

20 APTA-MISSISSIPPI 26 FALL CONFERENCE

MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HOSPITALITY RESORT MANAGEMENT CENTER
GULFPORT, MS

SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2026



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Agenda

Friday, September 11th

- 4:00PM - 5:00PM **Check-In / Vendor Discovery / Poster Set Up**
- 5:00PM - 7:00PM **From Curiosity to Clinical Practice: Practical AI for Physical Therapists**
Kollin Napier, Ph.D
- 7:30PM - 9:00PM **Student SIG APTA National Advocacy Dinner**
Lisa Bryant, PT, DPT, CEAS
- 7:30PM - 9:00PM **APTA-MS PT / PTA / Vendor Reception (Markham Hotel Rooftop Bar)**

Saturday, September 12th

- 7:30AM - 8:00AM **Check-In / Welcome**
- 8:00AM - 9:20AM **TRACK 1** **Integrating Pain Science, Manual Therapy, and Dry Needling for Spine Patients**
Brooks Lewis, DPT, COMT, CDNT
- TRACK 2** **Advanced Gait Dynamics in Prosthetics**
Brian Moore, CPO
- 9:20AM - 10:40AM **Break/ Posters**
- 10:40AM - 12:00PM **TRACK 1** **Selecting the Correct Ankle-Foot Orthosis (AFO)**
Pamela Craft PT, COF
- TRACK 2** **Pediatric Therapy - A New Way to Play**
Meg Y. King, DPT, MS, CCI
- 12:00PM - 1:00PM **Lunch/ Business Meeting** *Sponsored by Vertex Pharmaceuticals*
- 1:00PM - 1:45PM **Student SSIG Breakout**
Erin Hederman, SPT, Student SIG President
- 1:45PM - 3:05PM **TRACK 1** **The 6 Hour CEO**
Sturdy McKee, PT
- TRACK 2** **Clinician to Faculty Transition**
Michael Brown, PT, DPT, PhD; Melanie H. Lauderdale, PT, DPT, EdD; Kimberly Willis, PT, DPT, EdD
- 3:05PM - 3:10PM **Break**
- 3:10PM - 4:30PM **TRACK 1** **Wheelchair Prescription: Maximizing Mobility for Patients Post-Stroke**
Melissa Knight, PT, DPT, NCS, CSRS, ATP
- TRACK 2** **Beyond Jump Height**
Jason Simpson, PT, DPT, SCS, RSCC, CSCS; Tristan Young, MS
- 4:30PM **Adjourn Conference**

On-Demand Sessions

2017 Neck Pain CPG: Translating Evidence Based Classifications into Clinical Practice

This session will provide a practical review of the 2017 Neck Pain Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG), with an emphasis on applying evidence-based classifications to everyday patient care. Participants will explore key classification categories, associated examination findings, and recommended interventions to support clinical decision-making for individuals with neck pain. Through clinically relevant examples, the session will demonstrate how to translate guideline recommendations into individualized treatment strategies based on patient presentation and response to care. Attendees will leave with practical approaches for integrating the CPG into examination, treatment planning, and progression of care to improve consistency and outcomes in clinical practice.

Ashley Shetter PT, DPT

Kaleb Thompson, PT, DPT

To access on-demand and recorded sessions, visit:

www.apta-ms.org/2026-apta-ms-fall-conference-resources/

Continuing Education

This conference offers up to **15.5 hours of continuing education credit, including 3.0 hours of Ethics**, for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants. Educational sessions are designed to support continued professional competence and are eligible for continuing education credit through APTA Mississippi.

To receive credit, participants must complete the applicable educational sessions and satisfy all attendance and completion requirements. Concurrent breakout sessions will be recorded and made available to registered attendees following the conference.

Participants seeking the full 14.0 hours must complete both the live sessions attended and the applicable recorded breakout sessions.

Continuing education credit will be awarded based on actual educational content completed. Breaks, meals, receptions, vendor activities, poster viewing, and other non-educational activities are not included in the calculation of continuing education hours.

Participants are responsible for maintaining their certificate of completion and documentation of continuing education activities in accordance with applicable licensure requirements.

