



**Winner of the 2017 R. Charles Harker, Esq. Policy Maker Award:  
Lisa Saladin, PT, PhD**

Dr. Lisa Saladin accepted the role of President of the South Carolina Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association (SCAPTA) at a time when they were first realizing that their practice act potentially ruled against licensed physical therapists working in a referral or profit environment.

In 2004, it was under her leadership that SCAPTA sought the opinion of the Attorney General, who agreed that the statute did in fact prohibit a physical therapist from working for pay for a physician employer, when the physician refers patients to the physical therapist for services. The SC Board of Examiners soon endorsed the Attorney General's opinion and Physician Ownership of Physical Therapy Services (POPTS) within the state of South Carolina became defunct.

This was a legal, legislative, and moral victory that Dr. Saladin was instrumental in achieving. It is also a battle they continue to this day. In the years since the original ruling, SCAPTA has been involved in number of suits related to this issue and Dr. Saladin has been a champion for our cause every time.

Dr. Saladin used the notoriety gained from this legislative battle to increase exposure on the dangers of referral for profit and the importance on achieving autonomy for the profession. This is evidenced by the numerous presentations she has given at national events and component meetings throughout the country. Dr. Saladin's leadership has provided her with a platform to effect physical therapy policy internally and externally. We believe that she has used this platform artfully to help positively influence our profession's future and current leaders; thereby shaping policy for years to come.

Dr. Lisa Saladin currently serves as the Interim Provost and Dean of the College of Health Professions at the Medical University of South Carolina.