Expanding Our Reach

The RFESIG met on May 9th regarding strategies to facilitate growth in your R/F program and to expand our communication strategies. Please keep your eye out for more information in upcoming newsletters, the RFESIG website, or the Hub.

I would also like to thank Carol Jo Tichenor and Anne O’Donnell for their guidance and support as their terms with RFESIG come to an end. Please extend a warm welcome to our new board members, David Nolan and Cheri Hodges. Their experience and knowledge in R/F education will be a great asset to our SIG.

Sincerely,

Sara Kraft, Chair
Election Results

Please join us in welcoming the RFESIG’s new and returning board members!

Jason Zafereo, PT, PhD, OCS, FAAOMPT
Vice Chair

David Nolan, PT, DPT, MS, OCS, SCS, CSCS
Membership Secretary

David Gillette, PT, DPT, GCS
Nominating Committee Chair

Cheri Hodges, PT, DPT, MApPSc, OCS, FAAOMPT
Nominating Committee

A huge thank you to everyone who voted. Your input is important to us!

Thank you Carol Jo & Anne!

We would like to say thank you to our outgoing officers. These two exemplify the collaboration and forward-thinking that our SIG hopes to facilitate in the realm of post-professional education. Please join us in wishing them well on their future endeavors. Residency and fellowship education is better because of them. Thank you!

Carol Jo Tichenor, PT, MA, HFAAOMPT, FAPTA
Outgoing Vice Chair

Anne O’Donnell, PT, PhD
Outgoing Membership Secretary
Employer Perceptions of Physical Therapists’ Residency & Fellowship Training: Insights for Career Development Planning

Matthew S. Briggs, PT, DPT, PhD, AT; Julie Whitman, PT, DSc, FAAOMPT; Becky Olson-Kellogg, PT, DPT; Joseph Farrell, PT, MAppSci, DPT, FAPTA; Kathryn R. Glaws, PT, DPT; Joann M. Walker, PT, DPT; Jill Clutter, PhD; Carol Jo Tichenor, PT, MA, FAPTA


**Introduction:** Residencies and fellowships have been developed to train physical therapists (PTs) toward advanced expertise while emphasizing patient outcomes, evidence-based care, and advancing practice. Research evaluating the impact of PT residency or fellowship training, its value, and/or benefits is scarce. The purpose of this study was to evaluate if employers perceive the performance of residency- and/or fellowship-trained employees differently than non-residency-trained and/or non-fellowship-trained employees.

**Methods:** Participants were employers who employ PTs who have graduated from accredited physical therapy residency and fellowship programs in the United States. A survey was distributed asking perceptions of how employees, who were residency and/or fellowship trained, performed compared to employees with equivalent years of experience who were not residency or fellowship trained. Mann-Whitney U tests were used for comparison.

**Results:** A total response rate of 40% (n=226) was achieved, and a total of 184 responses were included. Respondents rated residency- and/or fellowship-trained employees higher in domains of Leadership, Communication, Clinical Aptitude, Scholarship/Evidence Based Practice, and Teaching when compared to experience-matched colleagues. Employers rated fellowship-trained employees higher than residency-trained employees in areas of Leadership, Communication, and Clinical Aptitude.

**Discussion and Conclusion:** These results may be important for assisting students and early- and mid-career professionals in making decisions about whether to attend residency and/or fellowship education and for understanding what employers value in making hiring decisions. Further, these considerations may influence future promotion opportunities, patient satisfaction, and payment policies.

Looking for more? A list of new literature has been posted on the Hub and the RFESIG website.

Have you or a colleague published a study or presented a poster related to residency or fellowship education?

Email an abstract to
Yvonne Body
ybody@usa.edu

Submissions are accepted on an ongoing basis
Don’t Miss Out on ELC!

Interested in attending ELC?
The Academy of Physical Therapy Education and the American Council Academic Physical Therapy are sponsoring the 2019 Educational Leadership Conference registration fees for up to 40 clinical educators and/or clinical administrators. You must spend 50% of your time in a clinical setting.

Click here to apply!

Hurry! The deadline is May 25th.

