



American Physical Therapy AssociationSM

PTA 50

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

1st graduating PTA Class



June 1969

**St. Mary's Junior College,
Minneapolis, MN**

**11 graduates
(1 not shown)**



1971

PTA students

**St. Mary's
Junior
College**

Letter To Physical Therapist Assistants

Presently there are 31 Physical Therapist Assistant programs. In order to become more organized, a meeting for Assistants is being held at the Annual APTA Conference in Las Vegas on June 16. We hope to discuss the following issues: national Physical Therapist Assistant's patch, national newsletter, title of Assistant vs. technician, promoting our APTA membership and any other pertinent issues.

Please contact me for further details. I would greatly appreciate your opinions, suggestions and assistance. We need to combine our efforts and work toward the goals we hope to achieve.

Sandy Barr, LPTA
5610 Atlantic Avenue
St. Petersburg, Fla. 33703

TEN PT ASSISTANT PROGRAMS APPROVED

At its June 1972 meeting, the Board of Directors of the APTA granted interim approval to the physical therapist assistant programs at Galveston College in Texas and Nassau County Community College of New York, bringing the total number of temporarily approved programs to ten. Since the adoption of the Interim Approval Procedures in June of 1971, the following programs have applied for and received such approval:

- Miami-Dade Junior College, Miami FL
- Community College of Baltimore, MD
- St. Mary's Junior College, Minneapolis, MN
- Nassau County Community College, Garden City, NY
- Central Piedmont Community College, Charlotte, NC
- Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland, OH

1973 VITAL FOR P.T. ASSISTANTS

On June 16, 1972, in Las Vegas, Nevada, the first meeting of Physical Therapist Assistants at a national American Physical Therapy Association Conference was held. There were twenty-three assistants present, representing six states. Some of the issues discussed and opinions formulated are as follows:

1. There is a definite need for organization among assistants on both a state and national level. We strongly encourage assistants to become organized and active within their Chapter.

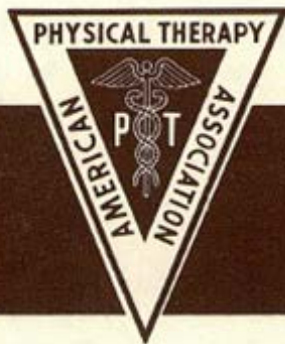
2. The title of "Assistant to Technician" is preferred according to the results of a questionnaire. It was stated that the term "Assistant" is more frequently used and the title of "Technician" may present some confusion.

1972



Greenville Technical College

1973



PROGRESS

1973

APTA NEWS

Report

APTA MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

JULY-AUGUST 1973



Charles M. Magistro

PTA'S Gain Membership Status

The 1973 House of Delegates accepted Proposal #1 (APTA *Progress Report*, 3/73) of the alternative membership proposals for the physical therapist assistant. As a result of the House action, physical therapist assistants are eligible for affiliate membership provided they possess the qualifications prescribed and published by the APTA Board of Directors. Affiliate members are entitled to attend all meetings, to hold committee

UNDER THE LAW — YOU MUST FILE

The publications regarding the regulations controlling prices charged by **non-institutional providers of health services** were recently revised. The following publications and forms are available free of charge either by calling (301) 962-4000, or by addressing your request to The Economic Stabilization Division, Internal Revenue Service, P.O. Box 1456, Baltimore, MD 21203.

Publication S-3015 — *Economic Controls on Physicians and Dentists*

Publication S-3048 — *Controlling Prices Charged by Physicians and Dentists,*

Carol McClaugherty - 1st PTA serving in Peace Corps

A PEACE CORPS FIRST

Carol McClaugherty, a recent graduate of Northern Virginia Community College's physical therapist assistant program, left on July 25 for Brazil to begin her training with the Peace Corps. She is the first physical therapist assistant to be chosen by the Corps. After a three-month training period, Carol will begin her two years of service on October 21, which will also be her twentieth birthday.

Carol will be working in a small town south of Rio de

Janeiro in a native clinic. Her assignment will include working with retarded persons. "It's going to be a semi-modern area," she remarked. "We won't have some of the equipment I've been used to using, so I'll learn quickly to improvise. I like the challenge of having to be creative."

Pictured at right with Carol is Marjorie Koester, head of the physical therapist assistant program at NVCC. Ms Koester was instrumental in the development of the program and has guided it since its beginning in the fall of 1972.



Carol McClaugherty, Marjorie Koester



1976



PTA students

**Greenville
Technical
College**

circa 1976

076.224-010

1978

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT
(medical ser.)
physical therapy technician**

Recognition of the young profession in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles, Employment and Training Administration, US Department of Labor

Melinda Hong, SPTA

**1st SPTA winner,
Mary McMillan
Scholarship, \$500**

1980



1982

Reconstruction Aide Ruby Decker creates PTA Student Fund at NH VTC



Garrett Hull (left) and NHVTC president Roland Stoodley hold check from Ruby Decker establishing PTA Loan Fund. Photograph of Decker is displayed on the wall.

