

**Nia Mensah, PT, DPT, PhD**

Board-Certified Clinical Specialist in Pediatric Physical Therapy, Certified Neurodevelopmental Therapist  
[nia.mensah@liu.edu](mailto:nia.mensah@liu.edu)

**Candidate Statement:**

As the current Assistant Director of Clinical Education at Long Island University's DPT program, I have learned a great deal about clinical education over the past four years. I left a position of leadership in a private specialized school in New York City, where we advocated for individualized and appropriate related services for children with brain based disorders. Within clinical education, especially as a pediatric physical therapist, there are various learning opportunities that require a special level of education, compassion, and work ethic. I believe the major shift to improve clinical education will come from knowledge translation between practicing clinicians, clinical experiences for students, pediatric faculty, and infiltration of our research findings with parental collaboration. This is a rare but powerful combination that I believe will lead the next generation to optimal pediatric PT implementation.

My experience serving on the Mentorship and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee has provided me with an introductory foundation of how the administration of the Pediatric PT academy functions and has sparked my interest about nominating myself for a Board position. I believe my recent PhD defense and current position as an Associate professor and ADCE provide the best experience within the role of Director of Academic and Clinical education at this time. Nevertheless, I am open to serving where there is the greatest need within our association if a more qualified candidate is selected.

If I am selected for the role of Director of Academic and Clinical education, I hope to fulfill my role by discussing past successes and areas for improvement with the current leadership before making a plan of action. I intend to discuss the role of family centered care within our clinical education framework and see where there are current gaps in our educational programs. I hope to discuss the importance of cultural competence and identification of implicit bias to address the current health disparities for people of lower socioeconomic backgrounds and those within minority populations. Furthermore, I'd like to discuss and learn about ways we can improve knowledge translation from academicians and researchers with experienced clinicians and new graduates. I do believe increasing membership of practicing clinicians would also need to be addressed, especially those who serve as clinical instructors.

Finally, my vision for the future of Peds APTA coincides with our current mission to "Bring people together to advance excellence in pediatric physical therapy." As we advocate, collaborate, and elevate, we will continue to diversify the leadership of the Board of Directors, Volunteers, Staff, and Membership of our association. I hope to come alongside what the organization is already doing, but maybe allow space for others that come from my similar background to see that there are meaningful ways you can contribute to the profession on a national level.

**Service to the APTA Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy**

- As a committee or Special Interest Group chair: Mentorship (1 year), DEI (5 years)
- As a task force or work group chair: DEI (1 year)

**Service to the American Physical Therapy Association**

- Mentorship Subcommittee co-chair (2020-2021)

**Service to Your Community**

- President, Kusudi International Inc (international NGO that provides pro bono health and wellness services)