



2021 Annual Report

Quick Facts

APTA Pediatrics is a component organization and specialty section of the American Physical Therapy Association, a voluntary individual membership professional organization representing more than 100,000 physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and students of physical therapy. Membership in APTA Pediatrics is voluntary. APTA Pediatrics is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization founded in 1974, with headquarters at 1020 N Fairfax St, Suite 401-B, Alexandria, VA 22314 and almost 6,000 members. Further information can be found at www.pediatricapta.org.

New Vision, Mission, and Values Statements to Guide Our Work

The APTA Pediatrics Board of Directors completed our 2018-21 Strategic Plan and created a 2022-25 Strategic Plan (including vision, mission, and values statement updates) to guide our path for the next 3 years:

Vision: A world where every child can experience a fulfilling life.

Mission: Bringing people together to advance excellence in pediatric physical therapy.

Values: The APTA Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy is committed to: Accountability, Collaboration, Consumer-centric care, Inclusion, Innovation, Professionalism, Social responsibility.

Summary of the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan

2021 closed the books on the Strategic Plan that has guided APTA Pediatrics since 2018. Here's a look at some of the highlights that APTA Pediatrics worked on in 2021:

GOAL 1: Advocate for meaningful participation of all children.

- Represented pediatric physical therapy to APTA in [legislative](#), regulatory, and payment advocacy
- Shared information with members through [Milestones](#) (our member newsletter), [social media](#), and/or on the [website](#)
- Provided [reimbursement and Medicaid advocacy resources](#)
- Represented pediatric physical therapy issues at APTA's Federal Advocacy Forum
- Represented members through our State Pediatric Advocacy Liaison (SPAL) network, including work with APTA on state-specific legislation related to pediatrics
- Represented APTA Pediatrics in [APTA's House of Delegates](#) and voted on behalf of our members
- Edited our bylaws to add an elected Delegate position, now that specialty sections have a vote in the House (bylaw edit was approved by membership at CSM 2022)
- Hosted [Fitness Initiative](#) to benefit the [Wonderfund](#)
- Worked with APTA on [ChoosePT](#) and media relations related to pediatric physical therapy

- Provided [resources for families](#) and worked with APTA to update a number of pediatric symptom guides

GOAL 2: Enhance educational pathways to practice in pediatric physical therapy.

- Hosted [APTA Pediatrics Annual Conference](#), [Innovations in School-based Physical Therapy course](#), [Advanced Clinical Practice in Pediatrics course](#), and a pediatric track at the [Combined Sections Meeting](#)
- Implemented online education options for all courses to improve accessibility
- Clarified methods for providing courses, including interprofessional CEUs and standardized review of proposals to ensure use of evidence and knowledge translation
- Hosted a number of topical Town Halls; if you missed them, many of which are [available on-demand](#) to members
- Performed environmental scan to identify pediatric-related education needs within the academic and clinical education communities
- Conducted clinical reasoning theaters via APTA's Learning Center to support students who had a reduction or elimination of clinical education experiences due to COVID
- Created a prioritized list of needs and proposed strategies to support student career opportunities
- Implemented activities to promote pediatric physical therapy careers, including PTDOS and educational podcasts
- Provided ongoing support for the [clinical instructor toolkit](#)
- Conducted a systematic review on the variability in pediatric physical therapy education
- Explored options for mid-career faculty development

GOAL 3: Elevate pediatric physical therapist practice through the application of evidence.

- Published quarterly issues of our [Pediatric Physical Therapy \(PPT\) journal](#), which went online-only as of January 1 and now offers expanded content (access is easy – just click on the Journal logo at www.pediatricapta.org)
- *PPT* received a record 291 submissions in 2021, and published 29 research reports with accompanying clinical bottom lines, in addition to case reports, brief reports, and special communications, as well as podcasts and researcher interviews with each issue
- Renegotiated publishing contract for *PPT* to achieve more favorable terms.
- Created quarterly [Research Spotlights](#), quarterly [“Pediatric Physical Therapy: Beyond the Read”](#) courses, and the [Residency & Fellowship Consortium](#)
- Provided resources for [COVID-19](#), [Telehealth](#), [Annual Visit](#), and more
- Hosted Knowledge Broker Training (free to members)
- Updated and added to our 60+ [fact sheets](#), including some in Spanish
- Evaluated the process for [clinical practice guidelines](#) and continued the work on creation of new CPGs
- Published DCD guideline and support resources
- Created a collaborative Concussion CPG with other academies
- Provide targeted support via our [10 special interest groups \(SIGs\)](#), including newsletters, webinars, and resource materials (SIG membership is free)
- Funded the development of systematic reviews and meta-analyses summarize the current state of knowledge
- Developed two \$500 scholarships for a researcher/clinician team to team write case reports and publish in *PPT*

