for this award must have:

- 1) Demonstrated superior writing skill in one or more articles published in Physical Therapy. The writing excellence may be reflected in one particularly unique, classical contribution or in a series of articles designed to develop further knowledge within a content area or conceptualization; and
- 2) Collaborated with or encouraged others to make similar contributions or contributed outstanding leadership and effort in initiating activities to improve Physical Therapy.

4. Helen J. Hislop Award for Outstanding Contributions to Professional Literature

This award acknowledges an individual physical therapist who has made significant contributions to the literature in physical therapy or in other health care disciplines in the areas of theory, practice, basic or clinical research, education, and administration as exemplified by the professional career of Helen J. Hislop.

a. Criteria for Selection

Nominees for this award must:

- 1) Be a physical therapist who has made a significant contribution to health care by writing in the areas of theory, practice, basic or clinical research, education, or administration;
- 2) Have published in at least two different health care professional journals or contributed to at least two books, monographs, or proceedings from scientific meetings;
- 3) Reflect in scientific writing expertise of subject matter, innovation of ideas, and clarity of expression; and
- 4) Provide electronic examples of published writings. These examples should be from health profession publications, both within and outside the discipline of physical therapy. Publications can include scientific journals, books, monographs, or proceedings from scientific meetings, podcasts, webinars, online courses, and other publications.

b. Criteria for Eligibility

Nominees must have been:

- 1) Actively engaged in writing and publishing professional literature for a sustained period of not less than 10 years.

5. Jack Walker Award

This award encourages the publication of outstanding articles on physical therapy in *Physical Therapy*, the official journal of the American Physical Therapy Association.

a. Criteria for Selection

Nominated articles must:

- 1) Make an important contribution to the understanding of clinical practice and patient care, or illuminate issues related to patient care and advances the clinical science underlying physical therapist practice; and be able to be judged primarily on the basis of its impact on clinical practice;
- 2) Provide information that can assist others in delivering physical therapist services; and
- 3) Contain clear descriptions of clinical procedures or approaches that can be understood by others, and contain supportive rationales for, and experiences with, the procedure or approaches used.

b. Criteria for Eligibility

- 1) All reports relating to clinical practice authored and published in *Physical Therapy* during the current year are eligible. Primary authors of reports who were students at the time of publication are eligible, provided that the studies were not undertaken for any obligatory academic or degree requirements. All types of journal reports related to clinical practice are eligible, including case reports, clinical perspectives, technical reports, updates, and research reports that have meaningful impact on clinical practice. Special series reports and invited literature reviews are also eligible;
- 2) First authors of eligible papers must have been an APTA member at the time of the manuscript's publication and at the time of nomination. First authors need not have been an APTA member at the time of data collection and manuscript preparation;
- 3) If a paper has multiple authors, each author who is eligible for the award will be considered a co-winner of the award; and
- 4) Candidates for this award will designate on the nomination form that their articles be considered for the Jack Walker Award rather than for the Chattanooga Research Award. Candidates can be eligible for only one award for a given article.

E. Research Awards

1. Eugene Michels New Investigator Award

This award acknowledges outstanding new investigators who have demonstrated a commitment to research relevant to physical therapy as exemplified in the professional and research career of Eugene Michels.

a. Criteria for Selection

Nominees for this award must have:

- 1) Independent or collaborative research activities that are relevant to the field of physical therapy;
- 2) Research activities that have taken place after completion of all formal education, or postprofessional doctoral fellowship (whichever was completed last) will receive the most weight;
- 3) Receipt of grant funding and extramural funding will be considered;

