

# 2022 Candidate Statement – Candidate for Director



John David Childs, PT, DPT, PhD, MBA, FAPTA

Question: What is your vision for the future of APTA, and what knowledge, skills, and abilities do you possess to help us achieve that vision?

## Response:

Over the last 20 years, we have witnessed a remarkable maturation of our profession, achieving APTA's aspirational Vision 2020 to become Doctors of Physical Therapy years ahead of schedule. I look forward to championing a now outward-facing Vision that aspires to reach society as a whole. Specifically, I will support key priorities initiated by the House of Delegates in support of APTA's 2022-2025 strategic plan to 1) increase member value, 2) create a sustainable profession, 3) optimize quality of care, and 4) increase demand and access. For example, as a co-founder and longtime CEO of Evidence In Motion (EIM), we have been on the leading edge of disrupting graduate healthcare education by creating flexible, hybrid models that accelerate the time to degree and prepare students for the workforce 33% faster than their peers. This model also allows students and faculty to live all over the country, facilitating a significantly greater racially and socioeconomic diverse cohort of students compared to the typical residential program. As Director, I will continue to champion innovations in education that actually do something about student debt, increase access and diversity, and maintain the highest quality to encourage our nation's best and brightest to pursue a career in the best profession on Earth.

I will also work tirelessly to increase demand and access for physical therapy services by entrenching physical therapists as the "cultural authority" and first option for managing patients in pain. The country is still facing an opioid crisis whose inception is rooted in our healthcare system's entirely misguided strategy over the last 25 years to manage pain primarily with surgery and highly addictive pharmacologics. Physical therapists are leaders in the non-operative and non-pharmacologic management of pain with a deep and accelerating body of evidence supporting what we do. As Director, I will advocate for the profession in the areas of payment reform, innovation, quality initiatives, and patient outcomes.

I bring a unique mix of business, academic, and professional leadership experience to my role as Director. A recognized leader in the profession, I have focused the last 10-15 years in my role as Co-founder and CEO of EIM and Partner in Confluent Health, which includes EIM, a network of 450+ outpatient physical therapy centers in 25+ states, and Fit for Work, which provides workplace injury prevention services focused on reducing workers' compensation claims. In addition to my business experience, I served 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, during which I completed my PhD at the University of Pittsburgh and served on faculty in the U.S. Army-Baylor Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy. I collaborated on more than \$10 million in grant funding and published more than 150 papers in scientific journals. I've received numerous business, research, and education awards to include being an Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year finalist, San Antonio "Health Care Hero", and the youngest ever Fellow of the American Physical Therapy Association.

Some delegates may perceive me as an atypical candidate since I didn't "grow up" in the House of Delegates, However, I've been passionately involved in APTA for 26 years including many roles with the Private Practice, Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy, Research, and Education Sections. For example, I served on the then Orthopaedic Section's Board and was AAOMPT's Treasurer for a number of years. I served for 10 years as Associate Editor for both the Physical Therapy Journal and Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy. I was a Founding Member of the Physical Therapy Business Alliance, which ultimately evolved into

the Alliance for Physical Therapy Quality and Innovation. I will contribute a highly informed perspective on key issues and won't be shy about offering that perspective. At the same time, I am the ultimate team player and will champion a unified voice even if that voice is contrary to my own personal views.

In closing, I was nominated for Director unbeknownst to me and hadn't given serious consideration to the role until I was informed of my nomination. However, I reflected on my professional journey and realized that now was the time. I'm at a point in my career where I have the flexibility to serve as Director. "No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere" (Teddy Roosevelt). I am honored to be slated as a Director and will bring significant vision, strategy, leadership, perspective, determination, and energy to guide our profession's next stage of evolution.

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