- Reviewed more than 200 abstracts for CSM and AC poster and platform presentations
- Supported the development of two pediatric physical therapy researchers through the Foundation for Physical Therapy Research's (FPTR's) Promotion of Doctoral Studies scholarships
- Developed priority areas focused on advancing pediatric educational research, consistent with the APTA Pediatrics research agenda
- Supported the FPTR Pediatric Fund Research Grant (a \$40,000 grant was distributed this year!)
- Provided \$115,000 in direct research funding with 30% of funded research grants leading to physical therapist-led applications for foundation or federal funding within 3 years of completing the grant – [research grant application deadline is June 1](#)
- Welcomed 192 new [Pediatric Certified Specialists](#) and 54 recertifying Pediatric Certified Specialists (for a total of more than 2,300), and 5 PTAs who completed the [Advance Proficiency Pathways](#) program (for a total of more than 10).

GOAL 4: Be a relevant, innovative, and responsive organization.

- Communicated with members through our [website](#), [Milestones member newsletter](#), [member forums](#), [Town Halls](#), and [social media](#)
- Continued refinement of the APTA Pediatrics branding, working with a consultant to improve communications with members and to explore barriers to member engagement
- Initiated monthly "Board Meeting Pearls" in [Milestones](#) to share Board activities
- Implemented candidate video option and voting incentive to increase member voting
- Developed a robust [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee](#) to decrease barriers
- Compiled APTA Pediatrics history and will begin a [history page](#) relaunch to celebrate APTA's 100th anniversary in 2021 and APTA Pediatrics' 50th anniversary coming up in 2024
- Welcomed a number of members into our annual [mentoring program](#)
- Provided free membership to the [International Organisation of Physical Therapists in Paediatrics](#) (IOPTP), a subgroup of World Physio, to every APTA Pediatrics member

A New Strategic Plan to Guide Us Through 2025

And here is the new 2022-25 Strategic Plan, which will guide us over the next 3 years. The Strategic Plan priorities were a result of member survey data, culled from our member survey in spring 2021. Here's what we'll be working on in 2022 and beyond:

Strategic Action Plan 2022-25

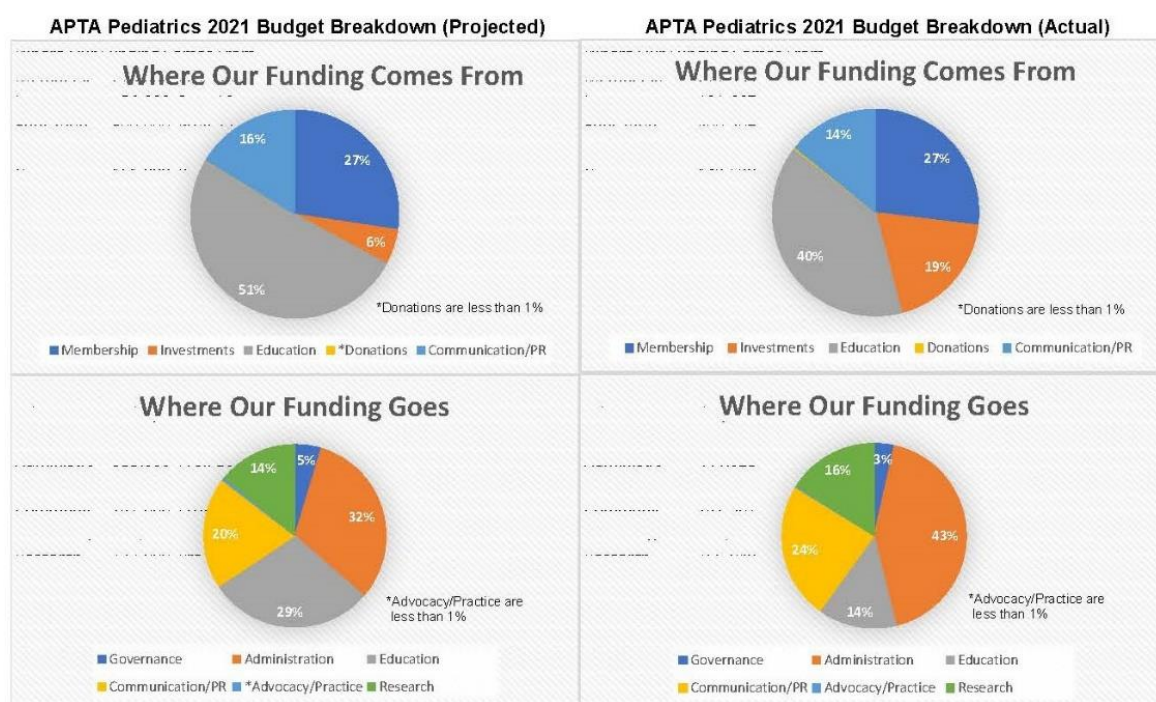
ADVOCATE * COLLABORATE * ELEVATE

Goals, Strategies, Tactics	Task Owner	Collaborators	Due Date
GOAL 1: ADVOCATE - Promote the health and wellness of every child.			
A. Enhance the ability of APTA Pediatrics to advocate for the health and wellness of every child.			
B. Partner with external organizations that are committed to the health and wellness of every child.			
C. Provide financial support to PT-PAC for their advocacy on behalf of pediatrics.			
GOAL 2: COLLABORATE – Foster the development of meaningful partnerships.			
A. Become a diverse and inclusive organization.			
B. Identify and promote the value of membership within APTA Pediatrics.			
C. Improve communication within APTA Pediatrics.			
D. Build leadership development resources for all members of APTA Pediatrics.			

Goals, Strategies, Tactics	Task Owner	Collaborators	Due Date
GOAL 3: ELEVATE – Accelerate evidence-informed pediatric physical therapy.			
A. Reimagine education and create innovative education opportunities for members of APTA Pediatrics.			
B. Advance pediatric physical therapy research.			

Year-End Financials

APTA Pediatrics finished 2021 with \$1,462,628 in assets, down about \$180,836 from year-end 2020. We had \$29,524 in our checking account, \$181,104 in our Vanguard Money Market account, and the remainder in long-term Vanguard investments. See below for an allocation of our 2021 budget:



APTA Pediatrics Leadership

Thank you to our 2021 Board of Directors who continue to guide APTA Pediatrics to success:

- President Cindy Miles, PT, PhD, PCS, President@pediatricapta.org
- Vice President Lynn Jeffries, PT, PhD, VicePresident@pediatricapta.org
- Secretary Priscilla Weaver, PT, DPT, PhD, PCS, Secretary@pediatricapta.org
- Treasurer Sandy Arnold, PT, PhD, Treasurer@pediatricapta.org
- Director of Advocacy Maria Jones, PT, PhD, Advocacy@pediatricapta.org
- Director of Academic & Clinical Education Jennifer Furze, PT, DPT, PCS, AcademicClinicalEducation@pediatricapta.org

- Director of Leadership Development Erin Bompiani, PT, DPT, PCS, LeadershipDevelopment@pediatricapta.org
- Director of Member Communications & PR Jason Cook, DPT, PCS, MemberCommunicationPR@pediatricapta.org
- Director of Practice Jan McElroy, PT, PhD, PCS, Practice@pediatricapta.org
- Director of Professional Development Tricia Catalino, PT, DSc, PCS, ProfessionalDevelopment@pediatricapta.org
- Director of Research Jennifer Christy, PT, PhD, Research@pediatricapta.org

And welcome to Roberta “Bertie” Gatlin, PT, DSc, PCS, who was elected to her first term as Treasurer, starting at CSM 2022! In preparation of the fall 2022 elections, we’ll be looking for candidates for the following positions (if you’re interested, reach out to nominating@pediatricapta.org):

