



## 2022 Student SIG Officers

### **Chair: Rachel Parshall**

Hello! My name is Rachel Parshall, and my pronouns are she/her/hers. I am in the fifth year of my 3+3 DPT program at Duquesne University! I will be serving as the Student Special Interest Group (SIG) Chair, and it is an honor to do so. As I continue to progress through the graduate program, I am passionate about getting students across Pennsylvania involved with the APTA. I understand the importance of advocacy and engagement, and I hope to continue to bring our board members together to put on events online and hopefully in-person! After attending the MovePA Conference in Pittsburgh in 2021, I knew I wanted to continue to stay involved and build connections within the APTA. I served as the Western District Representative for the Student SIG in 2021 during my first year as a student PT, and I am incredibly excited to continue to serve on the board. Outside of school, I enjoy skiing, hiking, and watching sports teams of Baltimore, Pittsburgh, and Denver. I would love to work with athletes, specifically with skiers and snowboarders!

### **Vice Chair: Garavi Angreji**

Hello! My name is Garavi Angreji and I am in my 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the Drexel University DPT Program! I will be serving as the PPTA SSIG Vice Chair and I am so excited to work alongside an incredible board to connect with students across Pennsylvania, promote change, provide great opportunities, and serve the profession of Physical Therapy. I believe that gaining exposure, participating in events, and staying involved is essential in the growth and development of each individual student and the field. I am very passionate about Physical Therapy and the importance of health and wellness, which I hope to continue to advocate for in all individuals. I am eager to continue learning about this expanding field and connect with other students. Outside of school, I enjoy hiking, yoga, dancing, and spending time with friends and family.

### **Secretary: Amanda DeRea**

Hello everyone! My name is Amanda DeRea, and I am currently in my 3<sup>rd</sup> year of DeSales University Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. I will be serving as your Student SIG Secretary for 2022. Additionally, I am Secretary for the DeSales University DPT Student Association. This is my first year on the Student SIG, and I am grateful for this opportunity. I'm passionate about consistently taking the initiative towards self-improvement, professional growth, and being an advocate for change to advance the profession of physical therapy - even at the student level. By being a board member, I hope to increase APTA awareness and involvement from students through leadership and advocacy within their settings and communities. SSIG adds value to your APTA Pennsylvania membership by providing opportunities to network and learning opportunities for SPT/SPTAs across the state of PA. I look forward to connecting with you at one of our wonderful events! Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns!

**Advocacy Chair: Elizabeth Ramsey**

Hi! My name is Elizabeth Ramsey, but most people call me Lizzy. My preferred pronouns are she/her/hers. I'm currently in my 4th year of the 3+3 DPT program at Lebanon Valley College. I will be serving as the SSIG advocacy chair this semester and I am very excited to step into this new role. I believe staying informed and being an active member and advocate for our profession is essential to being an excellent clinician and providing the best care for our patients.

**Eastern District Representative: Devon Williams**

Hello, my name is Devon Williams and I will be one of the Eastern District Representative for the year 2022. I currently attend Thomas Jefferson University as a 2nd year SPT and some of my hobbies that I enjoy is going for runs around the city, reading, and learning new languages. This is my first year being apart of the APTA SIG, and I am excited about about being apart of the organization and to make an impact on the community. I am excited about the future events the APTA SIG will be creating this year to help educate the community of the importance of physical therapy and how us students can be a catalyst for positive change in the PT profession.

**Eastern District Representative: Tori Fortuna**

My name is Tori Fortuna and I am currently a 2nd year DPT student at Drexel University. This is my first year as Eastern District Representative and I am looking forward to connecting with students in the area, planning social events, and inspiring students to get involved and discover what the APTA has to offer. I also serve on the PT Association Student Affairs Committee at Drexel where we promote professional association activities to the student body. I am from and currently live in Williamstown, NJ and love spending my free time doing yoga, reading, going to concerts, and attending Philly sporting events!

**Western District Representative: Cynthia Brand**

Greetings, My name is Cynthia Brand and I am a first year DPT student at the University of Pittsburgh. It is my pleasure to serve as this year's Western District Representative of the Student SIG. I have served in similar roles before, and hope to use my experience to bring programs and event opportunities that meet the needs of PT students in Pennsylvania. Engagement in professional opportunities early provides students with the tools they need to succeed post-graduation. It's my hope we can continue to advocate for the profession long after our time as students comes to an end. In my free time I work as an Athletic Trainer with Novacare Rehabilitation and I love to explore Pittsburgh and find new places to eat! In the future I plan on completing a residency program or entering the world of Sports PT. I look forward to my time on the board and the opportunity to meet with you all at our programming!

**Central District Representative: Cameron Clark**

Hello! My name is Cameron Clark. I was born in Syracuse, New York and am a first year DPT student at Messiah University. I will be serving as your Central District Representative (CDR) for 2022. I am grateful for this opportunity and am looking forward to making a connection with other DPT and PTA students in the state of Pennsylvania. Being involved within APTA PA is a great chance to be involved and advance the profession of physical therapy as a whole. As the CDR for 2022, I aspire to develop synergistic and fun ways to link PT students throughout the state of PA together with interactive events. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me!

**Central District Representative: Rony Roman**

Hello! My name is Rony Roman and I'm from Ashburn, VA. I am a second year DPT student at Messiah University. I will be serving as the Central District Representative (CDR). I'm so excited and passionate to get involved with the APTA and help other students to do the same! I am looking forward to seeing how Jesus will continue to work every day through my life and through other individuals around me. I'm grateful for the opportunities to network with clinicians and

students in PA and all over the country to learn more about how the profession of PT is advancing. I hope to build on my leadership development and advocate for patients to provide them with the best care. I love reading God's Word in the Bible and going to church with my family and friends! I also enjoy playing soccer, working out, watching sports and hiking!

**Physical Therapy Assistance Representative: Nicole Walker**

Hello! My name is Nicole. I am a first year PTA student at Penn State in Fayette County. I am very excited to be a part of the SIG for the APTA in Pennsylvania! My goal in taking part of the SIG is to make connections and support my fellow PT/PTA students as well as offer insight into my experience as an aspiring PTA. I am very passionate about health, fitness, and being of service to others which is why I am also very passionate about the field of Physical Therapy. I hope to one day have the opportunity to work with people from a wide variety of demographics including but not limited to athletics, pediatrics, and geriatrics. In addition to my ambitions regarding my career, I love running, just about any outdoor activity, and spending time with my friends and family. I am grateful for this opportunity in the SIG and I am looking forward to being a part of future events.