Already attending?
Consider volunteering with us
The RFESIG is looking for volunteers to assist us at ELC.
Please contact Christina Gomez for more information.
Email: cgomezpt@gmail.com

Recognize Your Colleagues

Know an exceptional mentor or resident/fellow-in-training? In a few short months, the window opens for nominations for the following APTA and ABPTRFE awards:

• Residency/Fellowship Excellence in Mentoring
• Outstanding Resident or Fellow-in-Training

Stay tuned for more information!
RFESIG Think Tank

*Now Live*

The RFESIG Think Tank would like to highlight two new resources that will be posted to the Think Tank page soon.

• The Bellin College OMPT Fellowship has developed some interesting ways to use technology to engage in asynchronous, video-based discussions that do not lend themselves to the traditional forum discussion boards. This platform can be used for case discussion, technique demonstration, or evidence reviews. The opportunities and challenges of this technology are presented in the resource description.

• A two hour video-recorded lecture from Marquette University will soon be available for purchase by residents and fellows. The title of the lecture is "Introduction to Clinical Research Methods," by Philip Malloy, PT, PhD.

The RFESIG Think Tank is interested in collecting information about how the Think Tank Compendium is being used. Please be on the lookout for a survey to be emailed soon!

To access the RFESIG Think Tank Compendium, click here.

We kindly request that if you use a resource in the Think Tank Compendium in your own program, please cite the R/F program that developed that tool.
R/F SIG Corner

What’s happening in other Residency & Fellowship SIGs or groups?

Orthopaedic Residency and Fellowship SIG (ORF-SIG)
Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy

• ABPTRFE New Substantive Changes Policies and Procedures
In June 2018 the ABPTRFE released their new Policies and Procedures (P&P) connected to the Quality Standards. In November, complimentary documents to the P&P were released including Substantive Changes documents. To fully understand the impact that the new policy “13.4 - Substantive changes” would have on programs, the ORF-SIG in collaboration with the AATOMPT PD-SIG released a survey to its members. The survey results identified there being a significant impact on Residency and Fellowship Programs noting 63% of Residency programs and 77% of Fellowship Programs were not in favor of the new policy changes. In response, the APTA set up a Key Stakeholders meeting in April and the ABPTRFE put a hold on the implementation of Substantive Change Policy 13.4. More information is expected following the May ABPTRFE board meeting. We will continue to keep you updated as processes change.

• ACAPT White Paper on terminal internship interviews
In 2018, the Clinical Education Special Interest Group released a white paper presented by a partnership of several DPT programs about DPT students in their terminal affiliation requesting time off for residency interviews. The controversial paper outlined challenges and barriers DPT programs encountered with clinical sites and advocated for students to focus on their terminal experiences. Given these new perspectives the ORF-SIG is working with ACAPT to publish recommendations for both residency directors as well as education of prospective residents by setting expectations of DPT students while in the professional program, helping DPT students/potential residents identify a single area of residency practice to pursue, and educating Directors of Clinical Education (DCE’s) and clinical instructors (CI’s) regarding the perspectives of residency programs. We look forward to completing this work.

As the RFESIG continues to collaborate with all R/F SIGs to advance residency and fellowship education, we encourage our members to learn about other R/F teams.
Click on each group for more information.
Please note for most groups, you must be a member of their Academy to join.

Task Force on Residencies and Fellowships // Academy of Acute Care Physical Therapy
Orthopaedic Residency and Fellowship SIG (ORF-SIG) // Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy
Geriatric Residency and Fellowship SIG // Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy
Sports Residency and Fellowship SIG // American Academy of Sports Physical Therapy
Neurologic Residency & Fellowship Information // Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy
Pediatric Residency & Fellowship Information // Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy
EMG/NCV Residency Information // American Academy of Clinical Electrodiagnosis
Member Resources

- **RFESIG website** - Learn more about our SIG [here](#).

- **Our Hub Community** - Join us [here](#).

- **Think Tank Compendium** - Click [here](#) to access resources to enhance your residency or fellowship program. *Now Live*

- **Please note:** If you incorporate a tool into your R/F program, please cite the program that developed the document.

- The RFESIG Think Tank is an ongoing effort and will continue to review resources for inclusion in the Compendium. If you would like to share a resource with the Think Tank, please click [here](#).

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**Thank you to our members!**
The RFESIG continues to grow and now has 235 members.

**Everyone is welcome!**
Invite residency and fellowship graduates, faculty, and program directors across all specialty areas to join our SIG.

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**Questions? Comments?**
Contact Christina Gomez at cgomezpt@gmail.com

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“I am not a teacher, but an awakener.”
- Robert Frost