

# APTA Pennsylvania Annual Conference Abstract Submission Guidelines

Abstract Submissions accepted until Monday, June 12, 2023

## Purpose

APTA Pennsylvania supports and promotes research excellence in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, most notably by facilitating an opportunity for APTA Pennsylvania members to submit abstracts annually for consideration for presentation at the MovePA Annual Conference. The 2023 MovePA Annual Conference will be held at the Lancaster Marriott on Penn Square in Lancaster, PA on Oct. 6-8, 2023.

## Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration, the primary presenter **MUST** be both an APTA and APTA Pennsylvania member. The primary presenter is responsible for all communication to/from the Chapter and Practice & Research Committee, and for forwarding any communications to other researchers included in this study. If the primary presenter is a student, the responsible faculty member's name and contact information must also be provided. **All presenters must register for conference on the day presenting.**

Abstracts should have relevance and implications to physical therapy practice. Studies on non-clinical populations are acceptable, however the link to future work in clinical populations should be clear.

## **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

MovePA is scheduled to be held live in Lancaster, PA. However, in the event that the conference must be moved to a virtual or hybrid platform, both Platform and Poster presentations will be presented in a virtual format.

Abstracts with data collection in progress at the time of the submission deadline may be considered for acceptance and therefore, in some circumstances, *research results do not need to be completed prior to abstract submission*. Authors submitting abstracts should be confident that data will be collected, and analysis will be completed, prior to the conference presentation. **The plan for data analysis and the anticipated timeline for study completion MUST be stated within the abstract. All abstracts accepted with pending analysis/results must confirm study completion with the APTA PA Practice & Research Committee by August 30, 2023.** Studies that cannot be completed by the Aug. 30 deadline can be re-submitted in 2024 and will be given priority consideration.

## Conference Presentation Formats

**Platform presentations** are a 12-minute oral presentation using a PowerPoint presentation to a seated audience, followed by 3 minutes of question time, and will be moderated by a chairperson. Platform presentations will be held Friday, October 6, 2023, from 4:45-6:15 p.m.

**Poster presentations** are reports summarizing information using brief written statements and graphic materials, such as graphs, charts, figures and photographs mounted on a poster board, the dimensions of which must not exceed the standard space per poster (36" H x 48" W). It is preferable that the posters are mounted on a foamboard type of material or otherwise able to be placed on an easel for display. Please plan to bring foam board backing (standard tri-fold presentation board will measure to guideline) and fasteners that will allow for presentation. Poster set up will be Friday, October 6, 2023, from 8:00-11:00 a.m. Poster presentations will be held Saturday, October 7, 2023, from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

## Submission Types

**Research reports** are presentations of original scientific data collected by the author(s). Any established research format, both experimental and non-experimental designs, may be used. Scientific research requires the design of a study, collection of samples, measurement of variables, analysis of data, and presentation of

the results. Abstracts should include the following sections: Purpose/Hypothesis, Subjects/Materials/Methods, Results, Conclusions, Clinical Relevance, and References.

**Special interest reports** are presentations of unique and innovative concepts, ideas, devices, or products developed to meet the special needs of physical therapy. Emphasis should be on the unique and innovative nature of the concept or idea presented. All reports must contain data or evaluative information either collected or developed by the author(s) that address the idea, concept, device, or product presented. Reports that are limited to a "proposed" idea, concept, device, or product are not appropriate for submission and will not be allowed for presentation. Abstracts should include the following sections: Purpose, Description, Summary of Use, Importance to Members (includes Clinical Relevance) and References.

**Case reports** include the application of physical therapy examination or interventions to improve or document patient outcomes. Small subject sets or case series may be included in this category. Abstracts should include the following sections: Background and Purpose, Case Description, Outcomes, Discussion (includes Clinical Relevance) and References.

