

Board of Directors - Candidate Bio and Statements – 2025

The information below was provided by each candidate in response to a request to provide a brief bio and statement of interest and qualifications for the position.

Name: Harsha Deoghare PT PhD FHEL

Title: Associate Dean , Chair DPT

Position: BOARD - Director

Brief Bio	Candidate Statement
<p>Dr. Harsha Deoghare is the Associate Dean of Research and Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy Education at Western University of Health Sciences. With a PhD in Rehabilitation Science from the University of Florida and over two decades of experience, he has been dedicated to academic leadership, faculty development, and financial sustainability in higher education. A 2020 APTA Fellow in Higher Education Leadership, he has contributed to advancing excellence in physical therapy education through national initiatives, policy development, and collaborative leadership. For more than a decade, Dr. Deoghare has been actively involved in ACAPT leadership, starting with the Consortium for Humanities, Professionalism, and Ethics. He was a key member of the Task Force on Data & Technology for Program Outcomes, which established a framework for reliable data management and evidence-based decision-making, contributing to the creation of the ACAPT Center for Excellence and national benchmarking for program evaluation. As Founding Chair of the ACAPT Institute for Academic Advancement (IAA), he has led task forces on interprofessional education, student preparedness, admissions, and defining the value of DPT education. Since 2020, Dr. Deoghare has also served as a California delegate to the APTA House of Delegates, where he continues to contribute to policy development, workforce advocacy, and strengthening the profession at the national level.</p>	<p>Higher education and healthcare are undergoing unprecedented transformation, driven by rising costs, workforce shortages, declining enrollments, shifting care models, and the disruptive impact of artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies. As these forces reshape our profession, ACAPT must proactively ensure DPT education remains rigorous, evidence-based, and deeply human-centered. In a rapidly changing landscape, critical thinking, ethical reasoning, empathy, and professionalism must complement technical skills to develop adaptable, compassionate clinicians. As DEI policies evolve, ACAPT remains key in fostering excellence, access, and opportunity for all faculty and students. With over two decades of leadership in higher education, research, and national policy, I have worked within ACAPT, APTA, and WesternU to develop data-driven strategies for faculty development, academic-clinical partnerships, financial sustainability, and program evaluation. As Founding Chair of the ACAPT Institute for Academic Advancement (IAA) and a key contributor to Task Force on Data & Technology for Evaluating Programmatic Excellence, I have helped establish national benchmarks, interdisciplinary collaboration, and evidence-based assessment. If elected, I will focus on strengthening ACAPT's leadership in shaping policy, expanding institutional resources, and positioning DPT education to lead in the future of healthcare.</p>

Name: Jamie Dehan PT, DPT, PhD, MS

Title: Professor, DPT Program Director, Health Science Division Chair

Position: BOARD - Director

Brief Bio	Candidate Statement
<p>Jamie Dehan, PT, PhD is a Professor and Program Director in the Stefani Doctor of Physical Therapy at the University of Saint Mary. She also serves as Chair of the Division of Health Sciences and has been with the university since 2010. Dr. Dehan earned her Master of Physical Therapy from Rockhurst University, transitional DPT from the University of Kansas, and PhD in Higher Education Administration from Saint Louis University. She is a 2021 graduate of the APTA Fellowship in Higher Education (FEL). Throughout her 19 years as a physical therapist, she has worked in a variety of settings to include outpatient, inpatient, SNF, and home health. Dr. Dehan enjoys helping the next generation of our profession develop their God-given talents and follow their true calling in becoming a physical therapist as well as serving as a mentor to many younger faculty and students interested in academics at some point in their career. Dr. Dehan has served in leadership roles within the ACAPT Awards & Recognition Committee, NCCE Nominating Committee, APTA Faculty SIG, and many regional, state, and local organizations. Her areas of research include the scholarship of teaching and learning and student success predictors.</p>	<p>I am excited to be considered for a position on the ACAPT Board. To serve this body would be an honor. I wholeheartedly believe in ACAPT's efforts to be the influential voice in physical therapy educational excellence. My past leadership experience will aid me well in this position. I am a graduate of the APTA Fellowship on Leadership, completed my PhD in Higher Education Administration and have served in leadership positions within organizations from community to national level as far back as high school. I have experience in professional organizations like ACAPT Awards & Recognition Committee, NCCE, Academic Faculty SIG and KPTA and community organizations like PTO, HOA, 4-H and Girl Scouts. Experiences within my institution that would aid me in this role have included serving as Faculty Senate Chair, Promotion & Tenure Committee Chair, Grievance Committee Chair, DPT Program Director, and Health Science Division Chair. Much of the feedback I receive from colleague's remarks on my ability to make all involved feel included and valued while also creating a productive environment that encourages innovation. I welcome your vote of support to allow me to bring my qualifications to the ACAPT Board as a Director.</p>

