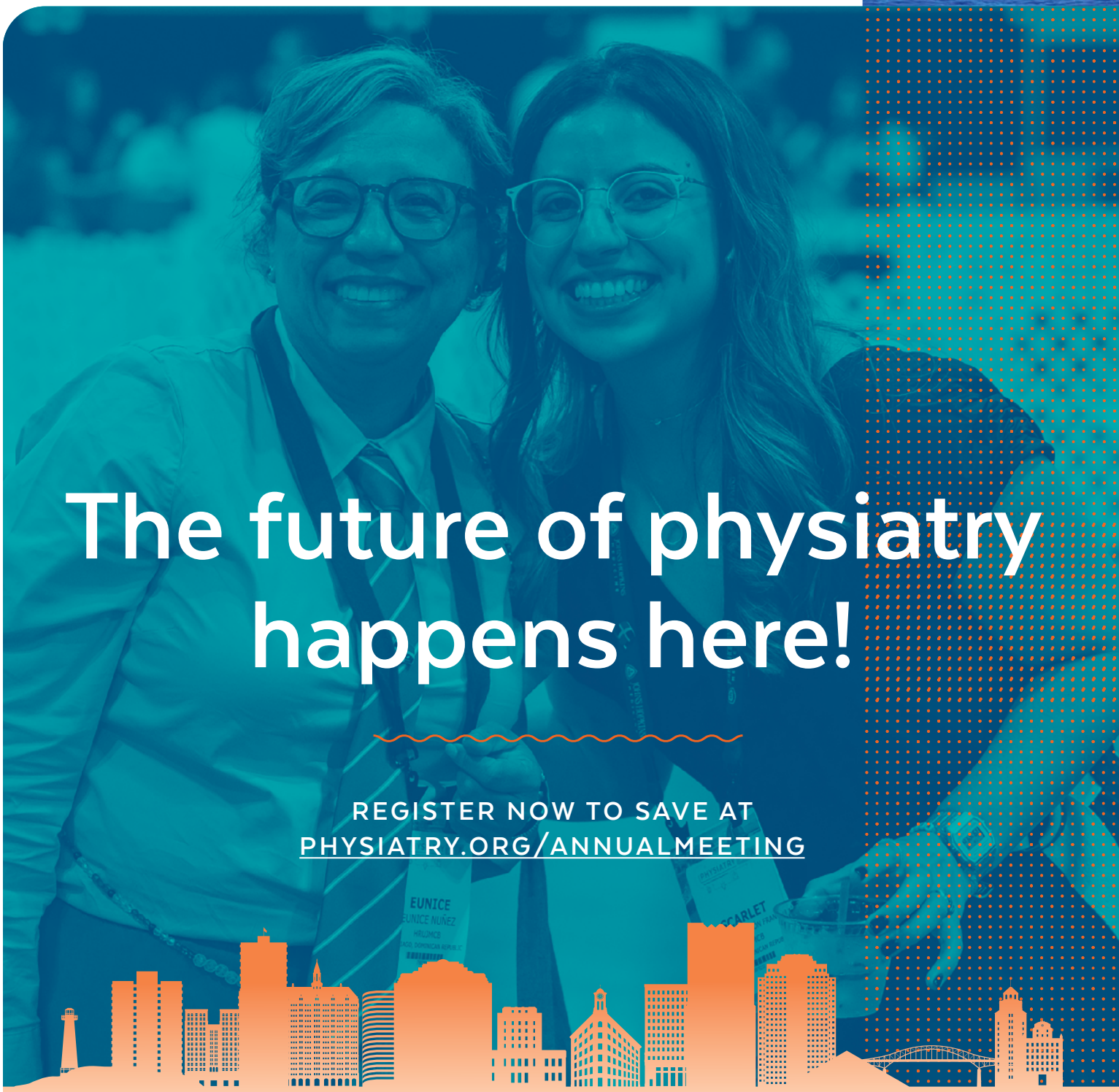
PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

PHYSIATRY '27

LONG BEACH CONVENTION AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTER | LONG BEACH, CA

Feb 16-20, 2027



The future of physiatry happens here!

REGISTER NOW TO SAVE AT
PHYSIATRY.ORG/ANNUALMEETING

Association of Academic Physiatrists

IN ALLIANCE WITH

ISPRM
International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine

Make *waves* at the premier academic physiatry meeting in the world!

Physiatry ’27 is the must-attend event for innovators and trailblazers in physiatry and rehabilitation. This February, join the AAP Annual Meeting to spark fresh ideas, build connections, and shape the future of the field.

The Educational & Social Event of the Year

If there’s any in-person physiatry event to attend, this is it. With an anticipated 2,000+ attendees, 1,000+ poster presentations, 80+ workshops & educational sessions, 50+ exhibitors, and several signature networking events, you can discover groundbreaking science and career-growth at every step of your experience.

Get Your Best Rate

Become a member of the AAP and register by December 17, 2026, to enjoy significantly reduced registration rates. You can save up to $300 by participating in this early bird discount.

Latest Details

Up-to-date event descriptions, timelines, and a few extra surprises can be viewed on our website at physiatry.org/AnnualMeeting.

Get Social

In this increasingly virtual era, more and more physiatrists and PM&R programs are taking to social media. Make sure you’re following our accounts to connect and learn! Hear from speakers and presenters, exchange diverse insights and opinions, and stay on top of the event’s latest news using #Physiatry27, our official event hashtag.



Follow us on:

Association of Academic Physiatrists

@aaphysiatrists

Register Now

- Visit physiatry.org/annualmeeting
- Mail your check (in US dollars)
- Call +1 (410) 654-1000 (credit card payments only)

REGISTER BY DECEMBER 17, 2026 TO SAVE!



Welcome: From our Program Committee

Trade your winter coat for ocean air—Physiatry ’27 is headed to Long Beach, California! Turn boardwalk strolls and sunset conversations into lasting collaborations with four packed days of ideas shaping the future of physiatry.

This year’s theme, **Innovations in Physiatry,** sets the tone for everything on the agenda, and one of our keynote speakers Maja Matarić is no exception. A pioneer in socially assistive robotics, her work is a shining example of redefining what’s possible at the intersection of technology and rehabilitation.

We’re also bringing back a fan favorite: the **Art Gallery** in the Expo Hall, spotlighting patient artwork—a moving reminder of the impact of our specialty.

Alongside it, you’ll find new and improved pre-conference sessions for every skillset:

- A hands-on workshop for pediatric physiatrists, bringing fresh approaches to care
- A collaborative skills session for inpatient physiatrists and medical directors to tackle real-world challenges together
- Deep dives into spasticity management, ultrasound, and brain injury care, led by experts in the field
- Our beloved RFPD & Coordinators Workshop is back, featuring Generative AI and practical ways to leverage it in your programs and daily work. Plus, join our new and improved Chair & Administrative Directors Workshop for a full day in-depth learning and networking experience.
- Plus, the trusted session tracks, interactive education, and staple workshops you’ve grown to know and love

Top Research Awards are also back this year, with cash prizes celebrating the big ideas pushing our field forward.

Behind it all is the AAP: a community of more than 3,000 members worldwide, united by innovation, education, and academic excellence. Physiatry ’27 is where that community comes together in person, and we can’t wait to welcome you!



Andrew L. Sherman, MD, MS

Chair, AAP Program Committee

Professor, Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine

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Welcome to Long Beach

Lead, Learn, and Unwind







HELLO, LONG BEACH! From its palm-lined waterfront paths and bustling harbor to vibrant arts districts and some of the best ocean views in SoCal, Long Beach is a destination that has it all. And it makes the perfect home base for exploring more of what the beautiful state of California has to offer, like a day at Disneyland, a drive up the coast, gallery and museum-hopping, or a wine tasting adventure, all within easy reach.

COASTAL ADVENTURES

Stroll the waterfront, rent a bike along the beach path, or take a day trip to Catalina Island for a taste of island life just a short ferry ride away.

CULTURE & ARTS

Explore the Long Beach Museum of Art, wander the East Village Arts District, catch a show at the historic Long Beach Performing Arts Center, or take a tour of the Queen Mary Ocean Liner.

A FLAVORFUL EXPERIENCE

From fresh seafood on the pier to a dining scene shaped by Long Beach's diverse communities, there's something for every craving. Cap off your evenings with craft cocktails, live music, or a sunset walk along Shoreline Village.

VISITLONGBEACH.COM



HOTELS: Hyatt Regency Long Beach, Marriott Long Beach Downtown, Westin Long Beach, Courtyard Long Beach Downtown, or Best Western Plus Hotel

Visit **physiatry.org/AnnualMeeting** for hotel information, booking, and pricing.

- LONG BEACH AIRPORT (LGB); LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL (LAX), AND JOHN WAYNE AIRPORT/ORANGE COUNTY (JWA)
- $ CURRENCY: $ USD
- PACIFIC STANDARD TIME (PST)



Key Features & Events

Innovative Pre-conference Workshops & Symposiums

Explore returning favorite symposia for Pediatrics, Inpatient Physiatrists, Chair & Administrative Directors, and Program Directors (RFPD) & Coordinators, along with a new session focused on Brain Injury Medicine.

Round out your experience with pre-conference workshop standouts including Ultrasound, Spasticity, and Resident Bootcamp—all designed to deliver hands-on learning, fresh insights, and meaningful discussion.



Art, Paddles, & Prizes

Our popular Art Gallery returns this year, filling the Expo Hall with artwork created by the patients we serve. Once you're feeling inspired, grab a paddle for a good cause at the 3rd Annual Pickleball Championship. Then cheer on poster presenters as they compete for cash prizes, celebrating the research pushing our field forward.



Smooth Sailing at our Welcome Reception

Kick off the conference in true Long Beach style, harbor views and all. Our welcome reception brings the smooth grooves of yacht rock to life with music, food, and drinks that set the tone for a laid-back, unforgettable night—the perfect way to reconnect with colleagues before the conference kicks into gear.



Plus all the fantastic demo pods, networking events, and impactful sessions that you know and love.

Physiatry ’27 offers unbiased, actionable insights on the trends and tools that are shaping our specialty across the country. Take part in educational sessions, lively networking events and spontaneous meet-and-greets.



Visit the Physiatry ’27 event website

Schedule at a Glance

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

- Residency & Fellowship Program Directors (RFPD) and Program Coordinators Workshop - Part 1

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

- RFPD & Program Coordinators Workshop - Part 2
- Special Interest Pre-Conference Workshops
  Chair & Administrative Directors Workshop
  Sign up in advance for hands-on learning with leading experts in physiatry
- Career Fair

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

- Expo Hall Open
- Educational Sessions
- Plenary Speaker
- Poster Gallery Reception
- Welcome Reception

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

- Plenary Speaker
- Expo Hall Open
- Educational Sessions
- New Knowledge Sessions
- Complimentary Lunch in the Expo Hall
- Poster Gallery Reception
- Resident/ Fellow Networking Night

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

- RMSTP Scientific Papers
- AAP Member Caucus & Awards Breakfast
- Educational Sessions

Visit
PHYSIATRY.ORG/ANNUALMEETING
for the most up-to-date schedule and news!



UPMC REHABILITATION INSTITUTE

Advancing the science and practice of physical medicine and rehabilitation.

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2026–2027

- Ranked **#1** in NIH funding for rehabilitation research by Blue Ridge Institute
- **260+** inpatient beds across **12** units
- **70+** renowned faculty members
- **80+** outpatient locations
- **4** ACGME-accredited fellowships, **1** innovative spine care fellowship, **1** neuropsychology fellowship
- Ranked **4th** by Doximity for best rehabilitation residency program in the country
- UPMC Mercy is nationally ranked **#12** in rehabilitation by *U.S. News & World Report*

Learn how our team constantly evolves to ensure that our patients receive the best in physical medicine and rehabilitation: **UPMC.com/Rehab**.