Speakers



Kollin R. Napier, Ph.D.

Dr. Kollin Napier is the Director of the Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Network (MAIN), the nation's first and only statewide AI initiative, at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC). Recognized as the 2024 Mississippian of the Year, he leads efforts to transform Mississippi's workforce through AI integration in education and industry. A computer scientist with a Ph.D. in machine learning and AI, Dr. Napier is an accomplished software architect and researcher whose work focuses on vulnerability detection, model optimization, and practical AI applications. He is passionate about advancing innovation, workforce development, and preparing the next generation of AI professionals.



Lisa D. Bryant, PT, DPT, CEAS

Lisa D. Bryant, PT, DPT, CEAS, is a Jackson, Mississippi native currently residing in Brandon, Mississippi with her husband, also a physical therapist, three children and a dog. After graduating from physical therapy school in 2012, she began her career at a local hospital, where she practiced for more than nine years, focusing on adult intensive care early mobility. During the latter year of acute care practice, she expanded her experience into the long-term acute care (LTAC) setting. She later transitioned to early intervention, outpatient pediatric and school-based physical therapy, fulfilling her long-standing passion for working with children. In 2019, Dr. Bryant opened her own mobile pediatric physical therapy practice, allowing her to further serve children and families in her community. In 2023, Lisa became a Board Certified Specialist in Pediatric Physical Therapy (PCS), exemplifying her commitment to clinical expertise and evidence-based practice. She currently serves as an Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy at the School of Health Related Professions, where she is dedicated to educating and mentoring the next generation of physical therapists. Outside of her professional responsibilities, she enjoys working out, singing, writing poetry, and water coloring.



Brooks Lewis, DPT, COMT, CDNT

Brooks is the co-owner and founder of Mississippi Physical Therapy. He earned his bachelor's degree in Kinesiology in 2009 before receiving his Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 2013. A native of Heidelberg, Mississippi, Brooks was a two-sport all-state athlete and a four-year letterman on the Mississippi State University baseball team. After beginning his career with Results Physiotherapy in the Memphis area, Brooks returned to Mississippi Sports Medicine, where he specialized in manual therapy for spine and orthopedic conditions. He became a Certified Dry Needling Therapist (CDNT) in 2017, served as Director of Rehabilitation at Madison Healthplex in 2020, and later earned his Certified Orthopedic Manual Therapist (COMT) credential through the Institute of Advanced Musculoskeletal Treatments. Brooks and his partner, John Horlock, founded Mississippi Physical Therapy to provide exceptional spine, pelvic, and orthopedic care with a patient-centered, hands-on approach. He lives in Madison with his wife, Blair, and their two children.



Brian Moore, CPO

Brian Moore, CPO, is a certified prosthetist/orthotist with more than 30 years of clinical and technical experience in the orthotics and prosthetics profession. He currently serves as Clinical Director of OPS, where he leads patient care initiatives and advances innovative design and fabrication solutions. Mr. Moore specializes in pediatric spinal and cranial orthotics, dynamic orthotic bracing, CAD-designed prosthetics, and advanced design applications for complex patient needs. He completed prosthetic studies at UT Southwestern and orthotic studies at Newington, and has pursued advanced studies in design and fabrication sciences focused on unique and challenging applications. A recognized pioneer in the use of 3D printing and digital design technologies for prosthetics and orthotics, Mr. Moore has contributed to innovations that have influenced clinical practice on a global scale. His work has been featured in multiple trade journals, local television programs, and Inside Edition in recognition of his excellence and leadership in orthotics and prosthetics. Through decades of patient-centered care, technical innovation, and educational outreach, Brian Moore continues to shape the future of prosthetic and orthotic design while improving outcomes for patients worldwide.



Pamela Craft, PT, COF

Pam Craft, PT, COF has been a licensed Physical Therapist for over 30 years after graduating from South Alabama in 1992. She received her initial training through the Air Force in 1985 where she was exposed to the amputee population through the STAMP program and being part of team treating patients at the Hansens Disease center in Carville, LA. Pam has worked in all areas of Physical Therapy practice with focus on complex diagnoses, neurological and amputee populations. For the last 3 years, Pam has worked for Hanger Clinic specializing in the assessment and treatment of all types of gait impairment from an orthotic and prosthetic standpoint. Pam's ultimate goal in her current position is to bring more continuity of care of this patient population through education and training and bridging the gap between the CPO and PT spectrums of care so that optimal patient functional outcomes are achieved.