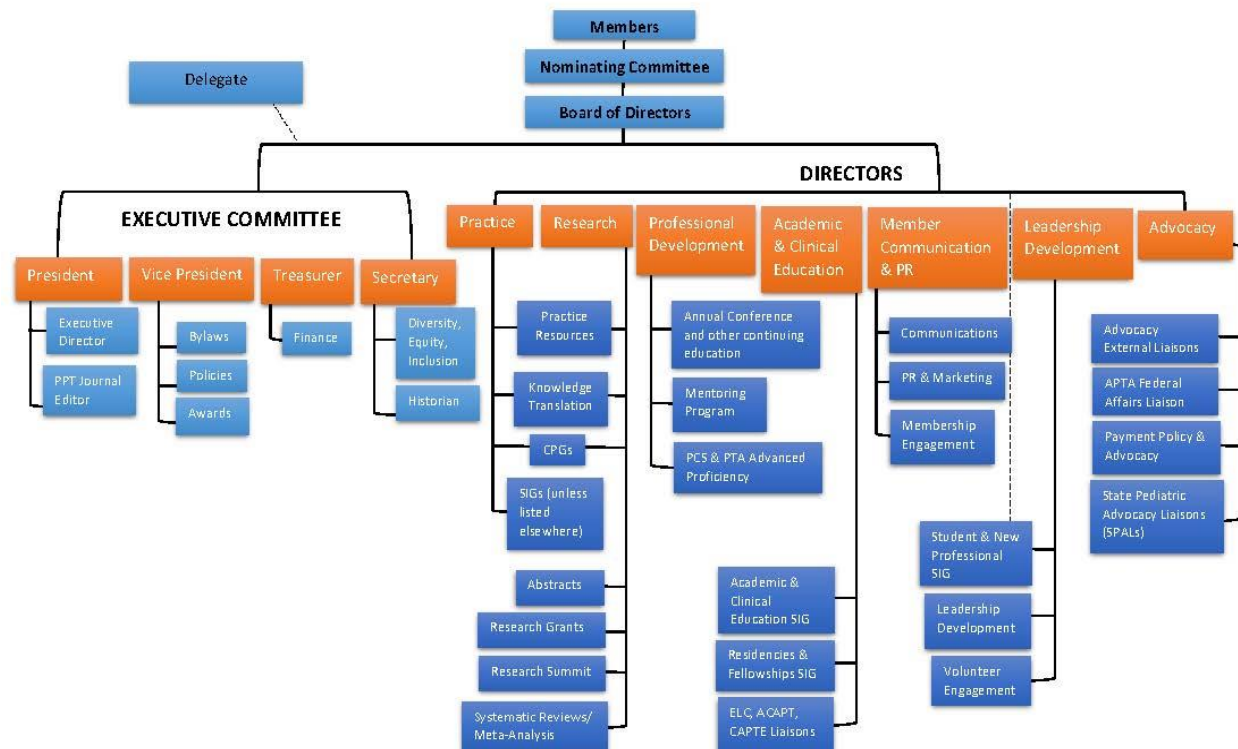
- President
- Director of Advocacy
- Director of Leadership Development
- Delegate (new!)
- Nominating Committee Member

As part of the 2021 Strategic Planning process, we created a new Board Aspiration Statement: *We are an inclusive, supportive team acting collaboratively and transformatively to enhance the value of membership and achieve our mission. We value and invite heartfelt connection, transparency, and diverse perspectives; intentional action; and learning and education. We believe in leading with a bias toward growth; serving our members and the profession; and a healthy, fulfilling life for all.*

The 2021 Annual Board Self-Evaluation showed that the Board wants to improve program oversight and actively assess results to inform resource allocation; to be more deliberate about seeking specific skills when recruiting for Board members; to develop a multiyear view of funding requirements/trade-offs to achieve organizational goals; to more clearly communicate our goals and organizational decisions to our members; and to actively seek out opportunities to engage with and promote the organization to external stakeholders.

Thank you to the Delegate, the *Pediatric Physical Therapy* Journal Editor and Editorial Board, the leadership of the 10 Special Interest Groups, the 50 State Pediatric Advocacy Liaisons, and the chairs and members of the 35 standing committees, 6 courses, and several task forces. We are fortunate to have so many wonderful volunteers who work tirelessly to support and develop resources for our membership – we couldn’t do it without you! (If you’d like to get involved, look for volunteer opportunities in each issue of Milestones and sign up with [APTA Engage](#) to receive curated volunteer alerts.)