1986



Debbie Schuerman, PTA (& later PT), and her seeing eye dog A.J.

1st totally blind student to graduate from St. Mary's Junior College 2-year PTA program

Affiliate Assembly 1989

Meeting the Challenge of the Physical Therapist Assistant

American Physical Therapy Association

Volume 1, Number 1

Fall 1989

Message From The Chair

House of Delegates Approves Affiliate Assembly

The 1989 APTA House of Delegates was the most exciting session ever for Affiliate members. As you may already know, the Affiliate Assembly concept was passed, which allows for the Affiliate (Physical Therapist Assistant) member of the APTA to hold office if elected in the Assembly, to have a full vote, and also to participate with other Affiliate members of the APTA on a regional basis. The Affiliate Assembly will be considered a component of the APTA, and will also have two nonvoting delegates to the House of Delegates.

This concept is similar to what the Affiliate Special Interest Group (ASIG) has been in the past. The Affiliate

join the Affiliate Assembly as you would choose to join a section of the APTA. Affiliate members of the APTA will maintain all current rights in addition to the new rights and privileges they will be given when they join the Affiliate Assembly.

The officers of the Affiliate Assembly believe that the best way in which you can participate on a professional basis within the APTA is through the Affiliate Assembly. Your participation, as a member of the Assembly, will ensure your opportunity to bring Affiliate issues to the attention of APTA and the House of Delegates.

For further information, please contact Sharon A. Meehan.



1992

**Affiliate
Assembly
booth**

PT 1992

Denver

PTAS PAVING THE WAY...

by Kimberly E Wynn

*From their inception in 1967
to their active participation in the*

Francis Armour, PTA Gainesville, Georgia

On Monday mornings at 3:00 am, most people are sound asleep with a few hours to spare before their alarms wake them. But for more than a year, this was a luxury that Francis Armour, PTA, did not know. In the early 1980s, Armour, a mother of two, was up before dawn every Monday to make a 3-hour commute to the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta where, for the week, she would live in the women's dormitory on campus and attend the courses needed to finish her physical therapist assistant associate's degree.

"Classes were over on Fridays at noon," explains Armour, "and I would drive back home to my family for the weekend, take care of household needs, and make sure my boys had everything they needed for school—then I'd be off again on Monday." It was very difficult 20 years ago, she says, to find education programs for PTAs, and, at the time, the Medical College of Georgia had the only program in the state.

Armed with a scholarship, Armour who was then in her 30s, entered the Medical College, made the Dean's List her last semester, and earned her degree. Through it all, Armour adds, "My husband and family were right behind me."

Today, Armour works at the Physical Therapy Center in Gainesville, a private practice that specializes in orthopedics. She has been extremely active in the Georgia Physical Therapy Association and, most recently, earned the distinct honor of being the first PTA in Georgia to be appointed to the State Licensure Board.

In 1992, Georgia Chapter President, Marcia Pearl, approached Armour and many of her fellow PTAs to notify them that a motion

1993



Francis Armour, PTA



Karen Aitken, SPTA



James Lee Howlett, SPTA



Mary Man, SPTA

**1st SPTA recipients,
Minority Scholarship Award for Academic Excellence 1996**

THE VOICE

President's Message

The Power of Change!

PT '99 marked the debut of restructuring following RC 1-98. Foremost in everyone's minds was the question, "Will it work?"—I think it did, and in a big way. Hats off to all chapter representatives on a job well done! You came into annual meeting prepared and ready to go to work. Through your interactions with the National Assembly delegates and your chapter delegates, you were able to influence decisions that were made on the House floor. That is a great accomplishment! I also would like to recognize all the work that National Assembly (NA) Board members have done in preparation for the first meeting of the Representative Body of the National Assembly (RBNA) and to thank them for a job well done!



Karen Jorgensen, PTA
National Assembly
President

The purpose of any membership association is to serve its members. Reorganization

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1999

**Karen Jorgensen, PTA, President,
National Assembly of Physical
Therapist Assistants (right),
with
Jan K. Richardson, PT, PhD, OCS,
President, APTA (left)**

the National Assembly: one year later

Photograph: Josh Cloutier

History was made at the 1998 House of Delegates when the National Assembly of Physical Therapist Assistants was created. Through a roundtable interview, *PT Magazine* takes a look at the first year of the National Assembly.

Members of the first-ever Representative Body of the National Assembly

34 • SEPTEMBER 1999



Forty-seven PTAs represented the National Assembly at the 1999 RBNA.