Meg Y. King, DPT, MS, CCI

Dr. Meg Young King, DPT, MS, CCI, is a physical therapist, educator, and healthcare leader with more than 16 years of rehabilitation experience and a passion for helping children overcome developmental challenges. Her expertise includes pediatric physical therapy, early mobility, and neurological rehabilitation, with the past seven years focused on pediatric care in school and clinical settings. Dr. King earned her Doctor of Physical Therapy from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 2010, following undergraduate and Master of Science degrees from Mississippi State University. She is the owner and clinical director of JWM Pediatric Therapy in Grenada, Mississippi, and previously served as Director of Rehabilitation for a multi-state therapy agency and for 10 years as director of a Physical Therapist Assistant program. Dr. King is Immediate Past President of the American Physical Therapy Association Mississippi. Her experience across clinical practice, pediatric care, rehabilitation leadership, and higher education provides a broad perspective on advancing physical therapy practice and improving patient outcomes.



Erin Hederman, DPT Program, UMMC

Erin Hederman is a second-year Doctor of Physical Therapy student in the University of Mississippi Medical Center's DPT program. A native of Jackson, Mississippi, she earned her bachelor's degree in Kinesiology from Mississippi College, where she was also a collegiate soccer player. Her experiences as an athlete, combined with firsthand exposure to injury and rehabilitation, inspired her passion for physical therapy and helping others improve their quality of life. Throughout her time at UMMC, Erin has witnessed the value of professional involvement and mentorship through the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). As Chairman of the APTA Student Special Interest Group, Erin is committed to promoting student engagement, professional development, and advocacy within the physical therapy profession. She looks forward to supporting the next generation of PTs while giving back to a profession that has had a meaningful impact on her own journey.



Sturdy McKee, PT

Sturdy McKee, PT is a physical therapist, entrepreneur, business coach, and private practice leader with more than 25 years of experience. As the co-founder and former CEO of San Francisco Sport and Spine Physical Therapy, he successfully grew the practice into a multi-location organization. Today, he coaches and consults with healthcare entrepreneurs and private practice owners, specializing in leadership, business strategy, operational systems, and sustainable practice growth. He is also the creator of The 6-Hour CEO™, a proven framework that helps practice owners build successful businesses that operate more efficiently and with less dependence on the owner. A sought-after speaker and educator, Sturdy is passionate about helping clinicians become stronger leaders and build thriving, patient-centered practices.



Michael Brown, PT, DPT, PhD

Dr. Michael Brown is an Associate Professor and Associate Chair in the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), where he has served as a full-time faculty member since April 2020. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Urban Studies from Stanford University in 2007, followed by a Doctorate in Physical Therapy from UMMC in 2013. After completing UMMC's Sports Physical Therapy Residency in 2014, he became a Board Certified Clinical Specialist in Sports Physical Therapy in 2015 and has been on the residency staff since then. His clinical practice has focused on orthopedics and sports medicine, notably providing care at UMMC and Ole Miss athletics. In 2025, he completed a PhD in Clinical Anatomy at UMMC, with research examining how peripheral visual attention influences joint range of motion. Dr. Brown's research interests include sports, thermoregulation, and visual influence. His practice is heavily influenced by the Postural Restoration Institute's (PRI) principles, and he provides pro bono physical therapy and sports medicine coverage in the metro area.



Melanie H. Lauderdale, PT, DPT, EdD

Melanie Lauderdale is a Professor and Chair of the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) in Jackson, MS. She received a Master of Physical Therapy degree from the UMMC PT program in 2006 and a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree in 2008, later completing her Doctor of Education in Higher Education in 2019 from the University of Mississippi. She practiced full-time as a physical therapist in acute care at UMMC, a level one trauma center, for six years before transitioning to a faculty role. Her primary teaching areas include the cardiovascular and pulmonary system, acute care, and neurology. She continues clinical practice on occasion in the acute care setting at UMMC. She also serves in leadership roles and conducts research on acute care physical therapy, neuromuscular disorders, PT admissions, and technology in education. In addition, she is active in physical therapy professional associations at the state and national levels.



