



# STEPHANIE WEYRAUCH, PT, DPT, MSCS

## CANDIDATE FOR PPS NOMINATING COMMITTEE

STEPHANIE WEYRAUCH, PT, DPT, MSCS, IS A PT AT PHYSICAL THERAPY AND SPORTS MEDICINE CENTER IN ORANGE, CT. SHE RECEIVED HER DPT AND MSCS FROM WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS. SHE FREQUENTLY SPEAKS ON THE TOPICS OF SOCIAL MEDIA, GENERATIONAL ISSUES, AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP. SHE HAS PERFORMED RESEARCH THROUGH GRANTS FROM THE NIH AND NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION. HER RESEARCH EXAMINING MOVEMENT PATTERNS AND LOW BACK PAIN HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN ARCHIVES OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION.



## CANDIDATE STATEMENT

***I remember the day I decided to become a member of the PPS. I was a PT student and had just returned from Graham Sessions, where I had the distinct honor of being selected as one of the very first students invited to attend that scintillating conference. The innovation and futuristic visions demonstrated by numerous attendees established in my mind a high standard for the PT profession. I was inspired to join PPS. Now, I am again honored, this time by being considered for PPS Nominating Committee.***

***I am a private practice PT at Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine Center (PTSMC) in Connecticut and co-host of The Healthcare Education Transformation Podcast. I started my career as a generalist at RehabAuthority, a private practice in rural Minnesota. In my time at RehabAuthority I was fortunate to have mentors who eagerly shared their knowledge on private practice ownership, building workplace culture, and developing leadership skills. I influenced my colleagues to become APTA and PPS members, to attend and present at professional conferences, and participate in patient advocacy.***

***As I have developed as both a PT and leader, my involvement in PPS and APTA continues to expand. I have served on multiple national task forces for APTA including the Retention and Recruitment for Early Career Members Task Force and the PPS Leadership Development Task Force. I have also served on the PPS Membership Development Committee. As a member of these groups, I created recommendations for improving young professional involvement. I also performed demographic data analysis and advised the Board of Directors on which groups PPS could target for membership growth.***



***Healthcare payment and access to our services is of paramount importance in private practice. Payment models continue to evolve as healthcare changes. For PPS to achieve its mission, we must engage policymakers and show our value to payers, lawmakers, and the public. One of my passions is advocacy. I actively advocate on healthcare policy issues at all levels of government, serving as a PPS Key Contact for representatives in North Dakota, Minnesota, and now Connecticut. I have testified before state legislature on PT access issues important to private practice PTs, and I attend Federal Advocacy Forum annually. I also continually invite Congressional delegation and local politicians to my practice and serve on APTA Awards Committee – Subcommittee on Advocacy. As a Nominating Committee member, I would pursue candidates who prioritize advocacy efforts that improve payment and access to private practices.***

***We need to inspire and mentor younger members to be the next generation of leaders for PPS. Of PPS members, less than 10% are Millennials and less than 15% have been in practice 10 or fewer years. As society evolves, we need to evolve concordantly. Leadership structure is changing. For PPS to thrive in this era, we must recruit individuals who exhibit the skills needed to accomplish the mission of our Section and are proficient in generational leadership to further grow our Section's membership. During my time in PPS, I have had many section leaders come to me seeking advice on generational leadership. This interest sparked a series of speaking events (including PPS Annual Conference) where I was consulted by private practices, educational organizations, and organizational leaders on understanding and managing the millennial employee. As a member of Nominating Committee, I would recruit established PTs as well as younger PPS members, ensuring all demographics are represented.***

***Our identity as physical therapists is, increasingly, as movement system experts. We must unite under this identity to communicate the value of our services. Currently, I manage social media for APTA Academy of Physical Therapy Education, the Healthcare Education Transformation Podcast and PT Day of Service. I have served as social media and digital marketing consultant for leadership firms and private practices, so I understand the importance of branding and representing an organization. If elected, I will identify leadership potential who can clearly articulate and demonstrate our value as movement system experts.***

***It is of utmost importance to recognize candidates who support private practices that serve as linchpins in their communities, and PPS has made substantial impacts in this area. I am committed to using my skills to recognize candidates who will advance the PPS mission.***