National Assembly Board of Directors

1999

National Assembly Board of Directors: Terry Trundle, Brod Thuringer, Julie Newman, Ron Moreland, Pam Phillips, Marcia Sympson, Karen Jorgensen, Teri Ryan, Travis Carlton, and Scott Gilbert. (Not pictured: Terry McDevitt.)

2000

**F.A. Davis Award for
Outstanding Physical
Therapist Assistant Educator**

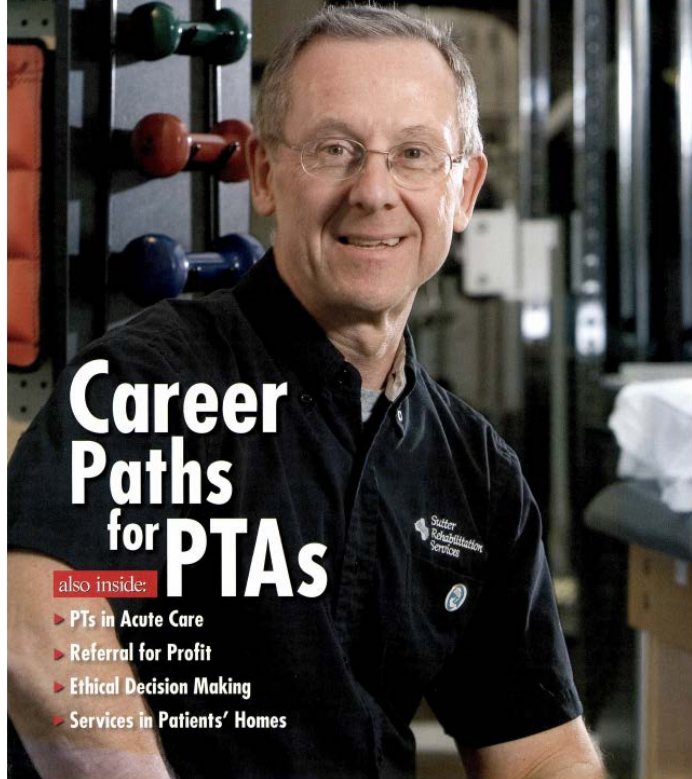
Barbara J. Behrens, PTA

1st PTA to win the award





**14 out of the 79 1ST recipients of Advanced Proficiency for
the Physical Therapist Assistant 2005**



Career Paths for PTAs

also inside:

- ▶ PTs in Acute Care
- ▶ Referral for Profit
- ▶ Ethical Decision Making
- ▶ Services in Patients' Homes

Sutter
Rehabilitation
Services



Career Paths for PTAs

By Eric Fles

These six recipients of APTA's Recognition of Advanced Proficiency for the Physical Therapist Assistant illustrate the dynamic options available to enterprising PTAs.

What better way to illustrate to students the diversity of career paths available to physical therapist assistants (PTAs), reasoned Janet Crosier, PT, MS, than to draw from the best of the best—the first 79 recipients of APTA's Recognition of Advanced Proficiency for the Physical Therapist Assistant?

Crosier, who as associate director of physical therapy education and professional development at APTA is staff overseer of the recognition program, addressed PTA students at the National Student Conclave in Denver last fall and wanted to bring alive her message that there are numerous ways in which PTAs can pursue personal and professional fulfillment and benefit patients and the profession at the same time. So she spotlighted members of the first two groups of PTAs to be recognized by APTA for meeting an impressive list of criteria (see box on page 43) that bespeak their ability, initiative, industry, and professionalism.



John Linberger, PTA, BS, with (top of page) patient Violet Reed, and (above) Allan Yangaan, PT, MS, OCS, Linberger's supervisor at Sutter Center for Rehabilitation in Sacramento, California.

2006

John Linberger, PTA, MS

Outstanding PT/PTA Team Award

Edie Knowlton Benner, PT, PhD, OCS, and Juliana Robine, PTA, were honored as the first recipients of the APTA Outstanding Physical Therapist/Physical Therapist Assistant Team Award. They have worked together as a team for many years, including 5 years at a facility before they made the decision to become co-owners of a private practice in 1998. As a result, they have sustained a collaborative effort as a PT/PTA team for more than 13 years. Their co-ownership of the practice truly demonstrates their strong partnership, their commitment to delivering high-quality physical therapy services, their dedication to the profession, and to the deep mutual respect they have for each other's unique talents and contributions to the team. Both have been recognized by the Ohio Chapter with awards; Benner received the Ohio Physical Therapist of the Year Award, and Robine received the Ohio Physical Therapist Assistant of the Year Award.

