

2026-2027 OPTA Student Special Interest Group (SSIG) Monthly Meeting

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88352915709?pwd=tbwaIoeGcPixlazOaY9EBElJqPd2q9.1>

Meeting ID: 883 5291 5709

Passcode: 393969

Attendance Tracker:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfR26Z1U2bzKxDnhizjSURdNsQLiY07jC2RscQhKFmfD3c0hw/viewform?usp=publish-editor>

Topic: Residency and Fellowship

Guest Speakers:

Ally Moore

Hi everyone! My name is Ally Moore. I graduated from The Ohio State University's DPT program in May 2025 and went on to complete the University of Toledo's Neurologic Physical Therapy Residency during the 2025–2026 year. Following residency, I joined the University of Toledo as an outpatient neurologic physical therapist. I currently treat a wide variety of neurologic and balance-related diagnoses, including stroke, spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, and general balance and mobility impairments. I also serve as the primary vestibular PT in the clinic, so approximately half of my current caseload consists of patients with vestibular disorders. I'm excited to share my experience with residency and give you a look into what the process, experience, and transition into practice can look like!

Emily Sloan

My name is Emily Sloan; I am the current neurologic physical therapy resident at the University of Toledo. The residency consists of 3 months in acute care at University of Toledo Medical Center (UTMC), followed by 3 months in IPR at the Rehabilitation Hospital of Northwest Ohio (RHNO), and finally 6 months in outpatient care at UTMC OP treating a large variety of individuals with neurologic conditions. Prior to residency I attended the University of Toledo's PT program, graduating in December 2025 and passing boards in January 2026. A fun fact about me is that I currently work PRN at OSU Dodd Rehabilitation Hospital in Columbus, Ohio while completing this residency.

Cleo Mills

Cleo joins the team from Indianapolis, Indiana after earning her Doctor of Physical Therapy in 2026 from The Ohio State University. She developed a strong interest in oncology through a personal family experience, which inspired her to pursue a career dedicated to improving the lives of individuals affected by cancer. Cleo is passionate about providing compassionate, patient centered care and supporting individuals in returning to meaningful activities during and beyond their cancer journey. Her clinical interests lie in both pediatric and adult oncology rehabilitation, with a focus on promoting function, independence, and overall quality of life. Outside of the clinic, Cleo enjoys reading, baking, and engaging in creative outlets such as scrapbooking and sewing. She also loves watching and playing soccer and values staying active while spending time with friends and family.

Christine Fleming

Christina earned her Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science from Kent State University and her Doctor of Physical Therapy from The Ohio State University in 2026. During PT school, she developed a passion for acute care through clinical experiences at both academic medical centers and regional hospitals, with a particular interest in providing safe early mobility interventions for critically ill patients. She has also contributed to cardiovascular research, presenting at the Midwest Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine Annual Meeting, and is an active member of the Acute Care and Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Academies of the American Physical Therapy Association. Now the Accelerated Acute Care Physical Therapy Resident at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, Christina is excited to continue advancing her clinical expertise while caring for medically complex patients across the acute care continuum.

Joshua Young

Hello, my is Joshua Young, and I am the current sports physical therapy resident at the University of Toledo. With my residency, I am fully integrated into the athletic training room on the University of Toledo's campus, and I treat athletes across all sports at the University of Toledo. My main venue coverage is University of Toledo D1 sports; however, I also cover high school football at Northwood High School. Prior to starting my residency, I graduated physical therapy school from the University of Toledo in December of 2025 and passed my boards in January of 2026. I went to the University of Akron for my undergraduate degree in Exercise Science. Two fun facts are that I am a CSCS strength and conditioning coach, and prior to starting my residency, I did a travel contract with In Motion Travel Therapy as a traveling physical therapist. Thank you for your time!

Dylan Houser

Dylan Houser, PT, DPT, OCS, Cert. MDT, FiT is from Northeastern Pennsylvania and attended Bloomsburg University where he majored in Biological and Allied Health Sciences. He then earned a Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree from Temple University, where he became interested in orthopedic manual therapy and served as the Vice President of the AAOMPT student special interest group. After PT school, he began practicing in Tennessee where he completed his certificate in the McKenzie method of Mechanical Diagnosis and Therapy and became an ABPTS certified clinical specialist in orthopedics. He is currently completing a fellowship in Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy at The Ohio State University. His professional interests are in treating conditions of the spine, athletic rehab, and teaching both practicing clinicians and PT students. Dylan is passionate about connecting with patients and utilizing therapeutic alliance to help people get back to doing the things that they love.