UPMC | REHABILITATION INSTITUTE

What's in it for You

Join over 2,000 AAP members and physiatry professionals at the premier physiatry event of the year! Whether you're aiming to expand your network, explore the latest research and academic advances, master cutting-edge treatments and technology, or take your career to the next level— THIS IS YOUR TIME TO MAKE SOME WAVES.

REGISTER TODAY TO:

1. CUT COSTS with our *early bird discount that can save you up to $300*
2. REUNITE with your colleagues and make new physiatry friends for life
3. TAKE HOME practical ideas, solutions and collaborations that will boost your network & career
4. BE INSPIRED and prepared for the road ahead
5. ENJOY the California sunshine, beach culture, and outdoor adventures

Visit physiatry.org/annualmeeting to view our early bird prices, networking opportunities, and events to look forward to in person.



MAKE CONNECTIONS THAT MATTER

SPONSOR, EXHIBIT, ADVERTISE

Join the world's leading and emerging voices in physiatry at the AAP Annual Meeting. Showcase your organization to an engaged audience eager to network, collaborate, and innovate.

Align your brand and strengthen your presence in the physiatry community. Prime exhibit and sponsorship opportunities are limited—contact us today to secure your spot and explore custom options.

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- Cardiopulmonary Disorders
- Neuromuscular Disorders
- Pain Management and Sports Medicine
- Parkinson's Disease
- Stroke and Spasticity Management
- Spinal Cord Injury

Accreditation Council for Graduate Continuing Medical Education (ACGME) programs include:

- Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Residency Program
- Brain Injury Medicine Fellowship
- Pain Medicine Fellowship

Plenary Speakers

These thought leaders are bringing their big ideas that will influence your research, education, practice and career.





Thursday, February 18

MAJA MATARIĆ

Chan Soon-Shiong Chair and Distinguished Professor of Computer Science, Neuroscience, and Pediatrics at the University of Southern California (USC), and a Principal Scientist at Google DeepMind

The Convergence of Robotics, AI, and Rehabilitation: Recent Advances and Future Directions in Socially Assistive Robotics

Description: Artificial intelligence, machine learning, and robotics are opening new possibilities for how rehabilitation is delivered—and how we help people achieve greater independence and quality of life. In this plenary, we will explore cutting-edge advances in socially assistive robotics and their real-world applications across rehabilitation, including stroke, cerebral palsy, cognitive decline and dementia, and promoting physical activity in older adults. Drawing on research conducted in homes, schools, and care settings, she will highlight how these technologies are moving from the lab into patients' lives and consider the opportunities—and possibilities—for the future of rehabilitation medicine.

A pioneer of socially assistive robotics, Maja's research develops human-machine interaction methods to support users facing autism, stroke, Alzheimer's, anxiety, and other health challenges, grounded in some of the largest real-world studies in schools, nursing homes, and homes. Her honors include membership in the National Academy of Engineering and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, fellowship in AAAS, IEEE, AAAI, and ACM, and the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics & Engineering Mentoring.

DeLisa Lecture

Friday, February 19

PETER SKELTON, BSC, MSC

Rehabilitation in Emergencies Lead, World Health Organization (WHO)

Rehabilitation in Emergencies: A Rapidly Evolving Role in a Changing World

Description: Rehabilitation is now recognised as an essential health service in emergencies, and significant progress has been made in recent years in integrating rehabilitation into emergency responses and Emergency Medical Teams around the world. At the same time, evidence shows that rehabilitation services are rarely integrated into national emergency preparedness, and as a consequence can be absent from early, acute response, to the detriment of patient outcomes. With the world facing a growing risk of pandemic and increasing conflicts and disasters, we are at a critical juncture where our professions must take a critical step to better integrate rehabilitation into local and national emergency planning. This keynote will guide participants through the current landscape and key steps they can each take to better consider emergency preparedness as part of their work.

Peter is the Rehabilitation in Emergencies focal point at the World Health Organization, previously serving as rehabilitation lead for the UK Government's Emergency Medical Team. Since 2010, he has led rehabilitation and medical responses to earthquakes, cyclones, disease outbreaks, and refugee crises, and has worked in conflicts including Ukraine, Armenia, Iraq, Libya, and Gaza. He is lead author of several key guidelines on rehabilitation in emergencies, including WHO's Policy Brief on Strengthening Rehabilitation in Health Emergencies and the clinical handbook Early Rehabilitation in Conflict and Disasters.

Signature Networking Events

Access to the following events are included in your registration fee.

RFPD Cocktail Reception

TUESDAY, FEB 16, 5:00PM - 6:30PM

Following the RFPD workshop, join with your friends from PM&R residency programs across the country for hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and company.

Career Fair

WEDNESDAY, FEB 17, 5:30PM - 6:30PM

This is one of our most popular events! Looking for a new challenge or weighing different career paths? Speak to more than 50 institutions recruiting for a variety of open positions, including fellowships.

Research Leader Networking Event

(RSVP-required)

THURSDAY, FEB 18, 7:00AM - 8:00AM

Kick off the day with the AAP Research Committee and Research Chairs from PM&R departments across the country discuss support for the next generation of researchers & improve collaboration among research leaders.

Yacht Rock Welcome Reception

THURSDAY, FEB 18, 6:30PM - 8:00PM

Kick off the week at our Welcome Reception (in the Expo Hall)! Mix and mingle with peers and mentors across the country as you enjoy an exciting, brightly themed venue, hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, great company, and even a few surprises.

Poster Gallery Receptions

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, FEB 18 & 19, 5:00PM - 6:30PM

Discover cutting-edge research studies and case reports as you interact with physiatry residents and leading researchers. With over 1,000 posters being presented, you are sure to walk away with new ideas and collaborations.

Resident & Fellow Networking Night

(RSVP required)

FRIDAY, FEB 19, 7:30PM - 9:00PM

Location and details will be released soon.

MSC Quiz Bowl (Medical Students Only)

FRIDAY, FEB 19, 6:30PM - 8:00PM

Location and details will be released soon.





More Ways to Connect & Collaborate

Connect with physiatry and rehabilitation experts worldwide through intentional networking activities designed to build your career.

AAP Member Caucus & Awards Breakfast

SATURDAY, FEB 20, 7:30AM-9:15AM

Come together with your fellow AAP members and leadership to discover what we've accomplished over the past year and what's on the horizon. Stay for our Awards Ceremony to help us honor deserving rock-star physiatrists and best papers and top poster winners.

Special Interest Meet-Ups

THURSDAY - SATURDAY, FEB 18 - 20

Keep an eye out for special meetups throughout the meeting including our new member/ conference buddy gatherings, pop-up networking events for junior faculty, VA physiatrists, coordinators, and more.

Exhibit Hall Refreshments & Lunch

Get to know institutions and organizations that are offering innovative programs, services and products for physiatry and rehabilitation. From beverage services to a signature lunch, we're making it easy for you to improve education and patient care.

Demonstration Pods

Stop by our Demonstration Pods in the Exhibit Hall during morning and afternoon refreshment break Thursday & Friday, February 18 & 19. Grab a snack and experience hands-on learning and innovations brought to you by our amazing sponsors.

Breakfast & Lunch Symposiums

Feed your body and your brain at our sponsored breakfast and lunch symposiums. Topics and times coming soon—spots are limited, so be ready to save yours!

Anatomy Labs

Get hands-on practice hosted by our top partners and leaders in the industry.





Preconference Workshops

Take your experience further—add workshops to your registration to secure your seat.

Residency & Fellowship Program Directors (RFPD) and Program Coordinators Workshop – Two Day Event

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16
1:00PM - 5:00PM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17
8:00AM - 12:00PM

PRICE: $250 for AAP members/ $450 for non-members

A staple at the AAP Annual Meeting, this workshop unites program directors and coordinators across the country. Join us to learn and grow your programs with the best and novel practices.

DAY 1

1:00PM - 5:00PM

Caroline Fischer, MBA, Carolyn Kinney, MD, Eric Wisotzky, MD, Kelly Scott, MD, Nikola Dragojlovic, DO, Pamela Hansen, MD, Sandra Hearn, MD, Stephanie Rand, DO, Tracy Friedlander, MD

Get key updates from ACGME and ABPMR, hear insights from our Recruitment Subcouncil, and stick around for our signature networking event.

5:00PM - 6:30PM

RFPD Happy Hour

DAY 2

7:00AM - 8:00AM

Sponsored Breakfast

8:00AM - 12:00PM

Eric Wisotzky, MD, Laura Hopson, MD, Nikola Dragojlovic, DO, Tracy Friedlander, MD

Faculty Development Workshop: An interactive, practical session exploring how generative AI is reshaping academic medicine—and how faculty can thoughtfully and effectively use these tools in teaching, research, clinical practice, and their day-to-day work.

12:00PM - 1:00PM

Roundtable Lunch

Resident, Fellow & Medical Student Bootcamp

HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17
8:00AM - 12:00PM

PRICE: Free with your resident, fellow, or medical student registration

Jared Placeway, DO, Joelle Gabet, MD, Kristian von Rickenbach, MD, Sherea Smith, MD

Get hands-on experience with core physiatric procedures in rotating stations led by expert PM&R faculty. We'll cover ultrasonography, electromyography, spasticity management, orthotics, prosthetics, and more, and you'll leave with practical skills to strengthen your training and career. ***This popular workshop sells out fast, so reserve your spot when you register.***

Musculoskeletal Ultrasound A-Z (with Some Letters Missing)

HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17
1:00PM - 5:00PM

PRICE: $149 for AAP members/ $199 for non-members

Adam Lewno, DO, Allison Schroeder, MD, Amit Bhargava, MD, Bram Newman, MD, Daniel Herman, MD, PhD, Hana Azizi, MD, Heakyung Kim, MD, Kristian von Rickenbach, MD, Mark Friedrich Hurdle, MD, Nathan Olafsen, MD, Tricia Alicia Prince, DO

This hands-on workshop introduces physiatrists to the power and limits of diagnostic ultrasound. Through lectures and interactive training, you'll learn to perform joint ultrasounds of the upper and lower limbs, recognize normal anatomy and common pathologies, and critically evaluate images—accelerating your path to MSK ultrasound expertise.



ADDITIONAL FEES APPLY

Add any workshop to your conference registration to reserve your spot.

Become a MOVIESTAR Program Director or Coordinator

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17
1:00PM - 5:00PM

PRICE: $99 for AAP members/ $149 for non-members

Aimee Brough, C-TAGME, Lucretia Wilson, MS, Nathan Prahlow, MD, Tracy Friedlander, MD

The best job in medicine—Program Director or Coordinator! You've taken on the role, but where do you go when you're not sure what comes next? With a little help from your peers, this pre-course will walk you through the Who, What, How, and When of leading residents or fellows—and set you on the path to becoming a true MOVIESTAR. Designed for new Program Directors and Coordinators (0–3 years of experience), this session takes place in the afternoon following the RFPD session.

Spasticity Master Course Workshop

HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17
8:00AM - 12:00PM

PRICE: $149 for AAP members/ $199 for non-members

Sheng Li, MD, PhD

This course is designed for clinicians seeking advanced knowledge and the latest developments in spasticity management. Interactive lectures cover topics such as spasticity as a syndrome, ultrasound imaging for fibrosis and spasticity assessment, spasticity and pain, hyaluronidase injections, combined nerve block and toxin injection, fascia interventions, and updates in phenol and cryoneurolysis. Attendees will also get hands-on training in ultrasound-guided nerve blocks with phenol and cryoneurolysis.