2006

1st APTA Outstanding Physical Therapist / Physical Therapist Assistant Team Award

**Edie Knowlton Benner,
PT, PhD, OCS
Juliana Robine, PTA**

2007

1st APTA

**Outstanding
Physical Therapist
Assistant Award**

**Roy Christopher
Junkins, PTA, ATC
(left)**



MeSH

MeSH

Physical therapist assistants

Create alert Limits Advanced

Full

Send to:

Physical Therapist Assistants

Persons who, under the supervision of licensed PHYSICAL THERAPISTS, provide patient treatment using various PHYSICAL THERAPY TECHNIQUES.

Year introduced: 2013

PubMed search builder options

Subheadings:

education

standards

statistics and numerical data

organization and administration

Restrict to MeSH Major Topic.

Do not include MeSH terms found below this term in the MeSH hierarchy.

Tree Number(s): M01.526.485.067.738, N02.360.067.732

MeSH Unique ID: D063372

2013

MEDLINE index adds

Physical Therapist Assistants

to

Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)

PTAs Today

by Janet Crosier, PT, DPT, MEd

Have We Got an APP for You

A new program offers PTAs a pathway to chart their career.



Janet Crosier, PT, DPT, MEd, is lead PTA services specialist at APTA. She can be reached at janetcrosier@apta.org or 808/756-9139.

APTA is introducing a new program that is just for physical therapist assistants—Physical Therapist Assistant Advanced Proficiency Pathways, or PTA APP. It offers PTAs a way to gain advanced knowledge and skills in a physical therapy area of their choice by following a prescribed path, with solid guidance along the way.

The program has 3 components: core courses, content courses, and mentoring.

be updated annually, with subjects to be added and subtracted as dictated by the need to ensure currency

proficiency should receive in each area of work, the task force has or will work with the corresponding APTA section. Content experts already have identified essential content in the areas of acute care, aquatics, cardiovascular and pulmonary, geriatric, integumentary, oncology, and pediatric physical therapy. More areas will become available. Notes task force member Marc Desilets, PTA, “Participants must demonstrate that they have mastered all the required content by

2014

Recognition of Advanced Proficiency for Physical Therapist Assistant

transitions to

PTA Advanced Proficiency Pathways (APP)

2015



APTA House of Delegates passed RC 3-15:

APTA chapters & sections may grant a full vote to physical therapist assistant members at the component level.

37 chapters & 9 sections have implemented the change to date (2/19)

'Pathways' Named APTA's Postgraduation Proficiency Program for PTAs

Physical therapist assistants (PTAs) now have a single program to help them demonstrate advanced proficiency in several different areas of care.

APTA has announced that the PTA Advanced Proficiency Pathways (APP) program has been elevated to the association's sole postgraduation proficiency recognition program, and that the PTA Recognition of Advanced Proficiency program will be discontinued.

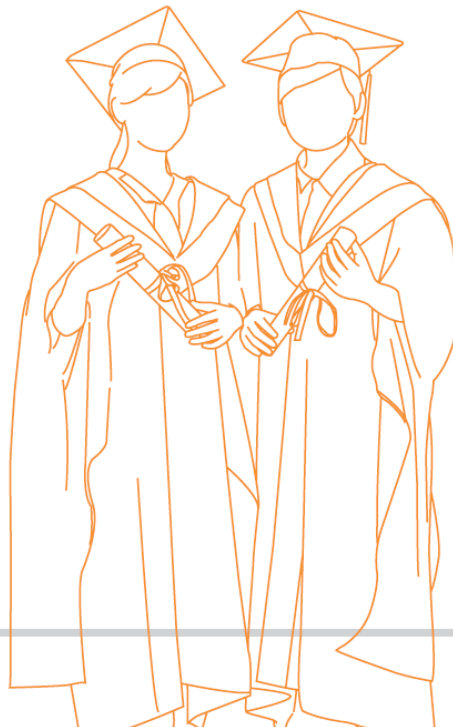
The APP program uses multiple approaches to help applicants gain and demonstrate proficiency in areas of interest that include acute care, cardiovascular and pulmonary, geriatrics, oncology, orthopedics, pediatrics, and wound management. Participants take online core courses common to all of the APPs as well as content-specific courses for the selected area of work, followed by

experiences with a qualified mentor of the participant's choosing. A dedicated program mentor at APTA makes sure that participants stay on the pathway and arrive at advanced proficiency as efficiently as possible.

The next APP program application cycle will open on May 1, 2016, with a submission deadline of August 1, 2016.

The soon-to-be discontinued Recognition of Advanced Proficiency program will issue its last call for applications on February 1, 2016, with the recognition remaining valid through 2021. Questions about PTA Recognition of Advanced Proficiency can be directed to Lisa McLaughlin at lisamclaughlin@apta.org. For more information on APP, contact Derek Stepp at derekstepp@apta.org.

<http://www.apta.org/APP/>



2018

**PTA
Town
Hall**



2018



2018

**PTA
Caucus**





2018

PTA 50

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS