

2022 Candidate Statement – Candidate for Secretary



Marcus Kip Schick, PT, DPT, MBA

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:

My vision for the APTA is to perform as a “best practice” association that excels at its mission: “Building a community that advances the profession of physical therapy to improve the health of society.”

Building a Community

Building a community that supports our current and future members is imperative, especially with initiatives that transform the APTA as a welcoming and inclusive organization. To achieve this aim, the APTA needs to advance its work with strategies and initiatives that ensure our membership, profession, and workforce have diverse representation that allows individuals and groups to engage and contribute in ways that expand our reach, impact, and relevancy.

In 1986, McMillan and Chavis released one of the most cited publications on the “sense of community”, which they described as, “a feeling that members have of belonging, a feeling that members matter to one another and to the group, and a shared faith that members' needs will be met through their commitment to be together.” This description identifies why building a community that supports our members and member groups is so important in achieving our collective potential.

Advancing the Profession of Physical Therapy

Advancing the profession has been a core part of our association since its beginning in 1921 and is likely to be a part of our DNA for as long as our association exists. Our foremothers provided the vision, resources, and infrastructure to develop and grow the profession. Going forward, we can build on the achievements of the past 100 years and continue our on-going work to advance our profession by:

- Elevating clinical practice and wellness through the identification and dissemination of evidence to promote greater impact on the health and wellness of the individuals, groups, and populations we serve;
- Advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) across our association and profession;
- Leveraging technology to be an innovative resource to improve access, the consumer experience, and outcomes;
- Investing in efforts to optimize consumer awareness and recognition of physical therapists as human movement experts;
- Advocating broadly in areas of public policy in which we have relevancy and the ability to impact outcomes, which include issues broader than physical therapy because we gain credibility and influence when our voice extends beyond our ourselves and our profession;
- Achieving higher payment for physical therapist services based on the value we bring to patients, consumers, the health system, and society; and
- Expanding consumer demand and increasing the medical spend on physical therapist services for musculoskeletal conditions to improve health outcomes for individuals and groups while also decreasing total health care cost.

Improving the Health of Society

Improving the health of society is essential to reaching our potential while also ensuring the sustainability of our profession. To do so, we need to use a data driven approach to ensure physical therapist practice is evidence-based. Variation is inevitable, and often necessary, yet we need to drive out unwarranted variation of practice that often leads to sub-optimal outcomes, waste of finite healthcare resources, patient inconvenience, and higher costs.

In a viewpoint from JAMA in 2022, Nundy, Cooper, and Mate call for a focus to advance the quintuple aim, which incorporates the triple aim (first described by Berwick and colleagues in 2008) of improving population health, enhancing the patient experience, and decreasing the per capita cost of care while adding two elements: finding joy in work and advancing health equity. I believe that physical therapy is positioned better than almost any other profession since current evidence validates our ability to influence all aspects of the triple aim. Finding joy in work emphasizes that our workforce must be engaged, motivated, and happy because of the impact that such a disposition has on the care of those with whom we work as well as the long-term health of our workforce. Advancing health equity allows us to support everyone's full health potential regardless of social position or socially determined circumstances.

My Background

The best examples to illustrate how my knowledge, skills, and abilities will help to achieve this vision are:

- My experiences in health system leadership across a broad range of practice settings and professions;
- My service on the APTA Board of Directors, having served one full term as Director and one full term as Secretary as well as my leadership experiences in other positions across APTA's Federated model;
- Engagement in my local community through volunteer service; and
- My track record of being able to listen actively, collaborate effectively, think and act strategically, and achieve results that matter.

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