

Candidate Information

Eastern District Chair

Name: Melissa McCourt, PT, DPT, CBIS, NCS

Melissa McCourt received her Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Wayne State University in 2008. She worked as a Clinical Physical Therapist Specialist in both acute care and acute rehabilitation settings at Sinai Grace Hospital in Detroit. Currently, she works as a Senior Physical Therapist on Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan's inpatient Neuroscience Unit, where she specializes in working in the field of neurology.

In 2018, Dr. McCourt received the designation of Board-Certified Clinical Specialist in Neurologic Physical Therapy through the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties. She is also a Certified Brain Injury Specialist through the Brain Injury Association of America.

Stemming from her work as a research assistant in the Mobility Research Laboratory, Dr. McCourt has been a co-author and published multiple papers, posters, abstracts and articles in numerous journals such as the Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy. She is currently involved in research on ataxia and physical therapy interventions.

Dr. McCourt has been working as adjunct faculty at Wayne State University in the physical therapy department since 2013. She has assisted in educating students in the areas of neurology, acute care rehabilitation, clinical decision making and clinical medicine.

Candidate Statement:

I have had a passion for contributing to the advancement of the physical therapy profession for many years now. I began with volunteering for the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy through item writing workshops, and then as a ProCert Reviewer. Over the years, I have volunteered my time to many organizations, including camps for people that have sustained brain injuries or strokes.

I feel my dedication to academia and elevating course content has assisted in driving knowledge and experience into the next generation of physical therapists. I strongly believe that contributing to the body of knowledge through research will ultimately benefit all of our patients and clients. I personally have achieved this through multiple publications in geriatric and physical therapy journals.

I co-developed the first Neurologic Physical Therapy Residency for the Detroit Medical Center at the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan. I am the practice chair coordinator of the residency program. I focus on planning and maintaining all aspects of the on-site programming, including training, delegating and organizing mentors. This is another example of propelling the future of physical therapy, and assisting with improving outcomes for our clients.

I am honored and excited to be nominated for the APTA of Michigan's Eastern District Chair. I hope to bring my experience, dedication and passion to the committee to enhance physical therapy practice and outcomes in Michigan. I am committed to being an advocate for our profession and assisting to improve the healthcare challenges that Michigan currently faces.