



CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT & CONSENT FORM

NAME: Elizabeth (Betsy) Ross

POSITION RUNNING FOR: Vice President

CITY/TOWN OF RESIDENCE: Santa Fe, NM

APTA MEMBERSHIP (years): 14

APTA NEW MEXICO MEMBERSHIP (years): 11

SECTION MEMBERSHIP(s): Acute Care, Education, Cardiovascular & Pulmonary

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Arts in Psychology/Neuroscience from Illinois Wesleyan University – Graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2008

Doctor of Physical Therapy from the University of Minnesota in 2011

PREVIOUS BOARD EXPERIENCE: Vice President for APTA New Mexico, Secretary for APTA New Mexico, Nominating Committee for the Academy of Acute Care Physical Therapy

PERTINENT EXPERIENCE:

I have worked as a physical therapist in acute care at Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center for 11 years, where I serve as a leader in critical care and worked to develop early mobility protocols for the intensive care unit. In 2022 I became a Board Certified Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Clinical Specialist and I provide regular inservices, trainings, and mentorship opportunities to clinicians in cardiovascular and pulmonary patient management and critical care rehab.

I have been actively involved in the APTA at the national level, especially with the Academy of Acute Care Physical Therapy (AACPT) as a Nominating Committee Chairperson and with the Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy (AGPT) as the acute care liaison for the Cognitive and Mental Health Special Interest Group. In 2020 I served on the Steering Committee for the Bridge the Gap conference, a virtual event geared toward educators in acute care physical therapy in both academic and clinical settings. I have presented at the Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) in the areas of acute care, clinical education, and health policy/administration. At the state level, I am the current Vice President of APTA New Mexico and have served in the role of Secretary previously, and I was actively involved in APTA New Mexico's strategic planning initiatives in 2021. I participate in the Education and Membership Committees, including helping to plan the fall conference and Global PT Day of Service. I am actively involved in the Community Faculty Advisory Board for UNM Medical School and the Advisory Board for PIMA's PTA program.

I also hold a number of leadership positions in my own hospital community at Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center. I am the site coordinator of clinical education (SCCE) and a clinical instructor for several students every year. I currently serve as the chairperson of the Clinical Advancement Program (CAP) for therapy staff and am actively involved in Clinician Driven Process Improvement (CDPI) initiatives. I am also actively involved in a number of hospital committees including the Critical Care and Code Blue Committee, Rehab Operations, and am the outgoing chairperson for the hospital's Ethics Committee. I lead a physical therapy journal club and regularly teach evidence-based classes to individuals with stroke in our inpatient rehab unit. During the COVID-19 pandemic, I have been part of the rehab team delivering front-line care to individuals hospitalized with COVID-19.

Through my experiences in patient care and leadership, I have had a number of opportunities to collaborate with interdisciplinary teams and bring groups of people together toward a common goal. My leadership experiences at the national level have also allowed me to gain insights into the workings of a board of directors and become more visionary in my leadership skills.

STATEMENT (Please write a statement about why you would like to run for this position.):

I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to contribute to advancing the field of physical therapy in the state of New Mexico. Through leadership on the APTA New Mexico Board of Directors, I aim to help develop strategies for bringing therapists in various practice settings together toward the common goals of strengthening our profession, serving patients in our communities, addressing existing gaps in healthcare in our state, and providing high-quality education to students in academic and clinical settings. There is an opportunity to bring generations of therapists together, as well, and to connect with newer graduates through marketing strategies, social media involvement, and creative communication in order to increase interest in membership and nurture developing leaders, and I believe I could be a valuable resource to these efforts. I also hope to work with the leadership team in developing ways to increase diversity and inclusivity in our profession. My plans for the next two years include developing a more comprehensive practice committee and establishing mentorship pathways for clinicians in New Mexico who are pursuing specialist certifications. Through the Membership Committee, I strive to reach our members in meaningful ways, especially in rural parts of our state. Since I reside and work in Santa Fe, I would also like to be more actively involved in projects to engage APTA New Mexico members in Santa Fe and Rio Arriba Counties and other parts of Northern New Mexico. We are in a fast-moving and constantly-evolving atmosphere of healthcare, and I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to guiding professionals in our state through the challenges we may face together.