



Membership in APTA Oncology, An Academy of the American Physical Therapy Association

Emma Schaberg O'Brien, SPT, CLT, RYT

About The Academy of Oncologic Physical Therapy

APTA Oncology aims to optimize movement and quality of life of individuals impacted by cancer and chronic illness. To achieve this future, we seek to advance physical therapist practice for persons affected by cancer and chronic illness by maximizing movement and wellness across the lifespan.

Section Benefits for Students

As a member of APTA Oncology, students are eligible for a variety of benefits including: Evidence-based research, an electronic subscription to "*Rehabilitation Oncology*", free SIG membership options, access to members only pages, and more:

- *Involvement in special interest groups which provide additional opportunities for networking, developing and recommending practice standards related to each area, the promotion of research and evidenced-based practice, and access to educational resources. APTA Oncology's SIGs include:*
 - HIV Disease
 - Residency
 - Hospice and Palliative Care
 - Lymphatic Diseases
 - Pediatric
 - Balance & Falls
- *Free access (with membership) to online Rehabilitation Oncology Journal Collections.*
- *Free access (with membership) to additional educational resources, toolkits, lectures, quick-guides and more.*
- *Chances to learn about oncology rehabilitation residencies and fellowships.*
- *Opportunities to become involved in the Academy's activities to further the profession and field of oncology rehabilitation.*
- *Occasions to build professional relationships with peers as well as leaders in oncologic physical therapy.*

- *Opportunities for both leadership and mentorship via the Academy's freshly formed Student & New Professional Subcommittee*
- *APTA Oncology participates in APTA's Early Career Dues Discount program which means that if you join while you're a student you'll receive:*
 - *A 50% discount on APTA national and section dues your first year post-graduation*
 - *A 40% discount for your second year post-graduation*
 - *A 30% discount your third year, and 20% off your fourth year post-graduation*

Student Section Members Experiences

"I have been a member of APTA Oncology since my second year of DPT school and have found great value in my membership as a student. The opportunity to collaborate and connect with other students and clinicians who share my interest in oncology rehabilitation, as well as having access to educational, evidence-based resources through APTA Oncology, has enabled me to become a more knowledgeable and confident future clinician." —Sarah Barwig, SPT

"I value being a member of the Academy to not only advance myself as a future clinician but also to advance our profession as a whole. Being a member of the Academy allows me to fulfill a variety of the Core Values of physical therapists and...because it enables me to empower myself as a future clinician and empower the community through compassionate, excellent, and patient-centered practice." — Kaitie Toth, PT, DPT

"I've been a part of APTA Oncology since my first year of DPT school and continue to remain a member of APTA Oncology for my career. As a student I found great value in the resources available to me (*Rehabilitation Oncology* journal, fact sheets, practice guidelines, and clinical internship opportunities). As a new professional, in a residency program I continue to find great value in APTA Oncology by being a part of the Student and New Professional Subcommittee, being a part of special interest groups, and continuing to stay up-to-date with new information and evidence-based research." — Andrew Chongaway, PT, DPT

About the Student & New Professional Subcommittee — Our Aims for PTs and PTAs Working with Individuals with Cancer

We each have our own reasons as to why we chose to become PTs or PTAs. Many of us enter into our programs with an idea or aspiration in mind as to what kind of professional we want to become. While careers focused on ortho, sports, or neuro rehab are all likely to be high on this list, I would venture to say that aspirations to become an oncologic PT/PTA are a bit more uncommon. It's likely just as rare for student PTs/PTAs to receive in-depth didactic teaching on the topic of oncologic rehabilitation or to have a clinical experience in the field. However, while many of us may graduate our programs without the same depth and breadth of understanding of oncology rehabilitation as other specialized areas, it does not mean that it is any less important or in demand.

The likelihood that a PT or PTA will treat a patient with a history of cancer at some point in their career, regardless of their field of practice, is ever increasing. This is why the APTA's Academy of Oncologic PT has created the Student and New Professional Subcommittee. Our mission is to engage our members through the sharing of resources, educational opportunities, networking, and mentorship — with the aim of preparing them to manage the musculoskeletal, neuromuscular, integumentary and cardiopulmonary rehabilitative needs of patients living with and beyond cancer.



The "3 C's"

Our Goals:

For Students and New Professionals
working with patients
with a history of cancer...

The "3 C's" represent our goals for both our members and all that engage with us, wherein we aim to enable students and new professionals to become comfortable, confident, and competent when working with patients with a history of cancer.

Comfortable

While conditions such as diabetes or multiple sclerosis may seem more likely, the fact is that in the US, a person's lifetime cancer risk is ~40%. Approaching patients with new or unfamiliar diagnoses may be daunting, so we're here to support you in feeling up to the task.

Confident

You know more than you think! Many cancer survivors have movement system impairments that students and new professionals are well equipped to evaluate and treat. We strive to help students and clinicians to feel confident in their abilities to evaluate for and provide effective interventions for the management of cancer-related symptoms and impairments.

Competent

Individuals with a history of cancer may have more complex cases that require a deeper and more specialized knowledge base and toolbox to draw from — we're here to help you grow your knowledge and add to your clinical toolbox.

For more information about the Student and New Professional Subcommittee and our initiatives please check out our [website](#).

(<https://oncologypt.org/sigs/students-new-professionals/>) We also welcome everyone to join the conversation by signing-up for our free [listserv](https://www.freelists.org/list/aptaoncsnp). (<https://www.freelists.org/list/aptaoncsnp>)

The best way to stay up-to-date with the Subcommittee is to follow us on social media! We'll be sharing educational content, opportunities to get involved, and more.

Twitter: [@APTAOncologySNP](https://twitter.com/APTAOncologySNP)

Instagram: [@APTAOncologySNP](https://www.instagram.com/APTAOncologySNP)

Facebook: [@APTAOncologySNP](https://www.facebook.com/APTAOncologySNP)

If you're interested in getting more involved, please reach-out us via the [contact form](#) on our site.

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Emma Schaberg O'Brien, SPT, CLT is the Chair of the Academy of Oncologic Physical Therapy Student and New Professional Subcommittee. You can connect with Emma on [Twitter](#).