Kimberly Willis, PT, DPT, EdD

Dr. Kimberly Willis is a Physical Therapist, Professor, and the Director of Clinical Education at the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Health Related Professions Department of Physical Therapy. Dr. Willis received her Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy from UMMC in 1995 and returned to earn the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree in 2006. She completed her Doctor of Education in Higher Education at the University of Mississippi in 2019. She moved into the role of DCE in 2018 & now coordinates the four clinical experiences of the DPT students at UMMC. She enjoys the collaborative efforts of working with facilities to educate future physical therapists. Additionally, her teaching responsibilities include progressive neurological disorders, oncology, and pelvic health.



Melissa Knight, PT, DPT, NCS, CSRS, ATP

Melissa Knight, PT, DPT, NCS, CSRS, ATP is an inpatient PT with interests in stroke, spinal cord injury, prognostics, and seating mobility systems. In 2023 she graduated from the University of South Alabama (USA) and immediately pursued neurologic residency at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC). She currently works at Methodist Rehabilitation Center primarily as a stroke specialist and seating therapist, but also contributes to research and academia as an affiliate faculty member with UMMC DPT and adjunct instructor for USA DPT.



Jason Simpson, PT, DPT, SCS, RSCC, CSCS

Jason Simpson is a Sports Certified Specialist physical therapist and Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist through the National Strength and Conditioning Association. He serves as an Assistant Teaching Professor in the Physician Assistant Studies Program at Mississippi State University–Meridian while continuing clinical practice in outpatient orthopedics. Simpson is also a PhD candidate at the University of Southern Mississippi, where his research focuses on the integration of biomechanics and neurophysiology to investigate the neuromuscular mechanisms underlying gait and locomotor rehabilitation. Prior to becoming a physical therapist, Simpson worked as a strength and conditioning coach at Florida State University (2012–2014) before joining the Pittsburgh Pirates organization (2014) and the Colorado Rockies organization (2015–2016). He later served as an assistant track and field coach at William Carey University from 2018–2023, helping lead the men's program to the 2020 NAIA Indoor National Championship while coaching multiple individual national champions. Simpson earned his Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from William Carey University in 2020 and his Master of Science in Exercise Physiology from Florida State University in 2014.



Tristan Young, MS

Tristan Young is a doctoral candidate in the School of Kinesiology & Nutrition at the University of Southern Mississippi, where he conducts research in the Golden Eagle Athlete Research (GEAR) Lab. His current work focuses on athlete monitoring, neuromuscular fatigue, and performance optimization while collaborating with USM's Strength & Conditioning staff to implement force plate analytics across the university's volleyball, baseball, and soccer programs. He also has experience working with tactical athletes through USM's ROTC program. Young earned his Master of Science in Kinesiology & Exercise Science from Georgia Southern University in 2024. While at Georgia Southern, he worked as a sport scientist with the university's men's soccer program and South Georgia Tormenta FC of the USL League One, integrating force plate analytics with GPS-derived training load monitoring to assess neuromuscular fatigue and guide training load management.

Student SIG

The Student Special Interest Group “SIG” is a group within APTA-Mississippi that provides leadership for student PTs and PTAs across the state.

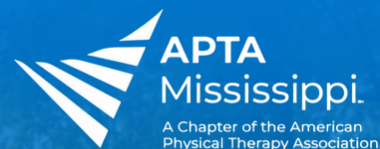
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Thank you for joining us!



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- & MORE!



If you're not yet a member, we invite you to join today and be part of a stronger PT community in Mississippi. Join at [APTA.org](https://www.apta.org), selecting Mississippi as your state.

Stay Connected!

Follow us on social media and use #APTAMS2026 to keep the conversation going. We have Facebook groups open to all PTs and PTAs in the state- member or not. Please consider joining to keep in touch! *We'll see you next year!*

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