I am requesting the opportunity to attend the NEXT 2018 Conference and Exposition, the American Physical Therapy Association’s annual national conference. NEXT is the leading-edge event for physical therapy professionals with timely topics, the latest trends in technology, and exclusive access to the profession’s top leaders. The conference will be held June 27-30 in Orlando, Florida. The speakers are noted experts and the sessions are designed to directly benefit attendees, with advanced learning and best practices to take home and act on immediately. Networking is also an important part of this event; because it’s smaller in scale, I’ll have a chance to meet with many leaders in the field, network with my peers from around the country, and advance my professional development.

Educational tracks:
- #BetterTogether
- Career development
- #ChoosePT
- Leadership
- #MovementSystem
- Payment
- Patient care
- Unique populations

Networking events:
There will be many opportunities to network, including the First Timers’ Event with APTA President Sharon Dunn:
- Wednesday: First Timer’s Event and opening reception in the exhibit hall
- Thursday: Welcome coffee with the Early Career Team; poster presentations in the exhibit hall
- Friday: Networking coffee; poster presentations in the exhibit hall
- Saturday: Coffee and conversation with the NEXT Programming Committee

Session highlights include:
- A Head Case: Injury to Integration
- Beyond #ChoosePT: Physical Therapy and the Opioid Crisis
- Emerging Issues in Payment
- Experience Zone Case Studies – What Would You Do
- Experience Zone Mobility Demos – New Tools and Go Baby Go
- Integrating the Movement System Into Practice
- Off the Plinth and on the Field: Progressing the Young Athlete
- What is the Role of Pharmacological Interventions in Pain Management?

And the Oxford Debate! A lively, provocative discussion on a current topic that’s sure to elicit lots of buzz both onsite and once I return.

Registration opens February 8 (www.apta.org/NEXT/registration), and I save money if I register by April 19. I believe NEXT will offer me practical ideas for professional development and collaborating with others. Additionally, I will hear from leaders in the physical therapy profession and connect with colleagues across the country. If you need to know more, you can find information at www.apta.org/NEXT. Thank you for considering my request to attend this important conference.