Pediatric Rehabilitation Symposium

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17
8:00AM - 5:00PM

PRICE: $149 for AAP members/ $199 for non-members

Join us for the second annual Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine Day led by the AAP Pediatric Rehabilitation Academic Medicine (PRAM) group! Explore key topics in pediatric rehab, engage in interactive discussions, and deepen your understanding of caring for children with rehabilitation needs. Whether you're a student, resident, clinician, researcher, or expert, you'll gain valuable knowledge and networking opportunities to advance your skills in pediatric rehabilitation.

NEW

Brain Injury Medicine: Advanced Concepts and Clinical Updates

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17
8:00AM - 5:00PM

PRICE: $99 for AAP members/ $149 for non-members

Benjamin Nguyen, MD, Billie Schultz, MD, Brionn Tonkin, MD, Cherry Junn, MD, Daniel Krasna, MD, Dmitry Esterov, DO, Erika Trovato, DO, Gemayaret Alvarez, MD, Jennifer Russo, MD, Kelly Heath, MD, Kirk Lercher, MD, Kristen Harris, MD, Matthew Puderbaugh, DO, Rosanna Sabini, DO, Sima Desai, MD

This advanced, implementation-focused pre-course is designed for clinicians already providing care for patients with acquired brain injury (ABI) who want deeper, case-based frameworks beyond introductory content. Covering evidence-informed neuropharmacology, assessment of disorders of consciousness, updates in neuroplasticity and neuromodulation, and clinical decision-making in spasticity management, the course delivers advanced skills reflecting the most current techniques in brain injury medicine. Whether resident, fellow, general practitioner, or established attending, participants will leave with actionable, evidence-driven frameworks to apply to their practice.





Preconference Workshop

for Department Chairs & Administrative Directors

NEW & IMPROVED:
A Full-Day, In-Depth Experience for Department Chairs & Administrative Directors

Leading Academic PM&R in a Time of Transformation: Finance, Strategy, Operations, and AI

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17
8:00AM - 5:00PM

PRICE: $199 for AAP members/ $249 for non-members

David Steinberg, MD, Joseph Herrera, DO, Ragav Sharma, DO, Rita Hamilton, DO, Ryan O'Connell, MD, Thiru Annaswamy, MD

This pre-conference brings together PM&R department chairs and administrative leaders for timely discussions on the financial, operational, and strategic challenges facing academic departments—covering healthcare finance, physician compensation and incentives, advocacy, and sustainable business plans. Attendees will also explore the practical and financial impact of AI, from evaluating investments to improving operational efficiency. The program closes with separate business meetings for Chairs and Administrative Directors to address issues specific to their roles.

TIME	SESSION
7:30–8:30 AM	**Breakfast & Networking**
8:30–9:30 AM	**What's Ahead for Healthcare: A Financial Perspective**
9:30–10:00 AM	**Break**
10:00–11:00 AM	**Physician Compensation Models** *Rebecca Brusuelas-James, UC Irvine*
11:00 AM–12:00 PM	**PM&R Compensation Models: Reality on the Ground** *Panel discussion moderated by Joe Herrera, MD* *Panelists: Venu Akuthota, MD, Joel Stein, MD, Min Jeong Park Graf, MD, Anna Rogers, MHA*
12:00–1:30 PM	**Lunch with AAPL: Advocacy & Department Finances—Is It All About the Money?** *Panelists: Venu Akuthota, MD, Joel Stein, MD, Min Jeong Park Graf, MD, Anna Rogers, MHA*
1:30–2:00 PM	**ROI on AI: Vetting AI Solutions for Acute Care** *Raghav Sharma, UCI Health*
2:00–2:30 PM	**AI Tools to Improve Operational Efficiency & Financial Performance** *Ryan O'Connell, MD, UCI Health*
2:30–3:00 PM	**Break**
3:00–4:00 PM	**Incentivizing Physicians: Recruitment, Retention & Faculty Management** *Small-Group Breakouts*
4:00–5:00 PM	**Building a Business Plan: Case Study & Discussion** *Lori McKenna, Mount Sinai, with case presenters*
5:00–5:15 PM	**Business Meeting** *Administrative Directors and Chairs Council Meetings*
5:15 PM	**Adjourn**










CHANGING THE LANDSCAPE OF REHABILITATION

Home to the new Rehabilitation Pavilion, UAB Medicine is redefining recovery through advanced neurorehabilitation, state-of-the-art therapy spaces, and specialized care for patients with stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, and other complex conditions. Our residency and fellowship training programs provide unparalleled clinical experience within a nationally recognized center committed to innovation, research, and exceptional patient outcomes.

Specialized Programs & Clinics:

- Amputee
- Adult Spina Bifida Clinic
- Brain Injury
- Cancer Rehabilitation
- CP Continuity Clinic
- Falls Clinic
- Interventional Pain Management
- Musculoskeletal Conditions
- Neuropsychology
- Occupational Medicine
- Orthotics & Prosthetics
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Sports Medicine
- Stroke
- Wound Care

Learn more about the PM&R residency and fellowship programs at UAB.

UAB MEDICINE
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Curate Your Experience



Our annual meeting brings powerhouse speakers and cutting-edge presentations on clinical care, administration, and more. Look out for these icons to quickly spot topics that match your interests.

This year's theme, **INNOVATIONS IN PHYSIATRY,** runs through every session in the program. It's about more than new technology—it's the new research reshaping how we understand recovery, the creative approaches transforming patient care, and the emerging leaders and ideas pushing academic physiatry forward.

Wherever your interests lie, you'll find sessions built around the breakthroughs shaping what's next for the field.

Academic

Discover the best practices and latest trends in educational curricula, career development and more.

Administration

Find insights on building ongoing success for your program, department, institution, and the future of the specialty worldwide.

Clinical

Take real-world scenarios to practice with our clinical track, bringing you the sought-after topics in patient care.

Research

Discover the best practices and latest trends in PM&R research, funding, and more.

In-Training

Trainees and rising stars, learn critical career development skills from your peers and leaders in the specialty.

International

These sessions dive into education, research and leadership opportunities in academic physiatry on a global level.

Earn up to 25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™!*

BUILD YOUR PERSONALIZED AGENDA

View the latest updates, browse sessions and speakers, and more at physiatry.org/annualmeeting.

Physiatry ’27: Educational Sessions

Sessions run Thursday - Saturday, February 18-20, 2027.
Exact times and dates will be posted on the event site. Sessions are organized by track theme.

From Rehabilitation to Arthrodesis: Evidence-Based Treatment and Advanced Interventions for Sacroiliac Joint Pain

Aaron Yang, MD, Andrew Sherman, MD, Maria Grabnar, MD, Ronald Tolchin, DO, Seyed Mostoufi, MD

This session explores the modern treatment pathway for sacroiliac joint pain, from rehabilitation and injections to biologics, radiofrequency ablation, and minimally invasive fusion. Attendees will learn how to sequence these options based on patient response, function, and current evidence, while gaining practical insight into when and how to escalate care. Through focused talks and case-based discussion, the course will provide a clear, clinically useful roadmap for integrating both conservative and advanced interventions into comprehensive SI joint care.

Establishing a Research Presence and Clinical Niche as an Early-Career Physiatrist

Cara Arpey, DO, Christopher Ha, DO, James Eubanks, MD

Many early-career physiatrists start their first jobs after training in medical academia, where clinical research is the foundation for academic advancement and a blueprint to establish a clinical niche. However, new attendings often are unsure how to start their own research presence out of the shadow of their research mentors. In this session, our panel will highlight their own experiences with building a research presence and establishing a clinical niche in hopes to inspire others to do the same at their own institutions.

Shocking Women: Electrodiagnostic and Leadership Pearls from Physician Leaders

Ileana Howard, MD, Karen Barr, MD, Kerry DeLuca, MD, Sandra Hearn, MD, Wendy Helkowski, MD

Through an interweaving of storytelling about personal career journeys and pearls from interesting electrodiagnostic cases, this group of women physician leaders will show how Electrodiagnosis has been the perfect clinical niche for them as they crafted careers that include educational leadership, advocacy, and impactful clinical program development. Topics will include balancing clinical, leadership, and family responsibilities, maintaining intellectual curiosity and joy in patient care, building a national/international reputation. and other important topics, all while increasing your electrodiagnostic knowledge.

Diagnosis and Management of Complex Nerve Injuries after Traumatic Brain Injury and Spinal Cord Injury

Adenike Adewuyi, MD, PhD, Chinenye Nnoromele, MD, Kian Nassiri, DO

Nerve injuries frequently occur after traumatic brain injury (TBI) and spinal cord injury (SCI). Deficits relating to these injuries can represent a huge challenge for both patients and providers as they progress through their recovery. Nerve injuries after TBI/SCI and non-operative principles for management will be discussed in order to increase clinician comfort with encountering them in this patient population. Additionally, electrodiagnostic and ultrasound techniques that aid in the diagnosis of these injuries will be introduced and further related to driving clinical decision making toward operative management.

Ethics of Care for Emerging Consciousness Patients and Families

Meta Williams, DO, Ovuokerie Addoh, PhD, Sarah Mahasin, MBBS, Tonera Chiume Ziba, MD

Advances in neurorehabilitation have expanded recovery possibilities for patients with emerging or minimally conscious states- raising profound ethical and clinical challenges. This interactive session blends concise didactic teaching with real world, case based discussion to explore decision making, communication, and family engagement in the acute care setting. Participants will examine current evidence, apply ethical reasoning to complex scenarios, and develop practical strategies for compassionate, patient and family centered care. Designed for rehabilitation professionals, this session equips attendees to navigate uncertainty with insight, integrity, and confidence within interdisciplinary teams.

Achilles Tendon Rupture in Professional Sports: Recent Updates in Injury Prevention, Treatment, and Post Injury Performance

David Weinberg, MD, Raheel Shah, DO, Surein Theivakumar, DO

This session provides a comprehensive review of Achilles tendon ruptures in athletes, covering mechanisms, risk factors, and management strategies, including operative and non-operative approaches. Our panel will discuss evidence-based rehabilitation protocols, innovative techniques to optimize recovery, and the rising incidence of Achilles injuries in professional basketball players, highlighting impacts on performance and career trajectory. Attendees will engage in interactive discussion, sharing experiences and best practices to improve patient

outcomes, reduce reinjury risk, and standardize care pathways across institutions. Ideal for clinicians and sports medicine professionals seeking practical, evidence-driven strategies for high-level athlete care.

Prehabilitation in Cell Therapy: The Missing Link in Precision Medicine

Clay Smither, MD, Nathan Parker, PhD, Shannon Strader, DO, Touré Barksdale, MD

Drawing on the findings from both Mayo Clinic’s and Moffitt’s Prehabilitation within CAR-T studies, we will examine the significance of integrating regenerative rehabilitation principles into practical, real-world rehabilitation protocols to enhance both cell collection efficiency and infusion outcomes in cell therapy treatments. Deliverables for Attendees • Sample prehabilitation protocol template • Discover possibility to implement prehabilitation and rehabilitation in all cell therapies to optimize efficacy of therapies

Step Into the Future of Lower Limb Prosthetics by Learning How to Fit and Align Adjustable, Immediate-Fit Prostheses by Yourself

Timothy Dillingham, MD

Lower-limb prosthetics are rapidly evolving with adjustable socket technologies that improve comfort, function, and access to care. In this session, clinicians will learn how to fit an iFIT immediate-fit adjustable socket. These devices accommodate daily limb volume changes and can help reduce skin complications. Modular and mass-produced, they can be delivered globally and fitted in most clinical settings using minimal tools at roughly one-third the cost of conventional fabrication. This hands-on workshop includes a live fitting demonstration, allowing practitioners to learn how to properly fit and adjust the socket for a patient with limb loss.

Innovative Insights into Chronic Cardiovascular Consequences of Central Neurotrauma

Andrew Park, MD, Benjamin Young, PhD, Ryan Solinsky, MD, Shanti Pinto, MD

There is emerging evidence that both traumatic brain injury (TBI) and spinal cord injury (SCI) are chronic diseases with long-term impacts far beyond the underlying neurologic insult. Both TBI and SCI are associated with elevated risks of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and cardiovascular-related mortality, but the underlying pathophysiologic mechanisms are poorly understood and currently understudied. In this session, we will discuss our innovative research focused on potential pathophysiologic mechanisms underpinning this accelerated risk of CVD in persons with TBI and SCI and describe the clinical implications of this research.

Leadership Through the Lens of Emotional Wellbeing in Severe Brain Injury and Disorders of Consciousness Programs

Katherine O’Brien, PhD, Kristen Harris, MD, Mark Linsenmeyer, MD, Terrence Carolan, MSPT, MBA

The emotional toll of working in severe brain injury and disorders of consciousness can be profound, and this discussion will describe how organizations have created frameworks of support in alignment with CARF International standards. Debriefing sessions, such as Schwartz rounding, allow teams to discuss the emotional challenges of caring for patients. Specific approaches to the navigation of difficult conversations will be demonstrated, keeping both person-centeredness and self-preservation at top of mind. Ensuring the emotional resilience of physicians and their team is critical to helping patients and family members navigate both prognostic uncertainty and hope.

Rehabilitation After Osseointegration: Practical Strategies from Physiatry, PT, and Prosthetics

Benjamin Bruinsma, MD, Daniel Malach, Lauren Jones, PT, Yunna Sinskey, MD

Osseointegration for individuals with limb loss is rapidly expanding, creating new opportunities for rehabilitation specialists. This session focuses on the practical role of the PM&R physician and features presentations from a physiatrist, physical therapist, and prosthetist. Attendees will learn strategies for patient evaluation, preoperative counseling, staged rehabilitation, gait retraining, prosthetic planning, and management of common soft-tissue issues at the abutment. Case-based discussions will emphasize interdisciplinary decision-making and real-world application, giving participants clinic-ready strategies to optimize functional outcomes and coordinate care across the surgical and rehabilitation continuum.

Strength, Science, and Service: TBI Lessons From Caring for Veterans

April Pruski, MD, Benjamin Seidel, DO, Brionn Tonkin, MD, Kelly Collins, MD, Kelly Heath, MD, Randel Swanson, DO, PhD

Polytrauma care in Veterans is uniquely complex due to co-morbid TBI, chronic pain and PTSD sequelae collectively known as the polytrauma triad. This, combined with the loss of military identity and purpose, creates a multifaceted clinical presentation requiring precision and coordination. The VA's Polytrauma/TBI System of Care meets this challenge through robust interdisciplinary teams and research-integrating rehabilitation, mental health, medical care, and community reintegration, offering powerful lessons for evaluating polytrauma triad care across all healthcare settings. Further, national VA initiatives in Whole Health, and specifically Total Brain Health, provides evidence-based resources for clinicians and patients.

Demystifying Clinical Informatics: Practical Tools for the Practicing Physiatrist

Ashlee Jaffe, MD, Gavriil Ilizarov, DO, Priya Bolikal, MD, Stephen Hampton, MD, William Niehaus, MD

What is clinical informatics, and why does it matter to your daily practice? This introductory session demystifies health IT for physiatrists, moving beyond basic EHR troubleshooting to showcase how clinical informatics can contribute to reducing burnout and elevate patient care. Led by informatics-trained physiatrists from multiple organizations, this presentation will explore practical EHR optimization strategies, dive into already utilized and rapidly expanding technology such as ambient AI documentation and explore what the future of the symbiosis of PM&R and informatics may become.

New Insights in Spasticity Management: Spasticity Patterns Detection through Machine Learning, Patient Goals, and Botulinum Toxin Distributions

Elaine Magat, MD, Farhaan Vahidy, PhD, Mary Russell, MD, Sheng Li, MD, PhD

In this session, we will review the literature and discuss results from real-world data from our clinic on spasticity pattern detection through machine learning, patient goals setting and BoNT distributions in spastic muscles in the arm and leg.

Trainees to Senior Faculty: Parenting in Physiatry

Erika Trovato, DO, Gwendolyn Sowa, MD, PhD, Jessica Hupe, MD, Kirk Lercher, MD, Kristen DeVries, DO, Lydia Smeltz, MD, Miguel Escalon, MD, Sharon Bushi, MD, Stephanie Rand, DO

Parenthood and academic physiatry often intersects in complex ways. This interactive session will explore how physiatrists navigate parenting responsibilities while meeting the evolving demands of training and career advancement. Following a brief overview of current literature on physician parenthood and wellness, participants will join facilitated breakout discussions tailored to their career stage. Topics will include navigating graduation requirements, early career productivity and program building, academic promotion, leadership development, and sustaining career fulfillment.

From Vision to Value: Pioneering Age-Friendly Care in the Inpatient Rehabilitation Setting

Mooyeon Oh-Park, MD, Sunil Sabharwal, MD, Susan Maltser, DO

The vast majority of patients admitted to IF are age 65 or older. Few IRH/IRU have geriatric rehabilitation programs. The Age-Friendly Health Systems by IHI was designed to addresses the 4Ms and has been shown to decrease falls, address adverse effects, hospitalizations, acute care and ICU length of stay, health care costs, and increases patient satisfaction. This session provides education on the 4Ms in IRF in improving the quality of care. Physiatrists' focus on function makes us naturally suited leaders in age-friendly care. IRF are an ideal setting to implement age-friendly care focusing on function, medications and what matters most.

From Street to Housing: Rehabilitation Care for an Unhoused Population

Julia Lam, OTD, OTR/L, Max Hurwitz, DO, Stephanie Moon, OTD, OTR/L

A vicious cycle exists at the intersection of disability and homelessness: People experiencing homelessness (PEH) are more likely to acquire a disability, and people with disabilities are more likely to become homeless. While rehabilitation can improve function to break this cycle, over 50% of PEH have unmet rehabilitation needs. Our innovative models bring interdisciplinary PM&R and occupational therapy directly to people outdoors, in shelters, and housing to facilitate both equitable rehabilitation and permanent transition out of homelessness. We will discuss our program development, systems-level interventions, patient stories, and strategies to bring rehabilitation to PEH in your own community.

PM&R Boards Part I & II: Tips for Success from the ABPMR

Shashank Dave, DO, Susan Apkon, MD

Are you nearing the end of residency and starting to prepare for the PM&R boards? Have you passed the written exam and gearing up for the Oral Boards? You’re not alone: the American Board of PM&R (ABPMR) is here to help. ABPMR leaders will cover what you need to know as you prepare for the two-part initial certification process. The audience will gain an understanding of what candidates can expect with the Part I (computer-based) and Part II (oral) examinations, including current research insights and tips for candidate success.

Innovative Treatments for Chronic Low Back Pain

Adrian Popescu, MD, Akhil Chhatre, MD, Jaspal Singh, MD

This session will explore these innovative therapies through the lens of anatomy, mechanism of action, patient selection, procedural technique, outcomes data, and integration into rehabilitation practice. Faculty will present current literature, procedural videos, case based discussions, and multidisciplinary perspectives. The session aims to give physiatrists practical tools to understand, adopt, or co manage these emerging spine treatments.

Case-Based Leadership Lessons: Approaching Challenging Situations in Training Programs

Adam Lamm, MD, Michelle Gittler, MD, Nicholas Elwert, DO, Sarah Thompson, C-TAGME

Graduate medical education is a dynamic environment and trainees, faculty, and program leaders must continually adapt to the ever-changing landscape to maintain excellence in patient care, compliance with accreditation standards, and keep up with evolving trends in the field. Successful navigation through these challenges requires engaged leaders, faculty and learners, who utilize a number of different leadership strategies and approaches, relying on skills in change management and emotional intelligence. In this interactive panel discussion, residency leaders will share their perspective and approach to challenging real-life scenarios in training program administration to better explain the “why” behind their decisions.

Sports Specific Ergonomics: Putting Ourselves in the Athlete’s Shoes

Bryan Ganter, MD, Christopher Ha, DO, Joshua Romero, MD, Min Yoo, MD

Athletes often avoid medical care due to cost, fear of being sidelined, and concerns that physicians may lack sport-specific insight. Instead, they turn to peers and coaches for guidance. This session explores common sports injuries and highlights practical, sport-specific ergonomic adjustments-from equipment to technique-that can reduce risk and speed recovery. Designed for clinicians at all levels, this session will offer simple, actionable strategies to improve athlete care and build trust, helping bridge the gap between athletes and medical professionals.

Implementing a High-Yield Sideline Sports Coverage Curriculum for PM&R Residency Programs: A Workshop

Amy Rabatin, MD, Cameron Smock, MD, Cecilia Mitchell, MD, Jessica Buttinger, MD, Joshua Romero, MD, Patrick Davis, MD, Tyra Swanson, MD

This hands-on curriculum development workshop will equip residency program directors, teaching faculty, and PM&R residents with the knowledge and resources necessary to design and implement a sideline sports coverage curriculum at their respective PM&R residency training programs. In collaboration with experienced session facilitators, participants will create an individualized curricular framework, troubleshoot potential barriers, and outline a plan for curriculum implementation.

How to Read, Appraise and Critically Review Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Manuscripts Submitted to the AJPMR

Folefac Atem, PhD, Thiru Annaswamy, MD, Walter Frontera, MD, PhD

This instructional session is intended to introduce learners to the structure and framework of systematic review and meta-analysis articles and provide an overview and steps in critically appraise and evaluate submitted manuscripts for consideration of publication to the AJPMR.

Mentorship Across the Medical Education Continuum: Building Inclusive Pathways into and through PM&R

Benjamin Nguyen, MD, Mehul Chowdarapu, BS, Sheital Bavishi, DO, Terrance Pugh, MD, Thiru Annaswamy, MD

A diverse and well supported PM&R workforce depends on structured mentorship that begins long before medical school and continues throughout a physician’s career. Economically disadvantaged learners face unique barriers to entering medicine, while medical students, residents, and faculty often struggle to find mentors who can guide their academic growth, wellness, and career direction. Presenting continuum based mentorship model spanning pre medical and medical students, residents, faculty. Speakers discuss evidence based strategies, infrastructure, and outcomes supporting equitable professional development. Participants will have actionable frameworks to implement in their own departments: pipeline development, learner success, and faculty retention. We showcase the AAP mentorship platform and benefits.

Social Media and Medicine: Navigating the Digital Age as Healthcare Professionals

Alyssa Mixon, DO, Monica Verduzco-Gutierrez, MD, Stacey Isidro, MD, Tracey Isidro, MD

This session addresses a rapidly evolving and highly relevant aspect of modern medical practice. Participants will leave with actionable tools, evidence-based guidance, and a clearer understanding of how to safely and effectively engage in the digital space-whether they aim to educate, advocate, or simply better understand the online environment their patients already inhabit. This session directly supports professional development by equipping participants with practical communication skills, ethical frameworks, and reflective strategies necessary for modern healthcare practice and physiatry awareness. Content is tailored to be accessible for beginners while offering depth and applied strategies for those already active online.

Early PM&R Integration in Acute Care: A High Value Model for Academic Health Systems

Heakyung Kim, MD, Jonathan Whiteseon, MD, Kim Barker, MD, Surendra Barshikar, MD

Early PM&R integration in acute care improves outcomes, reduces LOS, and strengthens hospital throughput. This session presents a dedicated physiatry consultant model designed for academic medical centers, including evidence of clinical benefit, projected financial return on investment (ROI), and practical steps for implementation. Attendees will gain tools to advocate for and build a similar program within their institutions.

Beyond the Clinic: Scaling Evidence-Based Integrative Care in Academic Cancer Rehabilitation

Heakyung Kim, MD, Michael Fediw, MD, Yein Lee, DO

As cancer survivorship increases, physiatrists are managing complex late effects such as fatigue, neuropathy, and chronic pain. Many patients seek integrative or "alternative" therapies, yet evidence based clinical pathways remain limited. This session addresses that gap by providing an overview of current evidence for non pharmacologic interventions-such as acupuncture, mindfulness, and yoga-and a practical roadmap for incorporating these services into an academic PM&R department. Faculty will highlight the physiatry led integrative care model, emphasizing scientific rigor, reimbursement strategies, and trainee education, while noting that some integrative oncology services are partially supported through philanthropic funding.

Transforming Literature to Action: Pain Management in the Oldest-Old Within Skilled Nursing Facilities

Courtney Brown, MD, Matthew Glenn, MD, Stephan Lansey, MD

Patients aged 85 years and older are the fastest-growing patient population and the most challenging to treat. When guidelines say "avoid" and hospitalization isn't an option, what's next? This session delivers practical, evidence-based strategies for managing pain in patients over 85 years old with complex comorbidities in SNF/SAR settings. Participants will learn pharmacologic modifications, nonpharmacologic alternatives, and goals-of-care alignment techniques through interactive discussion and problem-solving. Walk away with actionable tools to bridge the gap between what literature recommends and what is achievable at the bedside.

Rehabilitation as Adaptive Medicine: Forging Forward Under Fire

David Crandell, MD, Jarone Lee, MD, Ronald Hirschberg, MD

This session will explore how rehabilitation can be embedded early and effectively as part of the emergency crisis response in active conflict zones to improve patient survival, function and dignity. By enhancing rehabilitation capacity, work with local clinicians can scale approaches of coordinated services leading to sustainable recovery frameworks. This combined with ongoing commitment, can lead to improved survivorship and longer-term rehabilitation success in war-effected regions.

Continuity in Motion: Limb Loss Care from Amputation to Ambulation

David Crandell, MD, Jarone Lee, MD, Ronald Hirschberg, MD

This session provides a high-yield, board exam and clinically relevant overview of the continuum of care in limb loss, from acute surgical decision-making through rehabilitation, prosthetic prescription, and long-term reintegration. Attendees will gain practical insight into functional assessment, prosthetic selection, and strategies to optimize outcomes in amputee care. Emerging technologies, including microprocessor components, neuroprosthetics and osseointegration, will be highlighted alongside evidence-based rehabilitation principles. Through case-based discussion and interactive learning, participants will leave with tools to improve patient outcomes and confidently navigate multidisciplinary limb loss care in modern practice.

Beyond Steroids and Surgery: Intradiscal Biologics for Discogenic Low Back Pain

Armando Alvarez, MD, Byron Schneider, MD, David Karli, MD, Kaivalya Deshpande, MD, Seyed Mostoufi, MD

This session reviews the evolving role of intradiscal biologic therapies in discogenic low back pain, beginning with the pathoanatomy, imaging features, and diagnostic algorithm needed to accurately identify disc-mediated pain. Faculty will examine current evidence for PRP, mesenchymal stem cells, and emerging nucleus pulposus-derived allograft products, with attention to mechanisms of action, patient selection, procedural technique, outcomes, and durability. The course will also address regulatory oversight, ethical use, coding considerations, and clinical integration within modern spine care. Attendees will gain a practical, evidence-based framework for evaluating, selecting, and counseling patients regarding these emerging regenerative treatment options.

Extracorporeal Shockwave Therapy for Management of Musculoskeletal and Neurological Conditions in Physiatry

Adam Tenforde, MD, Hye Chang Rhim, MD, Jennifer Soo Hoo, MD, Joshua Romero, MD, Monica Verduzco-Gutierrez, MD

This session provides an evidence-based overview of extracorporeal shockwave therapy (ESWT) for musculoskeletal and neurological conditions in physiatry. Attendees will review mechanisms of action, key clinical indications, and current literature, with a focus on translating evidence into practice. Case-based discussions will highlight patient selection, treatment protocols, and real-world applications. Participants will gain practical skills to integrate ESWT into clinical care and optimize outcomes, making this session highly relevant for physiatrists seeking to expand non-invasive treatment options.

LA 28: Will it Change the Paralympics?

David Crandell, MD, David Kruse, MD, Nicole Katz, MD, Sam Grewe, MD

The Olympics are returning to Los Angeles in 2028 but now including the Paralympics for the first time. This session will review of the history of prior US Paralympic Games, provide an update on ongoing preparations and opportunities for LA 28 as the Games draw closer and gain the perspective of a former Paralympic Gold Medalist. With an anticipated increase in the number of para-athletes competing on the “LA 28 stage” physiatrists can play a unique role in advocating and lowering barriers to sport participation for all current and future athletes, especially those with disabilities.

Prognosticating Neurological Outcome after Spinal Cord Injury

Andrew Park, MD, Brittany Snider, DO, James Wilson, DO, Ryan Solinsky, MD, Steven Kirshblum, MD

Prognostication after spinal cord injury (SCI) is a critical, evolving aspect of rehabilitation with implications for patients, clinicians, and research. This 90 minute session presents an evidence-based framework for predicting neurological and functional recovery by integrating clinical examination, imaging, and emerging biomarkers and electrodiagnostics. Through case-based learning, participants will apply key predictors such as motor strength, sensory preservation, sacral sparing, and AIS classification to real-world scenarios. The session also reviews modifiers including age, injury etiology, comorbidities, and surgical timing, and highlights the growing role of MRI and novel diagnostic tools in advancing precision medicine and individualized rehabilitation planning.

Architecting the Scholar: A Multi-Institutional Blueprint for Evidence-Based Medicine and Resident Research Curricula

Brad Dicianno, MD, Daniel Daneshvar, MD, PhD, Jared Placeway, DO, Prakash Jayabalan, MD, PhD, Wendy Helkowski, MD

While the ACGME requires scholarly activity, the “how” remains a moving target for many PM&R departments. This session brings together leadership from top academic research departments to pull back the curtain on their Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) and research training frameworks. Moving beyond theoretical goals, the panelists will provide a granular look at their organizational structures, faculty engagement strategies, and the longitudinal integration of research literacy. Attendees will gain actionable insights into overcoming common hurdles, such as clinical faculty engagement and the measurement of “success” in resident scholarship.

Developing an Interventional Spasticity Practice in Academic Physiatry: From Clinical Foundations to Program Implementation

Michael Saulino, MD, Zachary Bohart, MD

This session provides an academic framework for developing and teaching an interventional spasticity practice, including procedural techniques, localization methods, and program implementation strategies within PM&R training environments.

Neuromodulation and the New Recovery Landscape in Spinal Cord Injury

James Guest, MD, Jose Vives, MD, Leslie Morse, DO, Nilanjana Datta, PhD, Seyed Mostoufi, MD

Neuromodulation is reshaping the recovery landscape in spinal cord injury. This session explores the scientific foundations, clinical evidence, and rehabilitation implications of emerging neuromodulation strategies, including how these approaches may influence motor recovery, upper-extremity function, and broader rehabilitation outcomes. Faculty will review key studies, practical considerations for clinical translation, and the challenges that remain as this field evolves. Designed for physiatrists and rehabilitation clinicians, the course highlights how neuromodulation may alter treatment goals, expand restorative possibilities, and redefine what recovery can look like for individuals living with spinal cord injury in modern rehabilitation practice

Traumatic Brain Injury as a Chronic Condition

Cherry Junn, MD, Flora Hammond, MD, Shanti Pinto, MD

Reframe traumatic brain injury (TBI) as a chronic, dynamic condition rather than a one-time event. This session will highlight emerging evidence on long-term functional, medical, and social trajectories, and risk for late decline. Through case-based discussion and practical frameworks, participants will learn how to implement chronic disease management strategies--proactive follow-up, comorbidity screening, self-management, and lifestyle interventions--into clinical practice. Aligned with guidance from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, this session equips physiatrists with actionable tools to improve long-term outcomes after TBI.

Transforming Health Care with Disability Education

Caroline Vail, DO, Jessica Prokup, MD, Max Hurwitz, DO, Sheital Bavishi, DO

There is a critical need for culturally sensitive, anti-ableist education across the health sciences. This session highlights innovative interdisciplinary disability education programs designed by physiatrists. The presenters will share practical frameworks for designing, implementing, and sustaining disability curricula that center lived experience, disability culture, and health equity. Participants will explore strategies for integrating disability competencies into local training programs and fostering partnerships across disciplines. Attendees will leave with concrete tools to begin transforming their own institutions' approach to disability education.

From Awareness to Action: Navigating Microaggressions and Workplace Discrimination in Academic Physiatry

Alyssa Mixon, DO, Hye-Jin Clark, MD, Reginald Talley, MD, Sheital Bavishi, DO, Stacey Isidro, MD, Tracey Isidro, MD

Microaggressions and workplace discrimination contribute to physician burnout, decreased psychological safety, and unhealthy environments, yet many physiatrists lack practical training to recognize and address these challenges. This interactive session moves beyond awareness through evidence-informed teaching, real-world case discussions, audience polling, and structured reflection. Participants will develop practical communication strategies to respond as recipients, bystanders, and leaders while exploring systems-level approaches that promote physician well-being, professionalism, and inclusive academic cultures.

Physiatrists in the ICU: Defining a New Frontier in Acute Rehabilitation Medicine

Alex Brahmsteadt, DO, James Devanney, DO, Miguel Escalon, MD, Sofia Barchuk, DO

Critical care has achieved remarkable gains in survival, yet many patients leave the ICU with significant functional impairment, including weakness, cognitive changes, and reduced independence. Increasingly, recovery demands attention not only to survival, but to function from the earliest stages of illness. Physiatrists are uniquely equipped to meet this need through expertise in neuromuscular physiology, functional assessment, and rehabilitation. Within the past four years, physiatrists have begun entering neurocritical care fellowships, establishing a new pathway into ICU practice. This session explores why physiatry belongs in critical care, why trainees should consider this path, and what physiatrists contribute in this setting.

Translating Evidence to Action: Guiding Clinical Practice with Research in Cancer Rehabilitation

Adrian Cristian, MD, Chanel Davidoff, DO, Naomi Kaplan, MBBS, Susan Maltser, DO

As cancer treatments become more effective, the focus has shifted to not just survival but also thriving during and after treatment. Physiatrists are at the forefront of addressing the physical, cognitive, and psychosocial sequelae of cancer and its treatments. This session will provide a framework for integrating evidence-based clinical research into cancer rehabilitation. We will begin by defining what constitutes high-quality evidence in the context of cancer rehabilitation, and present eight practice changing papers that will enhance the knowledge of physiatrists treating cancer patients.

PM&R Residency Research: Drivers, Barriers, and Solutions

Azmeer Khamisani, MD, Briana Edgar, BS, Daniel Herman, MD, PhD, Diana Molinares, MD, Eduard Tiozzo, PhD

This session examines drivers and barriers to research productivity in PM&R residency programs, highlighting institutional factors, mentorship structures, and training approaches that influence scholarly output. Presenters will share evidence-based insights, programmatic innovations, and trainee perspectives to address common challenges, including the “hidden curriculum” in research. Strategies to enhance resident and medical student engagement, such as protected time, specific research requirements, structured curricula, and mentorship models, will be discussed. Attendees will gain practical tools to strengthen research culture, improve productivity, and support the development of future clinician-scientists within their institutions.

Optimizing Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Physician Documentation to Accurately Capture Patient Complexity and Improve Medicare Reimbursement

Juliet Zakel, MD

This session will present a quality improvement initiative using an EMR-integrated documentation tool that provides real-time guidance to improve comorbidity capture in IRF physician documentation. Participants will review key components of the Medicare IRF PPS, identify common documentation gaps, and learn strategies to align documentation with patient complexity. Outcomes demonstrating over $10 million in increased reimbursement at one institution and expansion to a second health system will be shared. Attendees will gain practical, scalable approaches to improve documentation accuracy, enhance trainee education, and optimize reimbursement while maintaining efficient clinical workflows.

Transforming Global Physiatry: AAP GAPS as the Catalyst for International Academic Innovation

Adrian Cristian, MD, Eric Morrison, MD, Grace Hershey, MD, Heakyung Kim, MD, Matthew Bartels, MD, Maya Therattil, MD, Rochelle Dy, MD

As global rehabilitation needs grow, academic leadership in PM&R must adapt to diverse international contexts. This session showcases how AAP GAPS advances global academic innovation through competency based models, sustainable partnerships, and faculty development aligned with the WHO Rehabilitation Competency Framework. In 60 minutes, participants will explore GAPS initiatives-including curriculum mapping, training the trainers, and research incubators-that build rehabilitation capacity and support bidirectional exchange. Real world examples from global collaborations will demonstrate how to develop and sustain academic infrastructure in low resource settings, equipping attendees with practical strategies to expand their institutions’ global engagement and academic impact.

From Crisis to Function: A Multidisciplinary Roadmap for Pediatric Functional Neurological Disorder Across the Continuum of Care Through Inpatient Rehabilitation

Ashlee Ramos, MA, Cara Hudson, PT, Greg White, DO, Yunna Sinskey, MD

Pediatric Functional Neurological Disorder (FND) requires more than just a diagnosis; it demands a unified multidisciplinary “roadmap” from acute care to the rehab gym. This 60-minute session provides physiatrists with actionable strategies to lead a high-functioning team of psychologists and therapists. Learn the “how and when” of inpatient admission, master communication scripts for skeptical families, and explore specialized therapy techniques that prioritize automatic movement over conscious effort. Join our multidisciplinary panel to gain the clinical and leadership tools necessary to move pediatric FND patients from crisis to functional independence across the entire continuum of care.

Advanced Interventional Treatments for Osteoarthritis

Eugene Roh, MD, Katie Rizzone, MD, Matthew Hung, MD, Rondy Lazaro, MD

Learn about current advanced interventional procedures for osteoarthritis, including orthobiologic injections, radiofrequency ablation, and musculoskeletal embolization. Speakers will cover principles and techniques of each treatment and will review the latest evidence for these treatments. Panel discussion and Q&A will also allow for expert insights into the advantages of each treatment option and logistics in clinical practice. Attendees will become familiar with these osteoarthritis interventions for potential implementation in their own practice and/or referral to appropriate specialists.

Breaking the Mold: Identity, Disability, and the Power of Lived Experience

Allison Kessler, MD, Amar Patel, MD, Claudia Martinez, MD, Hamaad Khan, DO, Jina Libby, DO, Karam Hamada, MD, Laurenie Louissaint, MD, Nina Carmela Tamayo, DO, Vovanti Jones, MD

Discover authentic perspectives from physiatrists living with disabilities as they share reflective narratives on challenges, accommodations, and adaptations across medical school, residency, and attending practice in PM&R. Explore disclosure, stigma, procedural demands, leadership barriers, and the unique value of lived experience in delivering empathetic, innovative rehabilitation care. Moderated discussion and interactive Q&A highlight effective strategies and actionable ways to foster inclusive environments-advancing AAP's DEI commitments and PM&R's core mission.

Managing Up: Diplomacy and the Soft Skills for Success in the Workplace

Brad Landry, DO, Bram Newman, MD, Derek Ho, DO, Haris Choudry, MD, Margaret Wilson, DO, Mooyeon Oh-Park, MD, Salvador Portugal, DO

Managing Up: Diplomacy and the Soft Skills of Success for Trainees - Early-career clinicians often lack structured training in the interpersonal skills required to navigate hierarchical teams, advocate for patient safety, and advance professionally. This interactive 60-minute workshop teaches practical, evidence-informed approaches to "managing up": communicating clearly, delivering upward feedback, negotiating workload, and escalating concerns with diplomacy. Participants leave with a concise phrasing cheat-sheet and a personalized action plan to implement two concrete managing-up behaviors in their clinical environments. Ideal for early-career attendees seeking transferable soft skills to improve team functioning, patient safety, and career development.

The Future of Pain Fellowship Training: The Integrated PM&R and Pain Training Pathway

Chong Kim, MD, Haris Choudry, MD, Malav Shah, MD, Moorice Caparo, MD, Sayed Wahezi, MD, Yanni Kevas, MD

This session presents a practical, competency-based 4 year integrated PM&R-Pain training model that preserves full PM&R requirements while embedding longitudinal pain education and a dedicated fellowship year. Attendees will review a visual curriculum timeline, progressive procedural entrustment milestones, assessment tools, and a phased implementation checklist addressing faculty roles, clinical volume, accreditation, and sustainability. Program leaders will discuss curriculum design, assessment strategies, and real-world implementation considerations. Participants - program directors, educators, and trainees - will gain actionable steps to pilot or adapt an integrated pathway that produces clinicians skilled in functional, multidisciplinary, and interventional pain care.

Beyond Bed Management: Applying the Theory of Constraints to Optimize the Full Continuum of Acute and Post-Acute Rehabilitation Care

Austin Henke, DO, Christopher Garrison, MD, Kristin Wong, MD

Why do we keep optimizing for a part and not the whole? Not considering an entire system creates bottlenecks. This session applies Eliyahu Goldratt's Theory of Constraints to the full patient journey, from acute admission through inpatient rehabilitation revealing why local efficiency improvements often degrade system-level throughput. We examine how statistical fluctuations compound across dependent events to create invisible bottlenecks. This session finishes with collaborative operational strategies that require all partners to subordinate to the system's true bottleneck. Participants will leave with practical tools for identifying and exploiting constraints across the care continuum.

From Bench to Bedside: Women's Musculoskeletal Health Across the Lifespan

Amrita Sahu, PhD, Arielle Hall, DO, Danielle Emmet, DO, Farah Hameed, MD, Gwendolyn Sowa, MD, PhD, Kendra Coleman, MD, Kristen Koltun, PhD

There is a persistent gap in women's musculoskeletal health in both clinical care and research, contributing to differences in injury risk, pain, and treatment outcomes. This interactive session will provide academic physiatrists and rehabilitation scientists with evidence-based, clinically actionable insights on the relationship between hormonal physiology, biomechanics, and common musculoskeletal conditions across the female lifespan. Through lectures and case-based learning, participants will explore the unique musculoskeletal considerations of each reproductive stage and learn how to apply this knowledge to improve recognition, treatment, and prevention of common conditions in women.

Implementing Lifestyle Medicine into a Physiatry Practice

Jamie Zeitzer, PhD, Marily Oppezzo, RD, PhD, Michael Fredericson, MD

This symposium will set the stage for why lifestyle medicine is one of the fastest-growing areas in medicine, and why physiatrists would benefit from incorporating it into their clinical toolkits. The presenters will provide evidence-based recommendations on lifestyle interventions and their current impact, including sleep

and sleep wearables, physical activity, diets, supplements, and stress management, on performance, recovery, and maximization of existing therapies.

Contemporary Clinical Trial Designs for Rehabilitation Research

Colby Hansen, MD, Farhaan Vahidy, PhD, Shanti Pinto, MD

This session will provide a high-level overview of several modern clinical trial designs most relevant to rehabilitation research. Funding agencies have increasingly encouraged the use of these designs, particularly in pragmatic and patient-centered research. Through rehabilitation examples, the sessions will emphasize practical understanding rather than technical statistical detail.

Data Collection in Orthobiologics: The Need for More and Better Data to Assess their Efficacy and Develop Treatment Paradigms for Musculoskeletal Conditions

Jaspal Singh, MD, Margaret Klausing, PT, Nathan Hogaboom, PhD, Prakash Jayabalan, MD, PhD

Orthobiologic therapies such as platelet-rich plasma, cell-based therapies, and tissue-derived biologics are increasingly used to treat musculoskeletal conditions, yet the evidence supporting their use remains inconsistent and difficult to interpret. This session will explore how variability in biologic preparation, patient selection, outcome measures, and post-intervention rehabilitation limits the development of evidence-based clinical guidelines. Presenters will discuss the need for standardized data collection, rigorous study design, meaningful functional outcomes, and improved reporting practices. Attendees will gain practical strategies for critically appraising the Orthobiologic literature and learn how enhanced data quality can help advance research, optimize patient selection, and improve clinical outcomes.

Washington Update Year-In-Review: What You Need to Know - Past, Present, Future

Chloe Slocum, MD, MPH, Greg Worsowicz, MD

Is it GME (funding or positions), research (direct or indirect funding), advocacy (how and where), or another HOT issue facing our field? Join this panel of experts for a year-in-review of Washington and legislative updates on the issues that have and will impact the field of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Learn about what has happened, what is about to happen, and future legislative/ regulatory items that academic physiatrists need to understand.

Big Data and AI for Stroke Rehabilitation and Beyond

Sook-Lei Liew, PhD

Many efforts are underway to harness the power of artificial intelligence (AI) to improve rehabilitation medicine. However, all AI-based clinical efforts require large, heterogenous rehabilitation datasets that provide the granularity used in clinical decision making – datasets which are currently still sparse. In this talk, I will review ongoing efforts to generate large stroke rehabilitation and neuroimaging datasets through the ENIGMA Stroke Recovery Working Group, as well as data-driven discoveries based on this work. I will then discuss current efforts to harmonize both retrospective and prospective rehabilitation data, within and beyond stroke, touching on new initiatives such as the Data Science and Analytics for Precision Rehabilitation (DAPR) Center. Overall, this talk aims to provide an overview of current efforts and resources around AI and big data for rehabilitation researchers.

Spinal Cord Injury Skills: Essential Interventions You Recommend but Rarely Perform

Alice Hon, MD, Antonio Guillory, BSRT, RRT, RCP, Camilo Castillo, MD, Du Pham, MD, Jelena Svircev, MD, Shane Stone, MD, Stephen Burns, MD, Tamara Alexander, PT

Physiatrists frequently teach patients with spinal cord injuries about essential self-care techniques and how to use specialized equipment, yet many trainees have limited opportunities to perform these interventions themselves. This skills lab designed for medical trainees and early-career physicians, with demonstrations of key skills, including: Cough-assist device use and its technique, digital rectal stimulation for management of reflexive bowel as well as irrigation systems, and adaptive cycling equipment options.

AI, QI, and Disability Inclusion in PM&R Education: Better Tools, Better Methods, Better Values

Adam Lewno, DO, Bradford Landry, DO, Donna Huang, MD, Jeremy Stanek, MD, Marina Ma, MD, Mary Russell, MD, Sheryl Katta-Charles, MD

As medical education evolves, PM&R is uniquely positioned to lead in integrating emerging technologies, educational science, and disability-informed practice. This interactive workshop introduces a three-pillar framework for advancing PM&R education: artificial intelligence as a tool for scalable teaching and feedback, quality improvement as a method for evaluating educational innovations, and disability inclusion as a guiding value shaping curriculum design. Participants will explore practical strategies including AI-supported case simulation, educational QI metrics, and universal design for learning. Through demonstrations and collaborative exercises, participants will develop concrete plans to improve accessibility, representation, and measurable educational outcomes within their own training programs.

Heck Yes or Fudge No: The Career Advancement Showdown

Aaron Yang, MD, Christopher Visco, MD, Erika Trovato, DO, Kirk Lercher, MD, Kristin Wong, MD, Monica Verduzco-Gutierrez, MD, Prakash Jayabalan, MD, PhD, Sandra Hearn, MD, Victoria Whitehair, MD, William Bockenek, MD, William Niehaus, MD

This high-energy, gamified session transforms real-world career dilemmas into a live debate competition. Participants will analyze professional scenarios and argue either: "Heck Yes" - Strategic career advancement or "Fudge No" - Protect bandwidth and decline. Teams must defend their position before expert judges. Through structured argument, live rebuttal, and judicial critique, attendees will sharpen decision-making skills, strategic thinking, and professional prioritization in a fast-paced, engaging format. Cases will be created collaboratively by the host and judges in advance. Teams will not preview scenarios to preserve authenticity and real-time reasoning.

Artificial Intelligence and Graduate Medical Education: Incorporating New Technologies Safely and Responsibly

Alex Moroz, MD, Ashlee Jaffe, MD, Jing Lin, MD, Silas Helbig, MD, William Filer, MD

Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping medical education and clinical practice, making it essential for physician educators to understand its opportunities and risks. This session reviews current AI tools used by residents and fellows-including large language models, documentation assistants, and clinical decision support systems-and examines evidence based benefits alongside concerns such as data security, bias, hallucinations, and over reliance on technology over clinical judgment. Participants will explore best practice guidelines for responsible integration in GME and engage in structured reflection on how AI intersects with their own teaching, assessment and supervision. The session equips educators to prepare trainees for safe, ethical, and effective AI use.

Competency-Based Medical Education in PM&R Training Programs: Implementation, Challenges, and Future Directions

Alex Moroz, MD, Leslie Rydberg, MD, Michael Mallow, MD, Natasha Romanoski, DO, Shane Stone, MD, Zainab Al Lawati, MD

This session will explore the current state of Competency-Based Medical Education (CBME) in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (PM&R), focusing on enhancing trainee competency and individualized learning. It will address challenges in assessment, faculty development, learner progression, and program structure. Attendees will gain practical strategies for implementing CBME, ensuring faculty engagement, and facilitating resident development, all while meeting accreditation requirements. The session includes small group discussions to identify key competencies for PM&R assessment and steps for advancing CBME in the field.

Preparing PM&R for Age Friendly Healthcare: It's Time to Move Forward

David Soto-Quijano, MD, Jonathan Bean, MD, Jorge Garcia-Negron, MD, Walter Frontera, MD, PhD

The primary goal is to address the need for enhanced education and training concerning the care of older PM&R patients, and to explore the potential development of a Geriatric Rehabilitation Fellowship for physiatrists.

Seeing the Breath: Innovative Diaphragm Ultrasound for Physiatrists

Adenike Adewuyi, MD, PhD, Colin Franz, MD, PhD, Ellen Farr, MD, Natasha Bhatia, MD, Shane Stone, MD, Sungchul Huh, MD

Diaphragm dysfunction contributes significantly to respiratory morbidity in patients with spinal cord injury and neuromuscular disease, yet traditional evaluation methods have important limitations. Ultrasound offers an innovative, bedside approach for assessing diaphragmatic structure and function. This interactive session introduces physiatrists to diaphragm ultrasound techniques and their clinical applications, including evaluation for ventilator weaning and diaphragmatic pacing candidacy. After a brief evidence-based overview, participants will break into small groups for hands-on training using ultrasound to assess diaphragm thickness, contractility, and excursion. This session emphasizes practical skill development and provides attendees with actionable techniques that can be incorporated into clinical practice.

Risk, Resilience, and Reinvention: How Women in Medicine Turn Failure into Future Success

Anne Felicia Ambrose, MD, Carmen Terzic, MD, PhD, Danielle Perret Karimi, MD, Erika Trovato, DO, Gwendolyn Sowa, MD, PhD, Jennifer Russo, MD, Lyn Weiss, MD, Marlís González-Fernández, MD, PhD, Monica Verduzco-Gutierrez, MD, Mooyeon Oh-Park, MD, Nneka Ifejika, MD, MPH, Preeti Raghavan, MD, Rita Hamilton, DO, Sara Cuccurullo, MD, Talya Fleming, MD

Women in medicine continue to face structural barriers to leadership advancement and often report higher levels of perfectionism and fear of failure. These pressures can discourage risk-taking and reinforce the idea that mistakes must be avoided rather than examined. Creating intentional spaces where physicians openly discuss professional setbacks helps normalize these experiences and reduce the stigma surrounding failure. Such conversations foster resilience, encourage thoughtful risk-taking, and highlight the lessons embedded in

challenging moments. By reflecting on difficulties and sharing strategies for recovery and growth, physicians can build confidence and perspective, transforming obstacles into opportunities for learning, innovation, and meaningful leadership development.

Empower Movement: Prosthetics Bootcamp for Practitioners

Alethea Appavu, DO, Anju Sanchala, DO, Gregory De Gruchy, MD, Haris Choudry, MD, Kavita Nadendla, MD, Malav Shah, MD, Marlís González-Fernández, MD, PhD, Sharon David, MD

This workshop will help Physiatrists at all levels of training improve their knowledge, confidence, and skills with prosthetics from knowledge, evaluation, prescription, advocacy, and more

Contralaterally Controlled Functional Electrical Stimulation: Clinical Applications for Post-Stroke Upper Extremity Recovery

James Begley, MD, Jayme Knutson, PhD, Liz Arlia, OTR/L, Mary Harley, OTR/L

Contralaterally Controlled Functional Electrical Stimulation (CCFES) has now transitioned from a rehabilitation research tool to a clinically available device and method to help stroke survivors recover hand function. In this session, we will review the clinical trials supporting the use of CCFES, show case examples for clinical practice, and portray its utility for inclusion in inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation programs. Participants will be able to try or observe live use of the device in a hands-on session.

What’s Missing from Undergraduate Medical Education? You! Workshopping the Inclusion of PM&R in Medical School Curricula

Ashlee Bolger, MD, Brittany Snider, DO, Carley Sauter, MD, Dorothy Tolchin, MD, Leslie Rydberg, MD, Nethra Ankam, MD, Sarah Eickmeyer, MD, Shane Stone, MD, Steven Kirshblum, MD

This 90-minute workshop highlights the critical role of PM&R in undergraduate medical education (UME), emphasizing its value in teaching functional assessment, musculoskeletal care, and disability-centered, team-based practice. Despite the high prevalence of these conditions, PM&R remains underrepresented in curricula, with only a small percentage of schools requiring a clerkship. Through expert perspectives, small-group collaboration, and guided reflection, participants will identify curricular opportunities, address institutional barriers, and align PM&R content with national competency frameworks. Using Kern’s model, attendees will create individualized action plans to expand their educational impact, enhance visibility, and strengthen PM&R’s presence in UME.

Regenerative Rehabilitation Strategies to Treat Skeletal Myopathies and Cardiomyopathy: Novel Cell and Gene Therapy Approaches

Craig McDonald, MD, Eduardo Marban, MD, PhD, Renzhi Han, PhD

Cell and gene therapies for the treatment of muscular dystrophy (both skeletal myopathy and cardiomyopathy) represents an exciting and illustrative regenerative rehabilitation approach with translation from bench to bedside and FDA approvals of a number of novel therapies. The course will focus on 1) heart-derived cell therapy with sequential IV administration to treat muscular dystrophy and the subsequent development of bio-inspired small molecule therapies based on the cargo of secreted extracellular vesicles; 2) unique contributions of a physician scientist in physiatry to clinical trials of regenerative cell and gene therapies, and 3) novel non-viral gene delivery and gene editing strategies.

Know Before You Go: Needs Assessment, Program Development, and the Art of Closing the Right Gaps in Global PM&R

Amy Chambliss, MD, Maya Therattil, MD, Nina Carmela Tamayo, DO, Sara Salim, MD, Wali Sabuhi, MD

Effective PM&R program development in international and underserved settings requires more than good intentions - it requires structured, context-specific inquiry. As part of the GAPS-led Global PM&R Curriculum Initiative, this session offers physiatrists and trainees a practical, evidence-informed framework for needs assessment and gaps analysis, grounded in public health methodology and implementation science. A real-world case study from Ghana illustrates how rigorous assessment refines assumptions and shapes program development decisions. Participants leave with a reusable planning worksheet and practical tools to support early-stage program development in local and international contexts.

Hypermobility How-Tos: Evaluating and Understanding Patients with Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes and Hypermobility Spectrum Disorders

Alissa Zingman, MD, Angela Garcia, MD, Isabel Huang, MD, Nathan Rudin, MD, Neyha Cherin, DO

Hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos syndrome (hEDS) and hypermobility spectrum disorders (HSD) cause considerable pain and disability. Physiatrists increasingly see people with these conditions and need to know how to address them. This course will teach you to efficiently evaluate, diagnose, and start treatment for patients with hEDS and HSD. Learn to take a tailored medical history, perform a focused physical exam, recognize and address common comorbidities, and apply the new international diagnostic criteria for hEDS and HSD.

Precision Non-Invasive Brain Stimulation for Stroke Motor Recovery

Preeti Raghavan, MD, Robert Nickel, PhD, Sheng Li, MD, PhD, Yuan Yang, PhD

Non-invasive brain stimulation (NIBS), especially tDCS, has not shown population-wide efficacy in larger clinical trials, possibly due to a lack of patient-specific tailoring. In the session, we will discuss how we can improve precision of NIBS and personalize NIBS treatment, including optimization of tACS parameters, integration of brain network activity patterns, and utilization of high-definition electrodes to personalize tDCS treatment for stroke patients.

Financial Sustainability & Budgets I (ADC session)

Jessie DeVito, MHA, Nahir Henry, MHA

This session will provide a practical overview of financial sustainability in academic PM&R departments, including budgeting frameworks, revenue diversification, and expense management. Speakers will share real-world examples of navigating margin compression, aligning budgets to strategic growth, and managing cross-subsidization across missions. The session will include case-based discussion and time for participant Q&A.

Previous ADC Presentation Updates (ADC session)

Anna Rogers, MHA, Lori McKenna, MHA, Yelena Sionova, MHA

Transitions of Care Management: This session will provide an update on previously presented transitions of care initiatives, highlighting implementation progress, outcome data, and operational refinements. The speaker will share successes, challenges, and key lessons learned, followed by a discussion on sustainability and scalability. Therapy Trusted Network: This session will revisit the Therapy Trusted Network initiative, providing updates on performance, growth, and operational improvements. Attendees will learn how the model has evolved and discuss best practices for building and sustaining high-performing therapy networks.

Key Performance Indicators for PM&R (ADC session)

Aaron Olsen, MHA

This interactive roundtable will focus on defining and leveraging KPIs to manage PM&R departments effectively. The facilitator will guide discussion on selecting meaningful metrics, building dashboards, and using data to drive accountability and improvement. Participants will share their own KPI frameworks and engage in peer benchmarking and problem-solving.

Direct Access & Remote Patient Monitoring (ADC session)

Yelena Sionova, MHA

This session will examine innovative care delivery models, including direct access pathways and RPM in PM&R. The speaker will review implementation strategies, technology integration, and reimbursement considerations. Real-world examples will illustrate how these approaches can expand access and enhance patient outcomes, with time for discussion and audience engagement.

CONCURRENT PROGRAMS

These signature AAP programs will have ongoing workshops and sessions designed for this year's participants.

PROGRAM FOR ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP (PAL)

Leadership training directed by John Chae, MD, Dixie Aragaki, MD, and William Bockenek, MD

Visit physiatry.org/PAL to learn more.

REHABILITATION MEDICINE SCIENTIST TRAINING PROGRAM (RMSTP)

Research training directed by Michael Boninger, MD, and W. David Arnold, MD

Visit physiatry.org/RMSTP to get involved.

ADVOCACY & PUBLIC POLICY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (APPL)

Training for the next generation of health policy leaders directed by Gregory Worsowicz, MD and Chloe Slocum, MD

Visit physiatry.org/APPL to get involved.

