

# Nominations

## American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties and Specialty Councils

### What is the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties (ABPTS)?

**ABPTS is the governing body that oversees the specialist certification process, composed of eleven (11) members:**

- Eight board-certified physical therapists representing the eight different specialty areas. Representatives are appointed by ABPTS to serve a 4 year term.
- One member of the APTA Board of Directors. This individual is appointed by the Board of Directors and serves concurrently on the Board of Directors and ABPTS for 2 years.
- One member with expertise in test development, evaluation, and education. This individual is appointed by ABPTS to serve a 2 year term.
- One consumer representative. This individual is appointed by the Board of Directors to serve a 2 year term.

### What are the criteria for ABPTS appointments?

- Board-certified physical therapist in a specialty area,
- Show evidence of effective group participation, and
- Demonstrate the ability to complete tasks in a timely manner.
- Experience with Specialty Council or related activities (e.g. external Professional Development Portfolio reviewer, standard setting participant), Specialization Academy of Content Experts (SACE), and/or American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education (ABPTRFE) is required. Recency of active engagement will be taken into consideration during selection process.

### What are the functions of ABPTS?

- Review and revise policies and procedures to implement the certification process.
- Advise the APTA Board of Directors and House of Delegates on matters concerning certification.
- Approve and recommend to the APTA House of Delegates the formation of proposed specialty areas.
- Review nominations and make specialty council appointments.
- Approve and oversee the activities of the specialty councils.
- Serve as the final appeal body for individuals whose application to sit for a certification examination is denied by a specialty council.
- Consider requests for reconsideration of certification and recertification decisions.
- Develop minimum requirements for certification and recertification to be used across all specialty areas, and approve specific requirements developed by councils.
- Plan research related to the certification process.

### What are the time commitment and travel requirements?

- Travel for 1 two-day and 1 three-day meeting annually (spring and fall), and for a combined ABPTS/Specialty Council meeting and Specialist Recognition Ceremony at the APTA Combined Sections Meeting each winter.
- Participate in additional conference calls each year as needed to address issues that occur between annual meetings.

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- Review agenda materials before meetings including specialty council documents and candidate requests.
- Serve as a contact to one of the specialty councils (outside of their particular specialty area) and communicate with that council on an ongoing basis.

**Note:** APTA reimburses ABPTS members for all travel expenses.

## What are the specialty councils?

Specialty councils represent the following areas:

- Cardiovascular & Pulmonary
- Clinical Electrophysiology
- Geriatrics
- Neurology
- Oncology
- Orthopaedics
- Pediatrics
- Sports
- Women's Health

Each specialty council consists of four members, with the exception of the Orthopaedic Specialty which consists of five members. Members serve a 4 year term.

## What are the criteria for specialty council appointments?

- Board-certified physical therapist in specialty area,
- Show evidence of effective group participation, and
- Demonstrate the ability to complete tasks in a timely manner.

## What are the functions of the specialty councils?

- Conduct practice analysis research to define specialty area advanced clinical competencies.
- Develop minimum eligibility requirements for certification and recertification in a specialty area, based on ABPTS guidelines.
- Screen applicants for eligibility to sit for the specialist certification exam.
- Develop the examination instruments to be used in the certification process.
- Travel for meetings and exam development work at the testing agency.

## What are the time commitment and travel requirements?

- Travel to the APTA Combined Sections Meeting to attend an annual meeting with ABPTS and the Specialist Recognition Ceremony. The specialty council chairs attend one additional meeting at APTA headquarters to meet with ABPTS.
- Travel to the testing agency to participate in 2-3 one-day meetings for test development and standard setting.
- Produce written assignments for submission before ABPTS meetings on various topics, including but not limited to proposed recertification requirements, budgets, and eligibility requirements.

**Note:** APTA reimburses ABPTS members for all travel expenses.

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### What is the nomination process for ABPTS and specialty council appointments?

If you wish to nominate yourself for a specialty council or board appointment, you **must submit an online nomination form**, available on the ABPTS website at:

<http://www.abpts.org/ForSpecialists/Volunteer/ABPTSSpecialtyCouncils/>

If you wish to nominate a colleague for an ABPTS or specialty council position, please contact Anne Hanson at [annehanson@apta.org](mailto:annehanson@apta.org) with the name of the individual and a brief letter of reference. Program staff will then reach out to the potential nominee to gather the necessary nomination materials.

The appropriate specialty council and APTA section leadership will be given the opportunity to review all applicants in their area of specialization, and to submit, to the Board their written commentary on each nominee's qualifications. The Board's decision will be informed by these commentaries, the nominee's qualifications and experience to meet the goals of the Board.

**Potential applicants are encouraged to contact the Chair of the specialty council in their area, listed below, to obtain more specific information on current council activities.**

#### **Chair, Cardiopulmonary Specialty Council**

Aaron Thrush, PT, DPT, MPH  
Philadelphia, PA  
Email: [thrusha@clevelandclinicabudhabi.ae](mailto:thrusha@clevelandclinicabudhabi.ae)

#### **Chair, Clinical Electrophysiologic Specialty Council**

Frank Underwood, PT, PhD  
Newburgh, IN  
Email: [fu2@evansville.edu](mailto:fu2@evansville.edu)

#### **Chair, Geriatrics Specialty Council**

Nicole Dawson, PT, PhD  
Orlando, FL  
Email: [nicole.dawson@ucf.edu](mailto:nicole.dawson@ucf.edu)

#### **Chair, Neurology Specialty Council**

Marghureta Bland, PT, DPT, MSCI  
Saint Louis, MO  
Email: [blandm@wustl.edu](mailto:blandm@wustl.edu)

#### **Chair, Oncologic Specialty Council**

Nicole Stout, PT, DPT, FAPTA  
Sarasota, FL  
Email: [nlstout90@gmail.com](mailto:nlstout90@gmail.com)

#### **Chair, Orthopaedics Specialty Council**

Hilary Greenberger, PT, PhD  
Newfield, NY  
Email: [greenber@ithaca.edu](mailto:greenber@ithaca.edu)

#### **Chair, Pediatrics Specialty Council**

Heather Lundeen, PT, DPT  
Bismarck, ND  
Email: [hmlundeen@umary.edu](mailto:hmlundeen@umary.edu)

#### **Chair, Sports Specialty Council**

Mike Fink, PT, DSc  
Lebanon, PA  
Email: [fink@lvc.edu](mailto:fink@lvc.edu)

#### **Chair, Women's Health Specialty Council**

Stacie Dichsen, PT  
O'Fallon, IL  
Email: [dichsen5@charter.nett](mailto:dichsen5@charter.nett)