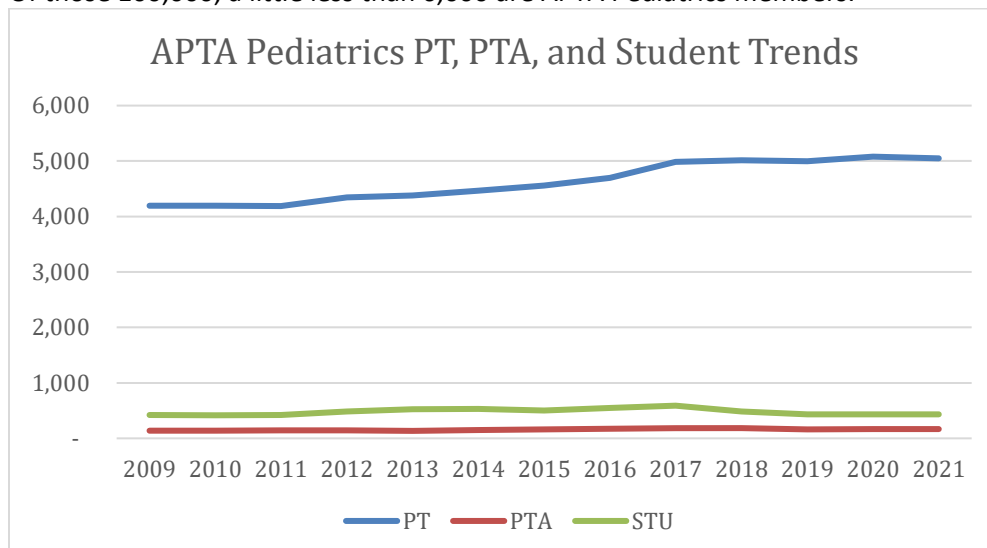
APTA Pediatrics Organizational Chart



APTA PEDIATRICS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Year-End Membership

There are more than 232,000 licensed physical therapists, 110,000 licensed physical therapist assistants, and 48,000 PT and PTA students nationwide; APTA's membership is right around 100,000 or about 26%. Of those 100,000, a little less than 6,000 are APTA Pediatrics members.



The APTA Pediatrics retention rate has trended above APTA's retention rate since 2017; it was 59.95% in 2021 compared to the APTA rate of 58.64%.

Year-End Course Registrations

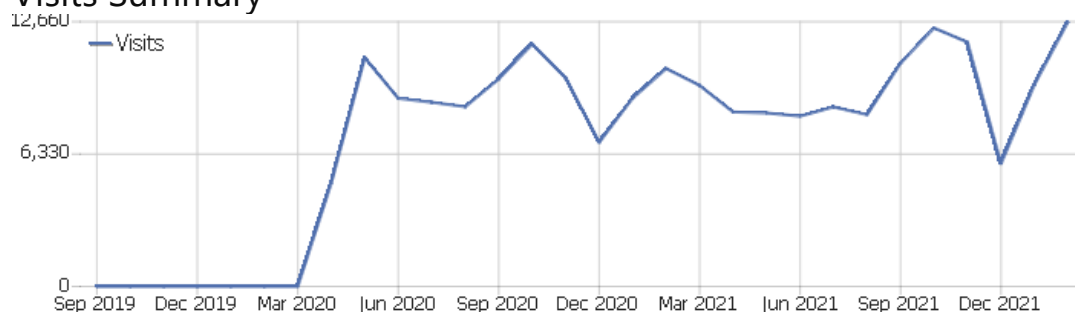
APTA Pediatrics supported our members' need for high-quality pediatric physical therapy education in 2021, including:

- [APTA Pediatrics Annual Conference \(AC\)](#): This multi-track conference was offered online in 2021 but will be back in person (as well as online) in 2022! AC offers more than 60 sessions geared to every level and practice area of pediatric physical therapy, including a track for PCS prep, programming for students and new professionals, preconference courses, and an exhibit hall. AC 2021 had 691 attendees as of December 31 (though registrations will continue to come in through April 1). Final registration for AC20 was 905. Save the date for November 18-20, 2022, in Portland, OR!
- [Innovations in School-based Practice](#): This course is for physical therapists who provide related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Held in person in Dallas, TX, Innovations 2021 had 112 attendees, down from 168 in 2019. Save the date for July 29-30, 2022, in Charleston, SC!
- [Advanced Clinical Practice in Pediatrics](#): This course is geared for experienced pediatric physical therapists who have a desire to investigate current theories and evidence-based practice across settings. Physical therapists who are considering taking the PCS examination may want to participate as part of their review. Held online in 2021, ACP had 187 attendees, up from 98 in 2019. ACP 2022 will be held in September, location TBD.
- [APTA's Combined Sections Meeting](#): For 30+ years, APTA has facilitated this conference in which each specialty section plans a track. CSM 2021 was held online, and CSM 2022 was held in person in San Antonio, TX. CSM 2023 will be held February 22-25 in San Diego, CA!
- [Online Courses](#): APTA Pediatrics hosts a number of online courses, including quarterly "Pediatric Physical Therapy: Beyond the Read" (text-based journal courses), the Residency & Fellowship Consortium, the Knowledge Broker Network (KBNet), and a number of on-demand informational webinars. Look for courses to be back in-person in 2022, while also offering online content!

