January 19, 2016

Re: Proposed Section Name Change and Proposed Amendments to Articles of Incorporation  
Request for Approval

Dear Members of the Neurology Section of APTA:

The Board of Directors of the Neurology Section of the American Physical Therapy Association, Inc. (Section) requests approval to change its name to the “Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy, Inc.” In addition, the Board of Directors requests approval of two proposed amendments to its Articles of Incorporation, pursuant to Article V, Section 2(C)(2) of the APTA Bylaws.

Rationale for Name Change of the Neurology Section to the Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy

The Neurology Section of the APTA proposes to change its name to the Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy. Many will ask: why? In 2012, the APTA conducted a governance review that resulted in multiple recommendations, including the reorganization of the sections into academies, councils and communities. While that reorganization met with considerable resistance, the idea of renaming sections as academies has been embraced by several sections (Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy and the Academy of Clinical Electrophysiology and Wound Management) and is under consideration by many others. The title of “council” has also been endorsed as the Academic Administrator’s SIG renamed itself the Council on Academic Physical Therapy in 2013.

In consideration of these two proposed titles, we have examined the definition of these two terms. A council, as defined by Dictionary.com is “a body of persons specially designated or selected to act in an advisory, administrative or legislative capacity”. In contrast, academy is defined by the same source as both “an association or institution for the advancement of art, literature or science” and “a group of authorities and leaders in a field of scholarship…who are often permitted to dictate standards, prescribe methods, and criticize new ideas”. Based on these two definitions and in alignment with our Geriatric and ACEWM colleagues, we propose to replace “section” with “academy”. We are a group of leaders and authorities, both emerging and established, in the field of neurologic physical therapy practice, and we help to determine the standards and methods of that practice and to provide a forum for the evaluation of new research that applies to our field. Thus, the title of academy fits perfectly with how we function.

Additionally, this also aligns us with our colleagues in medicine, who are represented by the American Academy of Neurology and the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Similarly, nursing is represented by the American Academy of Nursing. Thus,
having an organization with a title that is recognized by our other health profession colleagues should facilitate the discourse between these professional groups.

Since the Section was first approved in 1977, it has had a reputation for leadership and innovation in education, research and practice pertaining to neurologic conditions but also within the APTA. We wish to take this opportunity to continue that leadership by making this name transition, which we think more clearly defines who we are to our other healthcare colleagues and to the patients that we serve.

**Text of Proposed Amendments to Section’s Articles of Incorporation**

**Motion #1: Name Change**

That Article 1, Section 1.01 of the Articles of Incorporation of the Neurology Section of the American Physical Therapy Association, Inc. is hereby amended by substitution to read as follows:

The name of the corporation shall be: Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy, Inc.

**Motion #2: Membership and Voting**

That Article 5, Section 5.01 of the Articles of Incorporation of the Neurology Section of the American Physical Therapy Association, Inc. is hereby amended by substitution to read as follows:

The Corporation shall have members as set forth in its Code of By-laws. The members shall have such voting and other rights as set forth in the Code of By-laws.