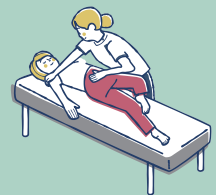
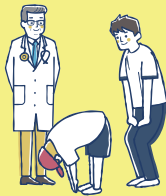


JPTA PROFILE

Japanese Physical Therapy Association Guide



Japanese Physical Therapy Association

Greeting

As exercise and physical activity experts

Hideyuki Saito, President



Physical therapists (PTs) are professionals who provide safe and effective physical therapy based on scientific evidence and support the life and health of each and every client/patient at all life stages from infants to the elderly as exercise and physical activity experts. With a patient-centered approach as our foundation, we closely provide support for each individual's life to enrich their living and way of life. Within the local community, physical therapists work in collaboration with many various professions in medicine, nursing care, welfare, health care, and education aiming to create a society in which all citizens can lead healthy and self-directed lives.

Society is currently undergoing major structural changes, including the promotion of community-based comprehensive care systems and collaboration between medical care, nursing care, and welfare services. A paradigm shift from "medical care that cures" to "medical care that heals and supports" is expected to proceed rapidly. In this context, physical therapists can find our purpose in improving the quality of life by identifying the potential of life and movement and providing high quality physical therapy that maximizes effectiveness in a wide range of areas, including health promotion, prevention of lifestyle-related diseases and critical nursing care, and that supports the reintegration of people back into society. Physical therapists are committed to contributing to the improvement of the health and well-being of the public in all situations, even in the face of diverse social changes.

In addition, physical therapists are professionals who are most skilled at adjusting physical functions and basic movement abilities such as sitting, standing, and walking according to the goals of each individual. Even with the same disease or injury, client/patient have diverse values and aspirations for their own lives. With our mission of helping people to realize their own unique lifestyles by utilizing their strengths, we are ready to meet the needs of the public and continue to take on the challenge of solving problems in order to remain familiar and trustworthy presence .

We believe in people-oriented physical therapy, and as a profession that supports the foundation of social security, we will continue to do our utmost to support the healthy daily life and happiness of everyone, and to realize a society where all people can live and play an active role in their own way.

Mission of the association

As a physical therapist, we strive to achieve good health and well-being for all...

- Protect "independence with dignity" and "living".
- Pursuit and create physical therapy science truly required.
And strive to improve our skills and qualities.
- Actively work on making necessary advocacy and implementing social actions.

Role of the Association

More than half a century has passed since the founding of the Japanese Physical Therapy Association (JPTA) in 1966, and the profession of a physical therapist has become more diverse. As a professional association for physical therapists, JPTA is earnestly engaged in domestic and international activities to contribute to the improvement of the medical care, health, and welfare of the Japanese people and meet the various needs of society.

Professional skills and policy planning

Evidence-based policy proposals for appropriate institutional design

Physical therapists have national qualifications that are licensed by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare and have a close relationship with the laws and policies of Japan. We propose policies and measures to the national and local governments, introduce advanced case studies, and implement model projects so that we can provide beneficial physical therapy to the public. In order to fulfill the social role of physical therapists and provide the necessary physical therapy to the public, the expansion of our profession and the proposal of policies and measures are important tasks.

Examples of projects

- Conducting health promotion activities, preventive activities, health services
- Providing information on medical fees, nursing care fees, etc.
- Holding association-designated professional training sessions, etc.

Education and academics

Lifelong learning system and academic research activities to improve the quality of physical therapists

Through various training programs and strive to deepen their specialized knowledge and skills in physical therapy, which are advancing day by day, physical therapists continue to study on their own for providing better physical therapy to the public. To ensure that physical therapists throughout Japan can continue to improve their skills, we operate a lifelong learning system based on the acquisition of a registered physical therapist qualification. In addition, we publish *Up to Date*, the journal of the Japanese Physical Therapy Association, and are working to improve and develop the quality of physical therapists.

Examples of projects

- Providing training sessions and e-learning
- Holding the Japan Physical Therapy Academic Training Conference
- Managing registrations, certifications, and specialist physical therapist systems, etc.