- 4) Research activities that have present or future impact upon the profession, to include, if possible, ways in which the accomplishment has impacted and will impact specific members, components (chapters, sections or assemblies), or the practice or teaching of content related to the field; and
 - 5) Accomplishments through authorships in peer-reviewed journals, or in poster, platform, workshop presentations in appropriate scientific forums.
- b. Criteria for Eligibility
Nominees for this award must:
- 1) Be licensed physical therapists;
 - 2) Have been engaged in independent research activities for not more than 10 years after completion of their physical therapist degree, postprofessional doctoral degree (other than a transition DPT degree), or postprofessional doctoral fellowship, whichever was completed last (i.e., from the year the degree is granted until the year the nomination for this award is submitted); and
 - 3) Be employed in any aspect of physical therapy including, but not limited to, research, education, clinical practice, and consultation.
2. Marian Williams Award for Research in Physical Therapy
This award acknowledges an individual who has made significant contributions to physical therapy through excellence in research as exemplified by the professional and research career of Marian Williams.
- a. Criteria for Selection/Eligibility
Nominees for this award must have:
- 1) Made outstanding basic clinical and/or educational research that pertains to physical therapy and is sustained for at least 10 years and makes a meaningful contribution to the scientific basis of physical therapy;
 - 2) Grant funding and extramural funding will also be considered;
 - 3) Published scientific studies with sufficient frequency in appropriate scientific and/or professional publications;
 - 4) Presented his/her scientific studies orally with sufficient frequency to the appropriate audiences; and
 - 5) Demonstrated continuity of professional commitment to physical therapy.
- F. Scholarship Awards
1. Mary McMillan Scholarship Award
This award acknowledges and honors outstanding physical therapist and physical therapist assistant students who are nearing the completion of their respective programs of study. The scholarship program contributes to the growth of physical therapy as a profession by recognizing individuals with superior capabilities.
- a. Criteria for Selection
Nominees for this award must demonstrate:
- 1) Superior scholastic performance;
 - 2) Past productivity;
 - 3) Evidence of potential contribution to physical therapy; and
 - 4) Service to the American Physical Therapy Association.
- b. Criteria for Eligibility
Nominees for this award must be:
- 1) Physical therapist students or physical therapist assistant students who, by the start of the annual Honors and Awards nomination process, are enrolled in the final year of study in a CAPTE-accredited PT or PTA program (or for PTA programs with a part-time curriculum, the final year of the curriculum), based on each institution's determination of the minimum number of credit hours required for final year status, and are within 12 months of completing all requirements for graduation from the program in which they are enrolled;
 - 2) Nominated by a PT or PTA program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. Students are not eligible to nominate themselves; and
 - 3) The only nominee from the PT or PTA program in which they are enrolled. Only one physical therapist student and one physical therapist assistant student may be nominated from each academic institution.

2. Minority Initiatives Scholarship Award

This award recognizes physical therapy students currently in their final year of an accredited program, and faculty members who are pursuing post professional doctoral degrees for their professional character and academic excellence.

a. Criteria for Selection

Nominees for this award must demonstrate:

- 1) A commitment to advancing and positively impacting minority affairs;
- 2) Academic excellence;
- 3) Dedication and service to the profession and association; and
- 4) Evidence of contributions in the areas of minority affairs and services and high scholastic achievement.

b. Criteria for Eligibility – Student Nominees

Nominees for this award must:

- 1) Be physical therapist students and physical therapist assistant students who, by the start of the annual Honors and Awards nomination process, are enrolled in the final year of study in a CAPTE-accredited PT or PTA program (or for PTA programs with a part-time curriculum, the final year of the curriculum), based on each institution's determination of the minimum number of credit hours required for final year status, and are within 12 months of completing all requirements for graduation from the program in which they are enrolled;
- 2) Be U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents and a member of one of the following racial/ethnic minority groups: African American or Black, Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Hispanic/Latino or Latina; and
- 3) Potential for superior achievements in the profession of physical therapy, as well as professional excellence as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant.

c. Criteria for Eligibility – Faculty Nominees

Individuals who have previously received the Minority Faculty Development Scholarship Award in prior years are not eligible to be nominated again.

Nominees for this award must:

- 1) Be physical therapists and full-time faculty members, teaching in an accredited or developing professional physical therapist education program, who at the time the award is presented will have completed a minimum of two full semesters or three full quarters of postprofessional doctoral course work;
- 2) Be U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents and a member of one of the following racial/ethnic minority groups: African American or Black, Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native and Hispanic/Latino;
- 3) Possess a current license to practice physical therapy in a U.S. jurisdiction or have met all the requirements for licensure in a U.S. jurisdiction;
- 4) Be enrolled as a student in a regionally accredited postprofessional doctoral program whose content has a demonstrated relationship to physical therapy; and
- 5) Demonstrate a commitment to further the physical therapy profession through teaching and research.

