

AMERICAN REGISTRY OF PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

Organized 1935

*History 1932- Representatives of the American Congress of Physical Therapy (now Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation) and its affiliated organizations, New York Physical Therapy Society and Pacific Physical Therapy Society, met and decided that it was the prerogative and duty of medical specialists in physical therapy to prescribe qualifications of their technicians and formulate the relationship of the latter to the medical profession.

The American Physiotherapy Association did not at once fall in with this decision though in justice to that body it should be stated that this was in part owing to certain misunderstandings.

*Excerpts- Archives of Physical Therapy, October 1936

Letter 1937 from Dr. John Coulter to Miss Green, President

"The Registry of Physical Therapists Technicians was created to protect the interests of the members of the American Physiotherapy Association....It was created to prevent a group of physicians from trying to create a new technicians' society."

Background - During the year 1933 the American Physiotherapy Association removed two schools from its list of approved courses. These schools were not connected with universities or colleges but were conducted for profit. They were removed because in the opinion of the Executive Committee they did not meet the educational requirements for membership.

This was protested at the next meeting of the Congress of Physical Therapy particularly the new York section who said they as physicians would not submit to technicians telling specialists in physical therapy now to educate their employer. The Eastern Section of the Congress wanted to approve schools and to start a technicians' section of the Congress to conduct a campaign to employ only members of this section. The American Physiotherapy Association opposed this.

Dr. Coulter as a member of the Congress and Chairman of the Advisory Board of the American Physiotherapy Association called an informal meeting of physicians and members of the A.P.A.

It was decided not to establish a technicians' section. The Congress decided that they would advocate a registry.

The first plan submitted by Dr. Coulter included a Board of five members. Two from the Congress - Sec. of the Council on Physical Therapy of the American Medical Association, Director of Hospital Activities, American College of Surgeons, and a member of the American Physiotherapy Association. It was later changed and the Board organized as were the laboratory and x-ray technicians under the aegis of the Congress and an advisory committee provided on which there was one member of the Association.

The Association continued to be not in accord with having the Registry under the aegis of the Congress. Although support was obtained from individual orthopedists, officially they would take no action and in effect supported the placement of the Registry under the Congress.

The Council on Medical Education and Hospitals continued to make it clear that they had no jurisdiction over organization of physical therapists or the Registry.

The Council was consulted by the American Physiotherapy Association and the Congress and because of the precedent established with the laboratory and x-ray technicians the Council went along with the premise that the Registry should be controlled by physicians and gave guidance in the setting up of educational qualifications.

In 1936 the Executive Committee of the Association expressed its willingness to cooperate with the Congress in forming a registry and noted that the Registry Board as outlined to them included a representative of the Association.

In 1937 the Registry decided to offer registration without examination to members of the American Physiotherapy Association in good standing as of August 29, 1936.

During the intervening years until 1952, the only representation the Association had with the Registry was one member on the Advisory Council which met once a year at lunch during the Annual Meeting of the Congress. The A.P.T.A. representatives during the years protested to us and to the Congress that their function was most perfunctory since they never received any communications during the year or an agenda prior to the luncheon meeting and that the latter was primarily social.

After the war the American Physical Therapy Association suggested that there be a joint committee to consider some desirable changes in the Registry, namely change of name, representation on the Board and joint efforts on examination-interpretation and what constituted unethical practices. The first two were eventually achieved. There was a joint committee on the examination but no real progress was made.

The American Physical Therapy Association has continued to question practices effecting its members but realizes that the Registry is a separate corporation and may set down whatever rules it wishes. To be or not to be a registrant is still a matter of individual choice.

It is emphasized, however, that neither the American Physical Therapy Association nor the American Medical Association requested that the Registry be organized.

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SOME COMPONENT GROUPS OF:

American Medical Association

1. Standing Committees of House of Delegates
 - a. Council on Medical Education and Hospitals (accrediting body for so-called "professional" part of physical therapy programs)
Advisory Committee on Physical Therapy Education - 9 physicians and 3 physical therapists

Others

2. Standing Committees of Board of Trustees
 - a. Council on Medical Physics (organized following dissolution of Council on Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation)

Others

3. Sections - on medical specialties as
 - a. Section on Anesthesiology
 - b. Section on Physical Medicine (Note: Physical Medicine, not Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation)

4. Constituent Associations - (State Medical Societies)

American Physical Therapy Association

1. Standing Committees
 - a. Conference Program
 - b. Finance
 - c. Judicial
 - d. Nominating

2. Advisory and ad hoc Committees - see REVIEW, March 1957, pp 160-161

3. Sections (meet at annual conference)

- a. Education
- b. Public Health
- c. Self-employed

4. Constituent Associations - 58 Chapters; 47 Districts

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, not COMPONENT GROUPS OF EITHER THE AMA OR APTA

1. American Congress of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
 - a. Established and conducts American Registry of Physical Therapists
2. American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (formerly American Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation) - members are certified by American Board of P.M. & R.
3. American Boards - "The official status of the American Boards is established by their sponsorship from the recognized national societies in each specialty and the corresponding section of the American Medical Association, by their conformity with the regulations of and election to membership in the Advisory Board for Medical Specialties, and by the approval from the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Ass'n."*
4. Conference of Medical Directors of Courses in Physical Therapy
5. Council of Physical Therapy School Directors

*Directory of Medical Specialists Holding Certification by American Boards. Vol. VII, Marquis-Who's Who, Chicago, 1955

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Hymmer

<i>Baker - Orth</i>	<i>Kotke - Phy</i>	<i>Hewitt</i>
<i>Sanhoff - Ped.</i>	<i>McLanahan</i>	<i>Kohle</i>
<i>Elkins - Phy</i>	<i>Saphire</i>	<i>Wood.</i>
<i>Erdman - Phy</i>		

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