Nicole Poirier

Nicole Poirier, PT, DPT, received her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from the University of Pittsburgh. She completed a Developmental Physical Therapy Residency at Nationwide Children's Hospital, where she also served as a LEND Fellow Trainee through The Ohio State University's Nisonger Center. During her residency, she assisted with instruction in Ohio State's Pediatric Physical Therapy summer course for Doctor of Physical Therapy students. Nicole has presented at the APTA Residency Education Summit and will be presenting at the APTA Pediatrics Annual Conference this November. Following completion of her residency, she joined the outpatient therapy team at Nationwide Children's Hospital, where she continues to practice.

Megan Sanchez

Megan Sanchez is a pediatric physical therapist at UF Health Shands Children's Hospital, specializing in pediatric acute care. She earned her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences in 2023. Megan completed the Pediatric Developmental Physical Therapy Residency Program at Nationwide Children's Hospital as a member of the 2025–2026 cohort, where she also served as a LEND Fellow Trainee at The Ohio State University's Nisonger Center as well as a Teaching Assistant at The Ohio State University within the Physical Therapy Department. During her residency, Megan specialized in care in both the cerebral palsy and myelomeningocele clinics. Prior to residency Megan obtained her CureDuchenne Certification and had a year of experience in both the Pediatric IPR/Acute settings and the Neuromuscular Clinic at Joe DiMaggio's Children's in South Florida. She is passionate about promoting independent mobility through initiatives such as GoBabyGo and clinically working with children with neurological and oncological diagnoses.

Sanaz Holcomb

I graduated From CSU with a BS in '96 and then pursued my PTA degree from CCC which I completed in '99. While in school I had the pleasure of meeting many amazing therapists while volunteering and then working as a PTA at Lutheran Hospital, which later became the reason why I worked where I did and how I became involved in our profession. I have been very fortunate to work in outpatient private outpatient clinic since '99 followed by in homecare in '05 which has been an amazing journey since. During my career I have had the pleasure of amazing mentorship and have been able to not only advance my career with several specializations including APP in Neurology, oncology, geriatrics, cardiopulmonary, and musculoskeletal physical therapy. I have been very fortunate to be guided and take opportunities to also participate in some leadership positions throughout my career in various capacities including district, chapter, and national level which has helped me grow not only professionally but personally.

Officer Reports:

PT Chair–

Emily Murphy, SPT (mur265@osumc.edu)

- No updates, out of town

Vice Chair–

Samantha Mazzeo, SPT (Samantha.mazzeo@osumc.edu)

- Welcome everyone!
- Thank you to our speakers!
- Next meeting is November 5th from 7:00-8:00pm on private practice.
- Make sure to follow @optastudents on Instagram for the latest SSIG updates.
- Breakout rooms
 - 1-Neuro/Oncology/Acute Care
 - 2-Sports/Orthopedic Manual
 - 3-Pediatrics
 - 4-Advanced Proficiency Pathways

Secretary–

Nick Bartelt, SPT (nicholas.bartelt@msj.edu)

- Attendance tracker in chat and here:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfR26Z1U2bzKxDnhizjSURdNsQLiY07jC2RscQhKFmfD3c0hw/viewform?usp=publish-editor>
- Thanks for coming!
- No updates.

Activities Coordinators–

Lily McDonald, SPTA (mcdonal4@mail.uc.edu)

- Program of the Year Challenge opens – register your programs.
- <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeLOD7uD6YJPP5DM7i3JzQSzySZy1rS6pYc5yLJDvr-nj4EuA/viewform>

EPSIG Liaison–

Carmina Ciccarelli-Aloisi, SPTA (caloisi1013@starkstate.net)

- No updates.

Student Council Representative to the APTA Assembly–

Tyler Sedor, SPT, CSCS (ts752823@ohio.edu)

- Sept 9th Meeting Updates:
 - APTA Flash Action Strategy begins Sept 23-24. Focus is on PT Workforce and Patient Access Act (H.R. 5621/ S. 4420)
 - This bill would add PTs to the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program (up to \$50,000 for service in designated shortage areas)
 - Give community health centers greater flexibility to employ PTs and bill Medicare and Medicaid for covered services
 - Link: [patient-action-center](#)
 - Next Meeting: November 11th, 2026 at 7:30pm. Agenda includes elections for 2027 Student Council Steering Group.

Advisor Report–

Dr. Lindsey Fresenko (Lindsey.Fresenko@utoledo.edu)

- No updates

Important Dates

Check out the OPTA Community Calendar for some exciting events this month!

- Next SSIG Meeting: November 5th, 7:00-8:00 on Private Practice
- Happy PT Month!
 - NE District Wendy Park Clean Up + Food/Clothing Drive (Oct 3rd, 9:00am-noon)
 - SW District Western Wildlife Corridor Habitat Restoration (Oct 3rd, 10:00am-noon)
 - NW District Food Drive Challenge (Oct 5th-10th)
 - Central District Columbus Marathon Water Station (Oct 18, 7:00am-1:00pm)
 - OSU vs OU clothing drive (dates tbd)