

Bio:

Dr. Tony Grillo, PT, DPT, OCS, CIMT, FAAOMPT is a Physical Therapist living and practicing in Williamsburg, VA. Tony received his Undergraduate and Master's degree from Nazareth College of Rochester, NY and his Doctorate of Physical Therapy from Virginia Commonwealth University. He has completed an Orthopedic Manual Therapy Fellowship (FAAOMPT) through Regis University in Denver, CO.

Tony is Board Certified in Orthopedic Physical Therapy (OCS), and has advanced certification in Integrated Manual Therapy (CIMT). He is Fellowship-trained in Orthopedic and Manual Physical Therapy and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapists (FAAOMPT). Tony has additional certifications in Dry Needling and Industrial Rehabilitation. In addition to general orthopedics he has a special interest in treatment of the spine, TMD and orofacial pain. Tony has been practicing outpatient orthopedic Physical Therapy for over 18 years and has also done PRN work in acute care, SNF, and home health settings throughout his career. Additionally he serves adjunct teaching roles in the Arcadia University Residency program, as well as teaching post-professional continuing education.

Tony has been a lifelong member and supporter of the APTA and APTA Virginia. He has served the VPTA for 4 years as both local representative and Chapter Chair of the Ethics Committee prior to President-elect and current role as President of APTA Virginia.

In his spare time, Tony enjoys fishing, hiking, cooking, and spending time with his wife Monica, two children Ben and Lily, and his dog Hamilton.

Statement:

From your perspective, what is the biggest challenge of the profession?

I feel that there are currently several challenges in our profession. The most important of these is the lack of support and participation from therapists not only in our state (APTA Virginia) but across the country (APTA). Membership rates throughout the organization are very poor and this has direct impact on our ability to grow as a profession and continue to establish a foothold in healthcare. The privileges and rights we all expect every day are fought for and protected by only a small minority. We have so much to offer patients and enormous potential to be influential within the medical community.

The effects of COVID have not helped this situation, but our state and chapter have weathered the storm in an outstanding fashion, and our membership and professionals are bouncing back as well as can be expected.

Why do you want to serve in the capacity in which you are running for office?

I have always felt strongly about elevating and developing the role of Physical Therapy within the healthcare system. I feel part of my duty as a PT is to give back to my profession and serve the organizations that work so hard to support us each day in practice. Whether you are a

clinician, researcher, manager, or educator, I believe that each of us owes a responsibility to our profession in some manner.

What experiences have you had in APTA, APTA VA, or other organizations that might help you in your elected position?

In addition to serving in the Ethics Committee I have successfully managed several large offices in the private practice setting. Leadership of an organization such as APTA Virginia requires a similar mindset and many of the same skills - whether this is managing a practice or the sound clinical reasoning needed to effectively treat patients. Additionally, having practice experience in a variety of settings I have seen firsthand many of the challenges that face various specialties and can use this experience to serve our chapter.

Finally and most importantly, I have the honor of serving as President/President-elect for the last 2 years. Working with all of the bright and talented individuals in our organization, we have been able to successfully navigate COVID and emerge in a healthy financial position, create and launch new initiatives for continuing education, as well as improve autonomy in our profession with successful legislative efforts. I look forward to being able to continue building on the progress and momentum we have generated over the last few years.