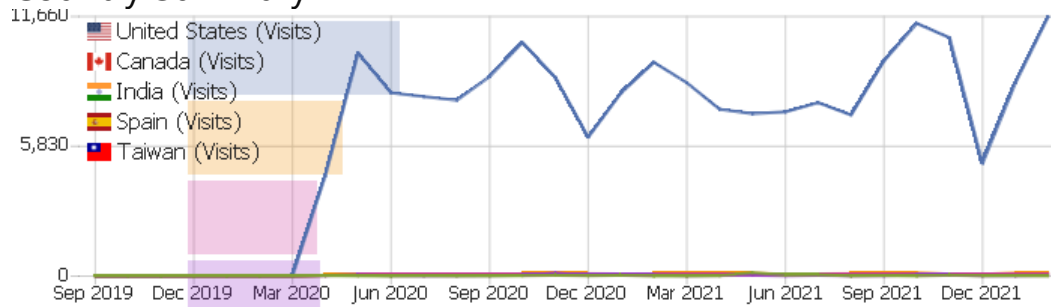
Year-End Website Usage (www.pediatricapta.org)

Our website continues to be the place to find out everything you want to know about APTA Pediatrics – and members and nonmembers apparently agree:

Visits Summary



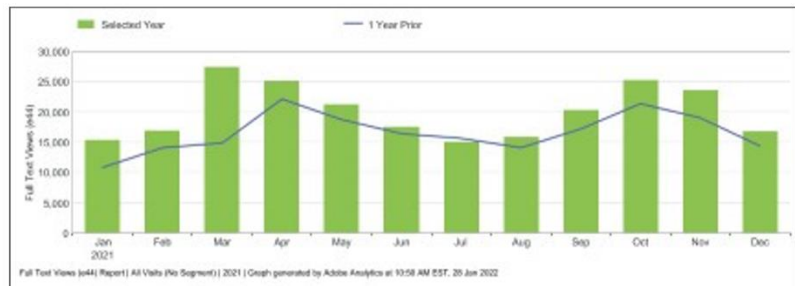
Country Summary



Year-End *Pediatric Physical Therapy Journal* Website Usage

Website Usage

	January-December 2021	January-December 2020	Inc./Dec. 2020 - 2021
Unique Visitors	164,093	152,842	▲
Visits	243,962	227,413	▲
Return Visits	86,981	80,414	▲
Avg. visits per visitor	1.49	1.49	=
Page views	393,837	379,597	▲
Full Text views	239,644	198,732	▲
International visits	136,156	122,965	▲



Year-End APTA Pediatrics Social Media

APTA Pediatrics has an online forum for member-to-member communication, as well as the following social media accounts:

- Facebook (like us at APTA Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy): 8.6K followers
- Twitter (@AcadPedPT): 4.3K followers
- Instagram (@AcadPedPT): 3.5K followers
- Pinterest (AcadPedPT)
- LinkedIn (Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy)

Research Support

In 1995, APTA Pediatrics established the Pediatric Fund through the Foundation for Physical Therapy Research. Since then, the Foundation has funded seven \$40,000 grants specifically for pediatric physical therapy. Congratulations to the 2021 Pediatric Fund Grant recipient and the other pediatric research grants funded through the Foundation in 2021:

- **Alison Barnard, PT, DPT, PhD; of University of Florida:** Barnard is awarded the \$40,000 Pediatric Research Grant for the application titled: “Contracture Pathophysiology in Muscular Dystrophy.” *Funding for this grant was made possible by the Pediatric Research Fund.*
- **Brad Corr, PT, DPT; of Boys Town National Research Hospital:** Corr is awarded the \$40,000 Foundation Research Grant for the application titled, “Powering Through Transition: Therapeutic Power Training for Adolescents and Adults with Cerebral Palsy.” *This grant was made possible by the APTA Support the Profession Fund. This award will be named in honor of the 2021 VCU-Marquette Challenge.*
- **Mitchell Selhorst, MPT, DPT, PhD; of Nationwide Children’s Hospital:** Selhorst is awarded the \$100,000 Magistro Family Foundation Research Grant for the application titled: “Psychologically-Informed Education intervention for Adolescents with Atraumatic Lower-Extremity Injuries.” *This grant is supported through the Magistro Family Foundation Endowment Fund.*

