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**ORAL HISTORY SNAPSHOTS**

**Reflections of Key Leaders Across Time**

*Dr. Boissonnault, on behalf of ACAPT, it is a pleasure to have you participate in this interview. Drawing from the different vantage points you have had in your career can you share your memories of how ACAPT emerged and what you hoped would happen after it developed?*

During most of this time, I was a very interested observer watching this unfold and listening to conversations about the formation of a Council. I thought it was an important move for PT education and for the whole profession. The directors of the PT programs needed a different venue to impact education in ways they wanted and as the profession needed. The formation of ACAPT was an important step for the future of PT education and it has been exciting to watch its birth and evolution. It’s also going to be fun to watch it evolve and grow further. The importance of ACAPT became more obvious to me in my role as the APTA staff and with my involvement with the two Task Forces generated by the House of Delegates about PT education and clinical education. Those groups came up with the same issues described 30-40-50 years ago. However, there are 2 things that make me optimistic that we have the potential to make major headway this time with issues that have not gone away. The formation of ACAPT was one of those. Years ago, we did not have in place an organization of our PT program leadership that had the power and the ability to influence change. ACAPT is recognized as a leader in education by the House of Delegates. The organizations that ACAPT represents are extremely important to where our profession wants to go. CAPTE sets a bar for education, but we also need a bar related to excellence and ACAPT sets that bar of excellence for education. Formation of the Educational Leadership Partnership (ELP) is the second sign of optimism. ELP is a different type of relationship - more formal and with public accountability that all 3 organizations (APTA, ACAPT and the Academy of PT Education) will contribute resources and work together toward a common goal.

*Can you remember any special anecdotes or people’s influence from your various vantage points and are memorable and that helped ACAPT grow ?*

I remember speeches given by Leslie Portney and Diane Jette that really helped cement my thoughts about how having a different organizational structure for PT program leadership could best position the academic leaders to represent their organization and move the profession forward. Certainly, in his McMillan Lecture, Jim Gordon laid out a very strong argument and rationale about how to drive the profession’s education endeavors forward. The roles that ACAPT, in collaboration with APTA and the Academy, can and should have to drive the profession’s education agenda were articulated by these individuals.

*Will ACAPT help unite other professions’ educational endeavors?*

Interprofessional education is happening in academic settings, and I hope that student experience with other professions will carry over to clinical practice. ACAPT has established relationships in professional education with other national organizations and with APTA is taking leadership in this area. Now, we need to further nurture these relationships to ensure carry-over in practice of our interprofessional expectations.

*ACAPT made an early decision to represent the PT education community. Do you think that there should be a change in that emphasis through ACAPT ?*

I have mixed feelings about this because many of the issues ACAPT is addressing apply also to PTA education (and to residency and fellowship education), and I think it is important that we connect those dots. But there are only so many resources available, and no one organization has the resources to do everything. PTA, residency and fellowship education are regularly discussed at ELP to avoid making decisions about clinical education or other topics without considering the impact on PTA education.

*To date, what impact has ACAPT had on the clinical community?*

I am not sure ACAPT has had a big impact yet. It is a very young organization with an aggressive agenda, but many of these initiatives will take years to bring to fruition. We do have more clinical educators attending the Education Leadership Conference, but what we still need is a true partnership between academic programs and excellence in community. Although some models have already been developed, I don’t believe we have identified what this partnership truly needs to be. This is one of the critical challenges we face because if we cannot create a true partnership, we will have a hard time implementing some of the major initiatives that are important for the future of education ..

*Using your crystal ball, can you project what might happen with ACAPT in the next 2-5 years ?*

If ACAPT further implements its strategic plans, it will have greater and greater impact. The consortia, taskforces and committees are all doing important work, but that work needs to be completed and published to drive the future of education. We need more data to make the best decisions possible and we need more education researchers who can generate that data. This is a situation we have faced clinically and with health services research where we needed more data and did not have enough researchers. In education, we haven’t had enough research to drive decision making. As ACAPT completes, publishes and disseminates it work, it will carry over to changes being made in our education processes and support education decision making.

*Bill, thank you for helping us understand what the role of ACAPT is in the future of PT education. It has been our privilege to have you help document ACAPT’s early history and see your enthusiasm for its potential to grow and evolve.*