LEADERSHIP IN MEDICAL EDUCATION (LIME)

Training for physiatrists looking to become accomplished teachers and leaders in medical education directed by Leslie Rydberg, MD and Rebecca Dutton, MD.

Visit physiatry.org/LIME to get involved.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR SESSIONS

Thursday, February 18 and Friday, February 19

Our Program Coordinators Council has curated a schedule packed with essential sessions for navigating today's residency management landscape. From beginner to advanced topics, enjoy engaging breakouts, networking, and exciting group events throughout the week.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTORS COUNCIL SESSIONS

Thursday, February 18

Our Administrative Directors Council hosts a mini-workshop to address current challenges and connect PM&R department leaders nationwide.

READY, SET, PICKLEBALL!

3rd Annual Pickleball Championship

Team registration is officially open for our third Pickleball showdown!
Will anyone dethrone last year's champs?
Rally your colleagues, build your dream team, and get ready to play.





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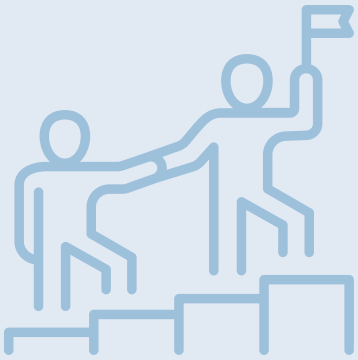
MEDICAL STUDENT ANNUAL MEETING SCHOLARSHIPS

Starting this October, the **Physiatry Foundation will award scholarships for medical students to attend the AAP Annual Meeting**—helping future leaders experience the energy, inspiration, and community that makes AAP unique.



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Join us in celebrating **our latest recipients of our Mission Innovation grants!** These bold initiatives are advancing education innovation, DEI, global outreach, and physician wellness across physiatry.



GET YOUR NAME ON THE DONOR WALL

Make your end-of-year gift to the AAP Physiatry Foundation and get your name on our donor recognition wall at the Annual Meeting. AAP is still matching dollar-for-dollar, doubling your impact. Thank you for shaping the future of physiatry with us.



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Registration

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Register by December 17, 2026 to save up to $300!

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Attendee Categories	Early Bird (By December 17)		Standard	
	AAP Members	Non-Members	AAP Members	Non-Members
Physician	☐ $795	☐ $1,095	☐ $945	☐ $1,245
Resident/ Fellow	☐ $540	☐ $690	☐ $690	☐ $840
Medical Student	☐ $295	☐ $390	☐ $350	☐ $450
Health Professional/ Researcher	☐ $575	☐ $675	☐ $725	☐ $825
Administrative Director	☐ $515	☐ $615	☐ $615	☐ $715
Program Coordinator	☐ $515	☐ $615	☐ $615	☐ $715
Emeritus	☐ $295	☐ $295	☐ $295	☐ $295
One-Day ☐ Thur ☐ Fri	☐ $400	☐ $550	☐ $575	☐ $735
International	☐ $575	☐ $675	☐ $725	☐ $825
Industry	☐ $1,000	☐ $1,000	☐ $1,000	☐ $1,000
RFPD Workshop ONLY:	☐ $450	☐ $630	☐ $450	☐ $630

* Please note: this is for those who wish to attend the workshop ONLY. You must select your attendee category AND the workshop below if you wish to attend conference sessions, as well.

Pre-Conference Workshops	AAP Members	Non-Members
Residency & Fellowship Program Directors (RFPD) and Program Coordinators Workshop	☐ $250	☐ $450
Resident, Fellow & Medical Student Bootcamp	☐ Free with your resident, fellow, or medical student registration	
Musculoskeletal Ultrasound A-Z (with Some Letters Missing)	☐ $149	☐ $199
Become a MOVIESTAR Program Director or Coordinator	☐ $99	☐ $149
Spasticity Master Course Workshop	☐ $149	☐ $199
Pediatric Rehabilitation Symposium	☐ $149	☐ $199
Brain Injury Medicine: Advanced Concepts and Clinical Updates	☐ $99	☐ $149
Chair & Admin Workshop: Leveraging Academic PM&R in a Time of Transformation	☐ $199	☐ $249

Guest Package ☐ $225 per person

Physiatry Foundation Pickleball Tournament
☐ $250 Donation per Team of 2

Prices will increase on site. Maximize your savings by registering ahead of time!

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Registration Information

Member: This category is designed for AAP members who are not suspended or expired, or who are purchasing a membership at the time of registration. Please check that all memberships are current before sending in registration forms. If you are unsure of your membership status or category, please call 410-654-1000 or email **meetings@physiatry.org**. **IF REGISTERING ONLINE, YOU MUST LOG IN TO RECEIVE AAP MEMBER DISCOUNT.**

Resident/ Fellow/ Medical Student: These packages are for residents, fellows and medical students only.

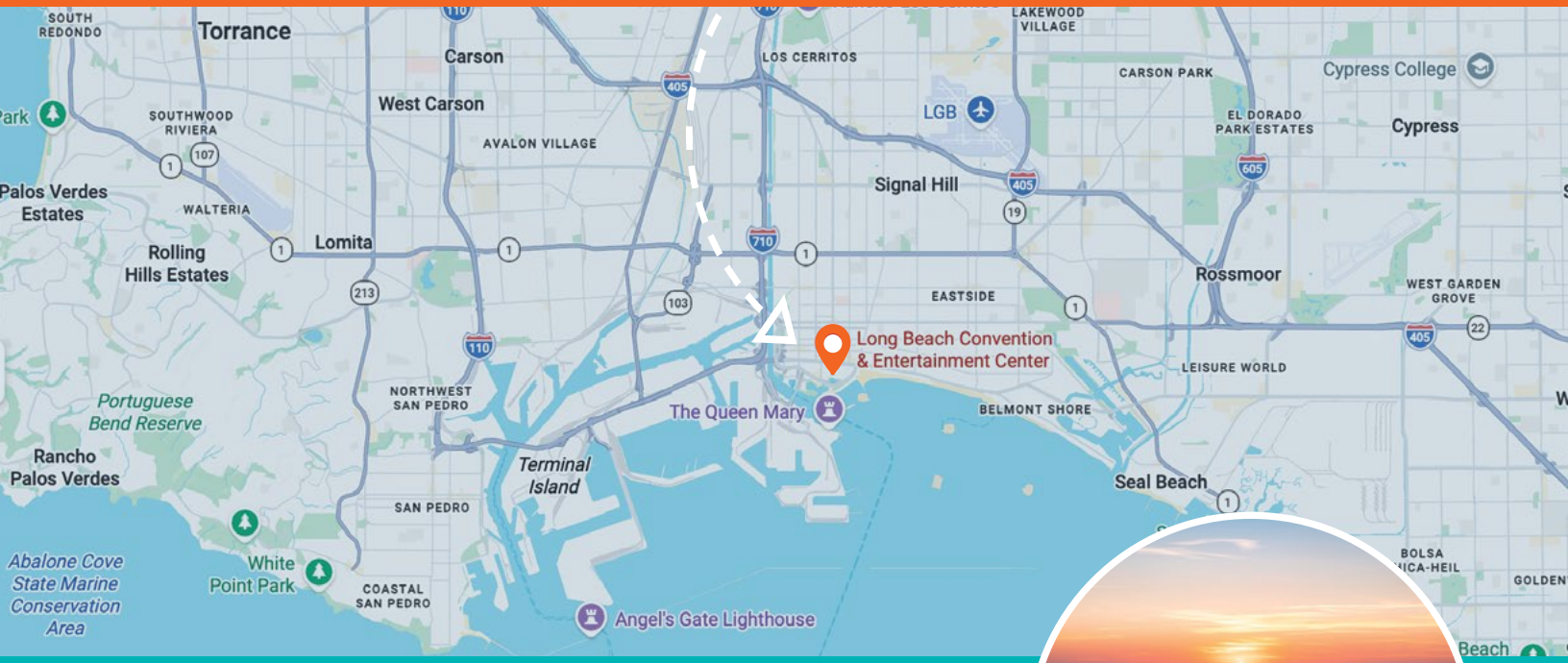
Guest: Our guest package includes all attendee meals and breaks, and entrance to the plenary sessions, Career Fair, and Exhibit Hall. This package cannot be used for a colleague or doctor — it is intended for a guest, spouse or family members only. Participants and guests will not be allowed into the main hall without a name badge.

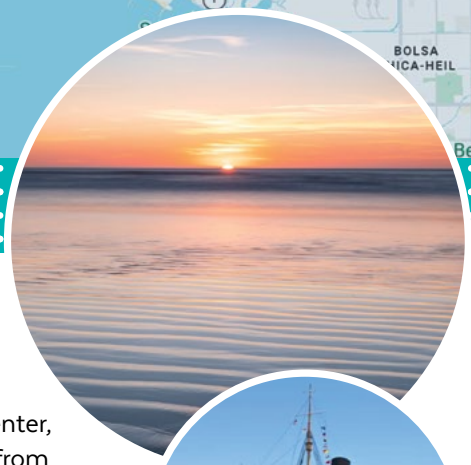
Your Registration Includes: Access to plenary and educational sessions, Career Fair, select meals and coffee breaks, networking events, and the Expo Hall! Pre-conferences have additional fees, so be sure to add them to your total when registering.

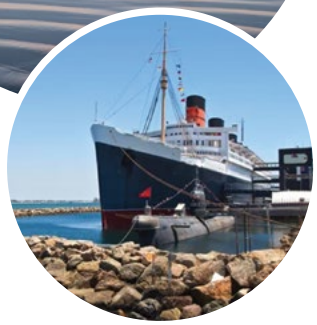
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- Full payment is due at the time of registration.
- Online registrations receive immediate confirmation; mailed registrations will be sent a confirmation within 10 days of receipt. If you do not receive a confirmation within 10 days, please call the AAP's office at +1 (410) 654-1000.
- All information must be accurately provided. Any registrations with information left blank will not be processed.
- We require cancellation and refund requests with ample notice. AAP will honor refund requests for any reason as long as they are submitted in writing before January 2, 2027. A processing fee of $75.00 will be applied. Requests made after this deadline will not be accepted. Please send all refund requests to **meetings@physiatry.org** by January 2, 2027.
- By registering for Physiatry '27, you give permission to the AAP to use all photos and videos with your likeness taken during educational sessions, networking events and other conference activities.

Venue & Hotel Information







Book Your Room Now!

Physiatry ’27 will be hosted at the Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center, located just next to Long Beach Airport (LGB). It is also within a 30 minute drive from Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and John Wayne Airport (JWA) in Orange County. Flight prices, times, and layovers will vary depending on the airline.

Consider staying at one of our several discounted hotels for a better rate. All hotels are a few blocks away from the Convention Center and offer close proximity to a variety of shopping, dining, and nightlife venues. **Be sure to book your room early to guarantee availability.**

Room reservations can be made by visiting **physiatry.org/AnnualMeeting** and navigating to the “Hotel & Travel” tab. If you choose to make a reservation over the phone, please request the group rate for the AAP 2027 Meeting. The deadline to receive a discount is 5:00 PM EST on Friday, January 15, 2027.

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Rates cannot be changed for guests who do not identify their affiliation at the time their reservation is made. All rooms are subject to availability. Once the block is full, no additional rooms will be available, so please book early. Thank you, in advance, for staying in rooms at our conference hotels as it helps the AAP offset the costs of meeting space and other costs associated with the meeting (from tables and chairs to power, air/heat and lighting)! Please help us keep registration fees down by making your reservation through our dedicated link or calling the hotel and requesting the AAP discounted rate!

The AAP does not use a third-party housing company nor will anyone from the AAP contact you to reserve your room. Anyone claiming to represent the AAP requesting to reserve your room or offer you a lower price is fraudulent and should be reported.

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