## Selection Criteria

The following criteria will be reviewed and rated for selection of abstracts accepted for conference presentation:

<p><b>1. Background/Hypothesis/Purpose</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Study should be relevant to and within the scope of physical therapy practice.</li><li>b. Background/purpose/literature review should be well described.</li><li>c. Gap in knowledge that the study aims to address should be clear.</li><li>d. Study purpose is explicitly stated.</li><li>e. Research report hypothesis clearly stated.</li></ul>
<p><b>2. Methods/Design</b></p> <p>Methodology should be sound, design clear and appropriate for study. For Example:</p> <p><b>Research Reports</b> should describe methods thoroughly/concisely and appropriate data analysis well-described.</p> <p><b>Special Interest Reports</b> should describe the clinical importance of the report.</p> <p><b>Case Study Reports</b> should provide well-described patient history, clinical presentation, and exam findings and the reported outcome measures should be evidence-based and clinically relevant.</p>
<p><b>3. Results/Outcomes</b></p> <p><b>Research Reports:</b></p> <p><u>If research is completed</u>, data should be thoroughly and accurately analyzed, and results reported and well-explained.</p> <p><u>If data analysis and results are not completed</u>, an appropriate plan, based on current evidence, is described, and includes the anticipated timeframe for completion.</p> <p><b>Special Interest Reports:</b></p> <p>Importance to members is relevant and clearly stated.</p> <p><b>Case Reports:</b></p> <p>Case specifics are clearly and thoroughly discussed.</p>
<p><b>4. Conclusion/Clinical Relevance</b></p> <p>Clinical relevance and implications to physical therapy and/or importance to members are clearly stated.</p> <p><b>Research Reports:</b> Accurate Interpretations.</p> <p><b>Special Interest Reports:</b> Well-described topic summary.</p> <p><b>Case Studies:</b> Synthesis of outcomes stated.</p>
<p><b>5. Professional Presentation/Quality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Adherence to formatting requirements evident.</li><li>b. Abstract clearly and concisely written.</li><li>c. Use of correct spelling and proper grammar.</li><li>d. Use of people first and inclusive language.</li></ul>

e. Citations and references are reported in AMA format (Up to 5 references within last 10 years).

## Abstract Formatting

- Abstract must be saved in a Word format (.doc or .docx).
- The word count of the abstract body is limited to 500 words, not including the title, authors, and references.
- Identifying information must be single-spaced in the header margin and include:
  - Title, case-sensitive, please.
  - Name(s) of the author(s) with the presenter's name underlined.
  - Email address of the presenter
  - Place where the work was completed.
  - Acknowledgement of any financial support for the work being presented.
- You must indicate the category of your abstract submission (research, special interest, or case report) and the preferred mode of presentation (platform, poster, or either).

## General Information

- In keeping with APTA-Pennsylvania's policy, honorariums, fees, or payment of expenses will not be provided for presenters. **Conference registration is required on the day of the presentation.** Only individuals registering for the conference may receive continuing education credit for attending approved APTA PA educational sessions.
- Abstracts should address the current evidence, where it exists, the need for further research and areas of controversy in the literature. Any reference to personal experience or hypotheses should be clearly labeled as such.
- All presentations must adhere to the use of "people-first" language. A person must not be referred to by disability or condition, and terms that could be considered biasing or discriminatory in any way should be removed (e.g. "person with a stroke" instead of "stroke patients").
- Any source(s) of funding or support for the work being presented should be acknowledged.
- Presenters are responsible for providing all copyright permissions and securing appropriate ethics review.
- All decisions of the APTA PA Practice and Research Committee are final.

## Review Process

All submitted abstracts will go through a blinded and peer-reviewed process completed by qualified abstract reviewers. Selection will be based on the abstract's conformance to the above stated selection criteria and standards for acceptance. **All applicants will be notified of the outcome no later than Aug. 25, 2023.** After a notification of acceptance, a contract and further details regarding the presentations will be provided.

## Contact Information

Please address any specific questions to:

**Mary Ann Wharton, PT, MS**

Chair, APTA PA Practice and Research Committee

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