

2018 AAA Innovations Grant Proposal Letter of Intent

Establishing Core Content for Anatomy Education Excellence in Physical Therapist Programs

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This proposal is a request for funding to develop an online platform to serve as an anatomy resource for those involved in physical therapist (PT) education. The Anatomy Educators Special Interest Group (AESIG) of the Academy of Physical Therapy Education, a sub-section of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), was formed recently to address issues germane to PT anatomy education. Members would like to develop consensus on the core anatomy content that demonstrates excellence in PT education. The specific aims of this proposal are to: 1) develop an online survey instrument for anatomy educators to determine current content and delivery methods of anatomy instruction in PT programs; 2) complete Beta testing, revision, and validation of the instrument based on the results of a pilot program that includes cognitive interviews, focus groups of content experts, and stepwise, sequential re-assessments and data analysis; and 3) develop best practices for teaching anatomy-related content in PT programs. The investigators, members of both the AESIG and the AAA, hope to foster greater awareness and involvement in the AAA among AESIG members. Recognizing that many faculty who teach anatomy in PT programs were not educated as anatomists and that some non-PT anatomy faculty teach in PT programs, the AESIG strives to facilitate better communication and integration among faculty involved in anatomy instruction and research. To complete this project, the investigators will hold organizational meetings in conjunction with APTA and AAA meetings to develop and pilot test the survey instrument, conduct cognitive interviews, and convene focus groups. Ultimately, the investigators will develop an online platform, modeled after the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT) Benchmarks for Excellence project, for final survey administration, resource lists and links to other organizations, and recommendations and guidelines. Data will be disseminated through conference presentations (American Association of Anatomists Annual Meeting and/or the Combined Sections Meeting of the APTA) and peer-reviewed publications (Anatomic Sciences Education and/or the Journal of Physical Therapist Education). This proposal addresses the AAA Strategic Plan (AAA, 2017) Goal A: *Advance knowledge and its application through research and education*; Goal B3: *Showcase anatomy in specific disciplines*; and Goal E3: *Assess and cultivate relationships with other key groups*. Establishing guidelines for PT anatomy education and leveraging the expertise of AAA anatomists can eliminate variability among graduate programs in PT and, ultimately, enhance the quality of PT education.