G. Advocacy Awards

1. APTA Public Service Award

This award recognizes public servants who have enhanced the profession of physical therapy.

a. Criteria for Eligibility

Nominees for this award may be from the following groups:

- 1) Members of Congress or their congressional staff;
- 2) Members of a state legislature or executive branch;
- 3) Federal agency officials;
- 4) Health or legislative association staff external to APTA; or
- 5) Celebrities or other public figures who have contributed to the profession of physical therapy in an area of clinical practice.

2. Federal Government Affairs Leadership Award

This award:

- 1) Recognizes outstanding achievements by APTA members in advancing the association's federal government affairs objectives and activities;
 - 2) Increases awareness among APTA members of the objectives and importance of the association's efforts to advocate policies and priorities at the federal government level to preserve and promote the profession of physical therapy; and
 - 3) Provides practical examples how physical therapists and physical therapist assistants can play a significant role in influencing federal health care policy.
- a. Criteria for Selection
- Nominees for this award must demonstrate:
- 1) Success in establishing relationships with members of Congress measured by support for legislation, ability to communicate directly with the member;
 - 2) Active involvement in and contributions to APTA federal government affairs activities;
 - 3) Leadership in grassroots recruiting, organizing, and coordination;
 - 4) Leadership in local press and media education and activities;
 - 5) Support from APTA and component leadership; and
 - 6) Years of service to APTA and component government affairs activities.
 - 7) Significant individual contributions and exemplary leadership in furthering the Association's Federal Government Affairs activities including:
 - a) Developing a professional relationship with a Member of Congress;
 - b) Hosting clinic/facility tours and briefings for Members of Congress and their staff;
 - c) Actively participating in congressional election campaigns; and
 - d) Recruiting, organizing, and assisting other APTA members in becoming more effective advocates and increasing the overall effectiveness the Association's grassroots advocacy efforts.
- b. Criteria for Eligibility
- Nominees for this award must:
- 1) Be an current APTA member in good standing;
 - 2) Be a licensed physical therapist, licensed physical therapist assistant, physical therapist student, or physical therapist assistant student; and
 - 3) Be a role model for other physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and physical therapist/physical therapist assistant students in advocating the profession to patients/clients, federal policy makers, and the public.
3. State Legislative Leadership Award and Recognition of Legislative Commitment
- This award recognizes and rewards component leaders in the area of state legislative leadership who bring increased awareness and involvement to state legislative issues and who achieve success in state legislative issues that strengthen the practice of physical therapy.

From among nominees for the State Legislative Leadership Award who are not selected for the award, the Advocacy Awards Subcommittee, at its discretion, may recommend to the Board a nominee(s) for a Recognition of Legislative Commitment who has, in the judgment of the subcommittee, demonstrated substantial commitment to protecting and advancing physical therapy through state legislative efforts throughout their career.

- a. Criteria for Selection
- Nominees for this award must demonstrate:
- 1) Legislative accomplishments and leadership abilities;
 - 2) Contributions to APTA's state government affairs efforts and those of other components;
 - 3) Chapter support and years of service to component legislative efforts;
 - 4) Grassroots and member involvement;
 - 5) Organizational and communication skills;
 - 6) Significant contributions and leadership in the area of state legislation; and,
 - 7) Being a role model to members in the area of state legislative leadership.
- b. Criteria for Eligibility
- Nominees for this award must:
- 1) Be an active APTA member in good standing; and
 - 2) Be a licensed physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in the state they serve.

Explanation of Reference Numbers:

HOD P00-00-00-00 stands for House of Delegates/month/year/page/vote in the House of Delegates minutes; the "P" indicates that it is a position (see below). For example, HOD P06-17-05-04 means that this position can be found in the June 2017 House of Delegates minutes on Page 5 and that it was Vote 4.

P: Position | S: Standard | G: Guideline | Y: Policy | R: Procedure

Last Updated: 7/29/2021

Contact: governancehouse@apta.org