In addition to the Foundation’s Pediatric Fund, APTA Pediatrics also directly funds smaller (though still substantial) grants for pediatric physical therapy research. Congratulations to the 2021 APTA Pediatric Research Grant recipients ([grant applications for 2022 are due June 1](#)):

- **Research 1 grants (\$30,000): Rachel Hawe:** *Examining Visual Strategies in Motor Planning and Execution in Children with Hemiparetic Cerebral Palsy;* **Swati Surkar:** *Remote Ischemic Conditioning to Enhance Bimanual Skill Learning and Corticospinal Excitability in Children with Unilateral Cerebral Palsy;* **Heather Feldner:** *Use of a Dynamic Partial Body Weight Support Play Environment to Encourage Upright Mobility and Exploration in Infants with Down Syndrome*
- **Research 2 grants (\$10,000): Monica Rivera:** *Interaction between Self-Propelled Mobility and Spatial Cognition in Infants and Toddlers with Spina Bifida*
- **Mentored grant (\$10,000): Kari Kretch (mentor: Stacey Dusing):** *Effects of posture and seating on learning opportunities in infants at risk for cerebral palsy*
- **Critical Synthesis of Literature Grants (\$2,500): Judy Zhou:** *Effect of motor intervention on cognition, communication, and social interaction in children with autism spectrum disorder;* **Corri Stuyvenberg:** *Efficacy of Rehabilitation Professional-Provided Parenting Interventions for Families with Young Children with Developmental Disabilities, Ages Birth to Three Years*

Awards and Scholarships

The APTA Board of Directors honored the following APTA Pediatrics members for their outstanding accomplishments at the APTA Centennial Gala in September 2021:

- Joseph M. Schreiber, PT, PhD, FAPTA - Catherine Worthingham Fellow
- Anjana Narayan Bhat, PT, PhD - Chattanooga Research Award
- Charlotte C. Yates, PT, PhD, PCS - Dorothy Baethke-Eleanor Carlin Award for Excellence in Academic Teaching
- Ronald Lee Meade, PT, DPT - FA Davis Award for Outstanding Physical Therapist Assistant Educator
- Roberta R. Gatlin, PT, DScPT, PCS - Lucy Blair Service Award
- Susan M. Ropp, PT, DPT - Lucy Blair Service Award
- Jason Matthew Hubeny, SPT - Mary McMillan Scholarship Award
- Claudia R. Senesac, PT, PhD, PCS - Societal Impact Award

Congratulations are also due to Jessica Niski, PT, DPT, PCS, who was nominated by APTA Pediatrics for a 2021 APTA Emerging Leader Award, an annual event that honors a PT or PTA who has made exceptional contributions early in their physical therapy career.

In addition to these APTA awards, the following APTA Pediatrics awards and scholarships were applied for in 2021 and presented at the Combined Sections Meeting 2022:

- **DeHaven Service Award:** Hilary Terhune, PT
- **Fischer Distinguished Mentorship Award:** Casey Nesbit, PT, DPT, DSc
- **Haley Research Award:** Alyssa LaForme Fiss, PT, PhD
- **Dissertation Award:** Dora Gosselin, PT, DPT, PhD
- **Outstanding Research Abstract Awards:** ***Poster - APTA Pediatrics AC 2021:*** Improvements in Gross Motor Skills in Ataxic Cerebral Palsy Through Utilization of Intensive Treatment Model: A Case Study. Dana Chole, PT, DPT, PCS - Children's Therapy Center, Univ of Missouri-Columbia; ***Platform - APTA Pediatrics AC 2021:*** The Development of a Pediatric Pelvic Floor Rehabilitation Program Within a Pediatric Outpatient Physical Therapy Setting. Laura Higgins, PT, DPT, PCS, Allison Heschle, PT DPT - Children's Specialized Hospital, Mountainside, NJ; ***Poster - CSM 2022:*** Reliability and Validity of the Pediatric Communication and Handling Self-Efficacy Scale. Mitchell Joseph Wolden, PT, DPT, PhD - University of Jamestown; ***Platforms - CSM 2022:*** COVID-19 Concerns for Individuals with Down Syndrome and Their Families in Indiana. Kathryn Sue Martin, PT, DHS - Krannert School of PT University of Indianapolis ***AND*** Safety and Feasibility of 1-Repetition Maximum Testing in Children and Adolescents with Cerebral Palsy. Mattie Elizabeth Pontiff, PT, DPT - Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center
- **Dichter PCS Scholarships:** Kristen Connolly, PT, DPT; Kristen Dragotta, PT, DPT; Renee Fontana, PT, DPT; Heidi Lee, PT; Allison Young, PT
- **CSM Attendance Scholarship for New Professionals:** Kimberly Rolf, PT, DPT
- **Long Journal Award:** Andrea Baraldi Cunha, PhD
- **Hughes Journal Award:** Kimberley Scott, PT, DPT
- **2022 Knowledge Translation Lectureship:** Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Teaming up to Implement Best Practice. Catie Collier Christensen, PT, and Danielle Moeske Bellows, PT, DHSC

