

My name is Katie Colgan Buzza and I am running for At-Large Board Member to bring new ideas and logistical foresight to the American Academy of Sports Physical Therapy.

Over the past several years I have had the privilege of service through multiple roles within the Academy. I have contributed to the coordination of Teammates networking events since 2019, creating an updated matching system based on mentor/mentee interests to demonstrate improved participant benefit. I also spearheaded the successful pivot to a virtual format, ensuring a continued sense of community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Until 2022, I acted as Chair of Professional Development in the Early Career Professionals sub-committee where I organized educational events and fostered member involvement. Since then, I've served as the practice lead of the Knee SIG and the Vice Chair of the Membership Committee. These roles have allowed me to reach membership on an individual and organizational level to positively affect change. My goal has always been to enhance the value of academy membership for the sports physical therapist, and I feel that my flexibility and organizational prowess have facilitated this to the best of my ability.

Professionally, I have always striven for a standard of excellence. I attended the University of Pittsburgh for physical therapy school and then matriculated into a Sports Physical Therapy Residency with Massachusetts General Hospital/Northeastern University before going on to practice clinically in sports-focused outpatient care. My current professional roles are somewhat mixed- I work as an assistant professor at Sacred Heart University in Connecticut, but I also continue to practice clinically at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York. The high quality of clinical excellence of mentors in all my previous and current roles, coupled with my exposure to professional distinction through the Academy, has allowed my career to flourish in a way that would not have been possible otherwise. My dual-pronged responsibilities allow me to understand the demands of maintaining clinical excellence as a sports clinician while also appreciating the rigor of academia and research expectations. I hope that my multifaceted background will help me to better represent the totality of the membership.

If elected, I hope to continue to enhance membership value. I believe in transparency, collaboration and strategic planning to optimize the Academy's impact on the individual. My goal is to foster an improved sense of community, and I feel strongly that my diverse background will lend itself to inclusion of the totality of the community rather than just a subset. I hope to use my skillset of efficiency, solicitude, and dedication to improve satisfaction going forward both in the short-term and beyond my term in the position. Thank you for your consideration. I am excited about this opportunity and look forward to the chance to contribute my abilities to the executive board.