

April 24, 2009

Dear Physical Therapy Colleagues and Policymakers:

Please join physical therapist colleagues and policymakers from around the world as they convene for the International Summit on Direct Access and Advance Practice in Physical Therapy in Washington DC, 22-24 October, 2009. This collaboration between the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), the Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA), and the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) is an innovative summit to explore the current status and emerging policies on direct access and advance practice in physical therapy. The opportunity to bring world leaders together in our profession to present on recent policy changes to advance physical therapy in their respective countries is exciting and timely.

APTA fully supports this International Summit on Direct Access and Advance Practice in Physical Therapy. Improving the health and quality of lives of individuals in our country and around the world is a priority we not only endorse but want to take action to make physical therapy more accessible and available to all that need our expertise and care. Over the past 30 years, APTA has worked tirelessly to remove unnecessary barriers to patients seeking and receiving physical therapy and to ensure that physical therapists can practice to the full extent for their education, experience, and expertise. In addition, this Summit builds on a recent APTA conference regarding the role of physical therapists in society. The time has come to convene this summit to report on the state of physical therapy around the world in the areas of direct access and advance practice.

In closing, I commend my colleagues around the world for their research and policy work to advance physical therapy. The opportunity to collaborate with CPA and WCPT in this innovative and “must attend” Summit continues to emphasize the strength of our field as an international leader in health care.

Sincerely,



R. Scott Ward, PT, PhD  
President, American Physical Therapy Association