[Applications for most awards are due October 1](#) – nominate someone or apply yourself!

APTA Centennial Involvement

A century of APTA was celebrated in 2021, including the opening of new APTA headquarters in January 2021 and the APTA Centennial Celebration, Gala, Advocacy Day, and [Future of Physical Therapy Summit](#) in September 2021. As part of these celebrations, APTA Pediatrics sponsored two APTA Centennial Scholars who participated in activities throughout 2021 and completed a capstone project:

- **Josie Gannon** focused her project on volunteer engagement. Due to the integral nature of volunteers in our Academy, Josie began updating and standardizing the volunteer onboarding process. This will allow volunteers' time to be utilized in a more efficient manner by identifying key training goals and focused linkages to various Academy volunteer opportunities. Volunteers will have a foundation of Academy structure and clearly defined goals for the specific volunteer opportunity to allow them to be ready to step into a position with clear expectations. The Academy's leadership and volunteer committees are working with Josie to bring her ongoing project to life.

- **Emily Quinn** focused on increasing the awareness of gaps in care of children in out-of-home care. During the project Emily created a resource sheet of key terms/definitions linked with out-of-home care. She then created and presented a two-part podcast episode focused on increasing the awareness of how pediatric physical therapists can better serve children in out-of-home care:
 - [Resource sheet for centennial scholar program.docx - Google Docs](#)
 - **#26: Out-of-Home Caregivers Interview with Emily Quinn** ([SNP SIG Podcast](#))
 - **#28: Pediatric Out-of-Home & Health Care Workers** ([SNP SIG Podcast](#))



Summary

APTA Pediatrics isn't just a collection of resources. It's a place of engagement and community, a place that offers opportunities for professional growth, and a place that enables our collective voice to be heard in the wider physical therapy world. Being a member is an opportunity to better serve our patients and families by fulfilling our individual potential and the potential of our profession as pediatric physical therapists. We urge you to encourage your peers to join our cause – our voice and impact grows with each new member. Thank you for a wonderful year!

How Do I...

- [Find the APTA Pediatrics website/contact APTA Pediatrics?](#)
- [Join APTA Pediatrics and explore the benefits of belonging?](#)
- [Find out about upcoming courses, including APTA Pediatrics Annual Conference?](#)
- [Find out about APTA's Combined Sections Meeting?](#)
- [Join a Special Interest Group?](#)
- [Become a APTA Pediatrics Partner?](#)
- [Access the APTA Pediatrics Fact Sheets?](#)
- [Nominate someone \(or myself\) for an award or scholarship \(due October 1\)?](#)
- [Participate on the APTA Pediatric Forum Community?](#)
- [Follow APTA Pediatrics on social media?](#)
- [Apply for an APTA Pediatrics research grant \(due June 1\)?](#)
- [Access the *Pediatric Physical Therapy* journal online?](#)
- [Access past issues of *Milestones*, the monthly electronic newsletter?](#)
- [Find out more about the mentoring program?](#)
- [See the status of APTA Pediatrics Clinical Practice Guidelines?](#)
- [Donate to APTA Pediatrics?](#)

- [Find out more about the International Organisation of Physical Therapists in Paediatrics?](#)
- [Find information to share with my parents and families?](#)
- [Find out more about the Students & New Professionals group?](#)
- [Apply for an APTA Pediatrics residency or fellowship program grant?](#)
- [Find out more about becoming a Pediatric Certified Specialist or the PTA Advanced Proficiency Pathways \(APP\)?](#)
- [Find out more about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives?](#)
- [Find pediatric legislative and advocacy resources?](#)
- [Find out how I can get involved?](#)

Thank you for your membership! Feel free to reach out to us directly anytime at info@pediatricapta.org.