



Greetings Friends of the Arizona Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association:

Welcome to November and Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours! APTA Arizona has so much to be thankful for and I encourage you to reflect on the past year with a sense of gratitude for all that we have accomplished and persevered. Our profession has always thrived under difficult circumstances and now is no exception. From our beginnings in World War I as Reconstruction Aides, to the Polio Pandemic, and most recently the Covid-19 pandemic, we will continue to flourish in times of adversity with the support of our members. We are better together and I thank you for your continued support.

Please allow me to personally thank all of our exhibitors, sponsors, and attendees for a wonderful Fall Conference. Special thanks to Peter Zawicki and Gateway Community College for hosting us and a sincere thank you to Seth Peterson for his presentation *The Art of Catching Zebras*. We did not have enough members present and voting for our potential Bylaw changes but we look forward to returning these potential changes to our next Business meeting. Thank you to the SIGs for hosting PT Pub Night afterwards and to our Executive Director Christa Lombardo-Ploof for making this event a success!

Please allow me to thank all who ran for a position on the APTA Arizona Executive Board and Arizona Delegation and congratulate Adi Halili for being announced as President-Elect, Letha Zook as Secretary, Tarang Jain as Treasurer, and Shaina Ettinger as District I Representative. We have open positions for District III (East Valley) and V (Northern Arizona) Representatives so please contact the Executive Board if you wish to be considered for this position by Board appointment. Jim Lynskey, Suzanne O'Neal, and Kimberly Varnado were elected as Arizona Delegates and Chad Waits as Alternate Delegate. Welcome to APTA Arizona, I look forward to working with you all, and thank you for your service to our Profession.

We also had the privilege of publicly acknowledging our 2022 APTA Arizona Award Recipients and Student Scholarship winners. Please allow me to publically recognize Jennifer Zoucha PT, DPT as 2022 PT of the Year and Valerie Beuschlein PTA as the 2022 PTA of the Year. Kayla Black was formally announced as the Chapter's 2022 Emerging Leader Award. We are honored to call you colleagues and friends and thank you for your contributions to Physical Therapy practice in Arizona.

Each year, APTA Arizona awards three \$1000 scholarships to PT students and two \$750 scholarships to PTA students made possible by the generous contributions from the Arizona Physical Therapy Director's Group. Student Physical Therapist Award Recipients were Claire Salanski SPT, Isabel Ticio SPT, and Kylie Austin SPT. The Student Physical Therapist Assistant Award Recipient was Linda Abegg SPTA. Thank you to all of the students who applied and we hope that you will consider serving Arizona's Physical Therapy needs in the future! Please consider supporting the Arizona Physical Therapy Director's Group by attending their next continuing education course scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup>.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact myself or our Executive Director Christa Lombardo-Ploof if there is anything the Chapter can do on your behalf.

With Gratitude,

Brian Schmitz PT, DPT

President, Arizona Physical Therapy Association