

**From the Executive Committee on Education (ECE)
July 2019**

The NATA Executive Committee for Education (ECE) oversees matters related to AT education. The ECE and its' committees facilitate quality professional and post-professional education, coordinates the delivery of educational programming for the profession and maintains a dialogue with its CAATE and BOC liaisons on accreditation and certification matters affecting AT education. The Executive Committee for Education informs and assists the profession in setting the direction for athletic training education. Emphasizing a commitment to improving patient care through an evidence-based approach, the ECE proactively influences best educational practices that reflect athletic training's interprofessional nature and commitment to learning. The following committees fall within the ECE:

- [Professional Education Committee](#) (PEC) supports the collaborative relationship between the profession of athletic training and the educational process. The PEC emphasizes best practices in didactic and clinical education, faculty and preceptor development, and the overall enhancement of professional education in an effort to prepare athletic trainers who are uniquely qualified to excel within a dynamic healthcare system.
- [Post Professional Education Committee](#) (PPEC) provides strategic vision and guidance to all post-professional education in athletic training. The promotion of life-long learning and professional development will impart advanced knowledge and skills of athletic trainers to achieve career goals and fulfillment, while also excelling in the clinical practice, research and scholarship that enhances the quality of patient care, optimizing outcomes, and improving patients' health-related quality of life.
- [Professional Development Committee](#) (PDC) provides leadership in the creation, development, implementation and evaluation of continuing education and professional development plans for athletic trainers. The committee promotes unique, innovative and purposeful continuing professional development activities and programs to meet the dynamic and individual needs of our health care community.
- [Education Advancement Committee](#) (EAC) identifies short-term and long-term educational research priorities to advance evidence-based scholarship and to continually assess best practices related to athletic training education in order to enhance clinical practice and patient care.
- [Education Journal Committee](#) (EJC) oversees the operation, content and editorial procedures of the Athletic Training Education Journal. The committee chair serves as Editor-in-Chief of the Athletic Training Education Journal and the members of the committee serve as editors of the Journal.

ECE Committee Updates

- **Professional Education Committee** - The Professional Education Committee is continuing to develop an online process, through the NATA's Gather platform, whereby potential clinical sites, preceptors, and athletic training students can communicate. The intention is to create a system that helps to identify and develop potential clinical opportunities and connect students and programs to them. Further, the PEC still has a focus on the transition to practice as they work to develop a transition to practice checklist that can be used by athletic training students and/or programs to enhance one's readiness to transition to independent clinical practice. Other areas of ongoing effort include further development of AT Teaching Tips, planning of the next Preceptor Development Forum, and resources supporting the development and implementation of standardized patients and simulation in athletic training education.
- **Post-Professional Education Committee** - A high-priority initiative is a collaboration with DAT program directors and faculty members to share information in a manner that will promote the interests of each academic program and the entire athletic training profession. Establishment of a formal dialogue between the PPEC and DAT program representatives is expected to facilitate the acquisition of information from DAT graduates that will ultimately be disseminated to NATA members. Specific information about each post-professional pathway for professional advancement will be added to the NATA website in the coming months. With district approval, members of the PPEC will be delivering the 2020 Professional Development Committee Strategic Issues in Athletic Training Lecture Series at each of their respective district meetings. The topic will be the application of continuous quality improvement principles to the clinical practice of athletic training.
- **Professional Development Committee** - The Professional Development Committee has planned the Strategic Lecture Series in Athletic Training in collaboration with the Post-Professional Education Committee. Starting with District meetings in March 2019, this presentation will focus on how ATs can be better versed in CQI – Continuous Quality Improvement.

The planned workshops offered by PDC will include 4-hour EBP approved workshops that can be utilized as a pre-con session for state, district or professional society meetings. These topics will include Concussion Management, Psychological Aspect of Rehabilitation, and Osteoarthritis – Optimizing Return to Activity.

There is a Diagnostic Testing Series in the NATA's online Professional Development Center; these clinical applicable recordings are EBP approved sessions on improved clinical evaluation and diagnostic accuracy. Current courses include the Ankle, Knee and Shoulder. Future courses may include such areas as the Hip, Lumbar/SI and C-Spine/Thoracic.

The planned ATEC general session at NATA 2020 will be Developing, Implementing, and Assessing Interprofessional Education: A Best Practices Discussion. The ATEC subcommittee is also working very hard on the programming for ATEC 2021. The Professional Development Committee Session at NATA 2020 will be "Cannabis in Sports Medicine: What is the Evidence?"
- **Educational Advancement Committee** – The EAC funded one *Professional Development in Educational Scholarship Grant* during its first year of funding. Next year's application will be available late this fall and due in May 2020. We encourage more people to apply! The planned

2020 convention session will include brief presentations and a Q&A with previous NATA Foundation Educational Grant RFP recipients. A key focus of the EAC for the next six months is strategic planning. We want to know how this committee can serve our members. We will have several focus group sessions in late fall 2019 to gain input. If you have feedback for the EAC, please reach out to your district EAC representative or the committee chair.

General ECE Updates

- **National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (NAAHP)** - The NATA is now a member of the NAAHP. Members of ECE and staff exhibited at the four 2019 regional meetings, and will be exhibiting at the 2020 national meeting in New Orleans. Most questions, from those who visited the exhibit, were about the degree transition. The goal of exhibiting is to make the athletic training profession known to the health care recruiters and to grow our presence in NAAHP. We also will submit to present at future meetings. The NATA has also joined the NAAHP Advisory Council, which includes members from associations for various health professions. We are determining how the NATA can be even more involved with NAAHP as our involvement supports AT programs recruitment efforts.
- **Reshaping Education** – The ECE has begun work on analyzing athletic training education, where we stand today, and educational needs to be addressed through 2030. The work group analysis and report will be completed over the next 12+ months. The work groups are focusing on:
 1. Professional education
 2. Early career
 3. Mid –late career
 4. Clinical education
- **AT EducATionalist Community** - As part of NATA’s intentional strategy to meet members where they are, NATA announced the AT EducATionalist Community. NATA President Tory Lindley, MA, ATC, and the NATA Board of Directors directed the formation of a work group to develop a two-way communication membership structure that represents the needs and voice of AT educationalists.

The community is being developed to encourage diversity in thought and reflect the voice of those whose primary professional responsibilities and interests center on athletic training education on many levels. AT EducATionalist Community will provide an opportunity for all involved in the various components of AT education – including pre-athletic training education, professional education, clinical education and post-professional education – to play an active role in shaping the future of AT education based on the best ideas from all across the country and abroad.

The AT EducATionalist Community will promote accessibility, inclusion, empowerment and innovation between all parties involved in the production and implementation of AT education by providing the structure and space for constructive and transparent discourse.

As the group forms, membership in the AT EducATionalist Community will be available to all NATA members who see themselves as educationalists and opt into joining. To get involved in the AT EducATionalist Community, we encourage you to join the conversation at gather.nata.org. Look for the “Athletic Training Educationalist” thread.