Name: Sara Kraft PT, DPT, EdD candidate

Title: Professor and Residential program director

Position: BOARD - Director

Brief Bio	Candidate Statement
<p>Dr. Sara Kraft is a leader in the field of physical therapy, with a career spanning nearly three decades. As a professor and the Residential Division Director at the Medical University of South Carolina, she has demonstrated exceptional leadership in academic and clinical settings. Dr. Kraft teaches the Neuromuscular course series for DPT students, leveraging her extensive expertise as a board-certified neurological specialist and former board-certified assistive technology professional.</p> <p>She is also a co-founding director of the Medical University of South Carolina Neurological Residency, where she has been instrumental in shaping the program. Dr. Kraft also served as the Chair of the APTA Residency/Fellowship Education Special Interest Group and was a board member of the Academy of Education for four years, showcasing her commitment to advancing the profession through education and mentorship.</p> <p>Dr. Kraft's academic credentials include a BS, MHS, and DPT from the Medical University of South Carolina. She is currently pursuing an EdD in Educational Leadership at Capella University, underscoring her dedication to continuous growth and development as a leader. Her diverse experience as a clinician, manager, and educator across various settings highlights her ability to inspire and guide others in physical therapy.</p>	<p>I feel truly honored to be considered for a board position with the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT)! With over 15 years of experience as a passionate physical therapy educator, I've dedicated my career to nurturing excellence in both academic and clinical education. My heart is really set on advancing student success, supporting our amazing faculty, and contributing to the ongoing growth of our profession through teamwork and collaborative leadership.</p> <p>Having previously served on the Academy of Physical Therapy Education (APTE) board, I bring a lot of valuable experience in organizational governance, strategic planning, and engaging with stakeholders. I truly understand the challenges of academic leadership and the importance of aligning educational standards with the ever-evolving demands of clinical practice. Joining the ACAPT board would be a wonderful opportunity for me to broaden my influence and grow as a leader, advocate, and change agent in the field of physical therapy education. I am wholeheartedly committed to promoting innovation, inclusivity, and academic excellence across all institutions and programs. With my background, insights, and unwavering dedication to educational advancement, I believe I would be a strong candidate to serve ACAPT and support its vital mission.</p> <p>Thank you so much for considering my candidacy! I am excited about the chance to meaningfully contribute to the future of academic physical therapy.</p>

Name: Sara North PT, DPT, PhD, M.Ed., FNAP
Title: Director of Educational Innovation & Evaluation
Position: BOARD - Director

Brief Bio	Candidate Statement
<p>Sara North PT, DPT, PhD, M.Ed., FNAP serves as Director of Educational Innovation and Evaluation and Associate Professor in the Division of Physical Therapy in the Medical School, and Co-Director of the University of Minnesota's Center for Interprofessional Health. Dr. North is a Distinguished Scholar Fellow in the National Academies of Practice and has earned national awards for leadership, innovation, and influence. She serves on the Executive Committee for the Physical Therapy Academy in the National Academies of Practice and on the Board of Directors for the American Council for Academic Physical Therapy.</p> <p>In addition to her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree, Dr. North completed her PhD in Evaluation Studies and Master of Education - Community Health Educator degrees. Dr. North's scholarly and professional passions include interprofessional curriculum development and assessment, system-level approaches to organizational change, contemporary challenges in health professions education, population health, diversity in health professions, and data-informed collaborative initiatives and assessment.</p>	<p>It has been an honor to serve ACAPT as a Board Director for the past year, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to continue growing in this role. My contributions to date have received positive feedback and advanced the organization's efforts, including uplifting the great work of the Clinical Education Commission as Board Liaison, advocating for national data efforts as Board Liaison for the Center of Excellence Data Advisory Committee, writing board-sponsored motions, and pursuing strategic quality improvement initiatives within the new organizational structure. I am committed and well-positioned to serve in addressing the key issues facing our profession, in line with the ACAPT Strategic Plan: 1) Academic Innovation is the heart of what drives my professional pursuits, in line with the significant shifts in PT education that are on the horizon and the flexible mindset needed to adapt to new models, with experience leading large-scale educational initiatives. 2) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is prioritized through my efforts launching pathways programs, developing JEDI-based workforce programming, and integrating JEDI constructs into the frame of DPT program operations. 3) Influence, through my experience in DPT program leadership, role as founding Co-Director of the University's Center for Interprofessional Health, responsibilities overseeing curriculum, accreditation, and assessment, and past board experience. I previously served as DCE and regularly disseminate peer-reviewed educational works. I am confident that I am prepared to humbly serve our profession in this role.</p>

