

Dana McCarty, PT, DPT

Board-Certified Clinical Specialist in Pediatric Physical Therapy

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Candidate Statement

I have experience in a variety of leadership roles serving the physical therapy profession. I have been on the board of directors nominating committee for the Academy of Education, where I served as Chair in my final year of the 3 year term; therefore, have experience recruiting and coordinating efforts to build a strong slate of candidates. I am involved across many sections and academies within APTA because of my previous role as DCE, and the multiple roles I currently have as Residency Director, clinician, researcher, and educator. As a result, I have had the opportunity to meet and collaborate with many qualified individuals in APTA who share similar interests and commitments to the profession. It is these connections and shared visions that I will use to effectively recruit APTA members for leadership roles in the Academy of Pediatrics.

In my first 2 years as nominating committee member, I will be eager to learn from the Nominating Committee Chair about what strategies have been effective in past years. I will work with other nom com members to develop a plan through group meetings and will offer insights if helpful. I will also use my networks and various email groups that I am a part of to reach out to as many qualified individuals for positions as possible – this includes (but is not limited to) – Academy of Pediatrics Research Committee, local pediatric PTs, residency and fellowship mentor and graduate networks, research collaborators, and DPT students. As Chair of the Nominating Committee, I will work with other committee members, listen to their ideas, organize meetings and set timelines, and follow up on agenda items to ensure a smooth process. I will commit to attending Board meetings and work to communicate well between committee and BOD leadership.

I have a vision for APTA Pediatrics that includes all pediatric physical therapists. I hope that all pediatric PTs can find a “home” through APTA Pediatrics – whether they have limited or lots of experience. I remember that as a new therapist, it took me a while to find a place where I belonged within the Academy. I think that the Academy has done a great job recently of developing new SIGs and opportunities for members to get involved, which increases the accessibility of the Academy and its resources to wider group of therapists. Providing opportunities to connect members with shared interests via online platforms and making continuing education more accessible and affordable is a great place to start! I also believe that increasing accessibility for members to participate in the Academy will increase diversity within leadership of APTA Pediatrics. I believe this vision aligns well with the APTA Pediatrics mission to “bring people together to advance excellence in pediatric physical therapy.”

Service to the APTA Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy

- Member of APTA Academy of Pediatrics Research Committee; Grant Reviewer for APTA Academy of Pediatrics; Proposal Reviewer for Annual Conference (2017)
- APTA NC Pediatrics SIG Vice Chair

Service to the American Physical Therapy Association

- APTA Academy of Physical Therapy Education
 - Nominating Committee Chair (Board of Directors) (2019-2020)
 - Nominating Committee Member (Board of Directors) (2017-2020)
 - CSM Volunteer (2015-2017, 2019)
- American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education (ABPTRFE)

- Member, Accreditation Committee (Appointed) (2016-2019)

Service to Your Community

- UNC-Chapel Hill
 - Department of Health Sciences
 - Advisory Group Member, Association for Professional Women in Medical Sciences (2022)
 - Member, School of Medicine Social Justice Task Force, Curriculum Development (2021)
 - Member, Clinical Education Committee (2015-2019)
 - Member, Administrative Staff Search Committee (2017)
 - Division of Physical Therapy
 - Member, Clinical Assistant Professor Search Committee (2022)
 - Chair, Pediatric Residency Program Admissions Committee (2015-present)
 - Member, Research Faculty Search Committee (2017)
 - Member, Promotions Committee (2015-2019)
 - Member, Program Evaluation Committee (2015-2019)
 - Faculty Advisor, DPT students and pediatric residents (2015-present)
 - Faculty Mentor, Guatemala Service Learning Trip (2016)
 - Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities
 - LEND Faculty Mentor (2015-2019)
- Other Service
 - Duke Intensive Care Nursery
 - Developmental Care Coach (2013-2015)
 - Member, Patient and Family Centered Care Committee (2012-2015)
 - Member, Developmental Care Committee (2012-2015)
 - Duke Physical and Occupational Therapy
 - Primary Investigator, Department of PT/OT, QI Study – Prevalence of Dolichocephaly in the Duke Intensive Care Nursery (2013-2014)
 - Residency Mentor, Pediatric PT Residency (2012-2015)
 - Presenter, Duke Camp Med (2010-2011)
 - Volunteer, “Active Teens” Pilot Study (2009-2010)