International activities

Promoting the activities of physical therapists through international projects in Japan and abroad

In order to promote the medical care, health, and welfare of the Japanese people, we are developing projects and other activities in Japan and abroad that contribute to the improvement of the skills and qualities of physical therapists. In order to promote responses to the increasing state of globalization, the association is engaged in building relationships with physical therapy associations in various countries, exchanging, collecting and disseminating information among physical therapists in many countries, and conducting projects that contribute to the internationalization of licensing. Through our international projects in Japan and abroad, we are striving to provide high-quality physical therapy to the public.

Examples of projects

- Creating online events, language exchange systems, etc.
- Promoting the development of international projects in prefectures
- Engaging in human resource development projects in Japan and abroad, etc.

Public relations activities

Providing prompt and useful information

Aiming to provide information that will benefit the health and lives of the public and promote proper understanding and spread of physical therapy, we disseminate information through owned media, handbooks, posters, physical therapist guides, videos, and other media. Our PR activities include holding photo contests and introducing events held by prefectural physical therapy associations. In addition, we provide a wide range of prompt and useful information to the public, such as by introducing our association's public service projects through press releases and our website.

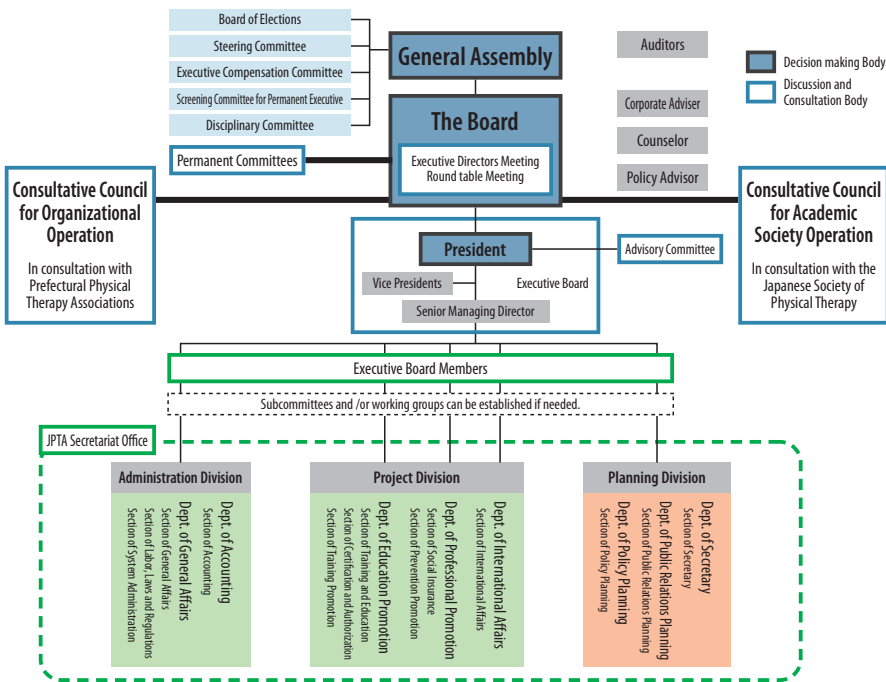
Examples of projects

- Publishing our "JPTA NEWS" newsletter
- Managing our "Rigaku Lab" web media
- Conducting PR activities for Physical Therapy Day, etc.

Organizational structure

The association is creating an organizational structure that addresses the wide variety of issues that Japan is facing today in the fields of medical care, long-term care, health care, and welfare-related services. By means of collaboration activities involving the Japanese Physical Therapy Association, prefectural physical therapy associations, and the Japanese Society of Physical Therapy, we aim to contribute to society as a public service organization, increase the spread of physical therapy as a professional association, and promote research activities that contribute to the health of the Japanese people.

Japanese Physical Therapy Association organization chart (As of April, 2025)



Prefectural Physical Therapy Associations

Local organizations working with JPTA

The association is established in each of the 47 prefectures of Japan, and conducts its activities in accordance with the characteristics of each region, and in close proximity to its members. Members who join the Society are simultaneously affiliated with the prefectural physical therapy association in the prefecture in which their place of employment or residence is located.

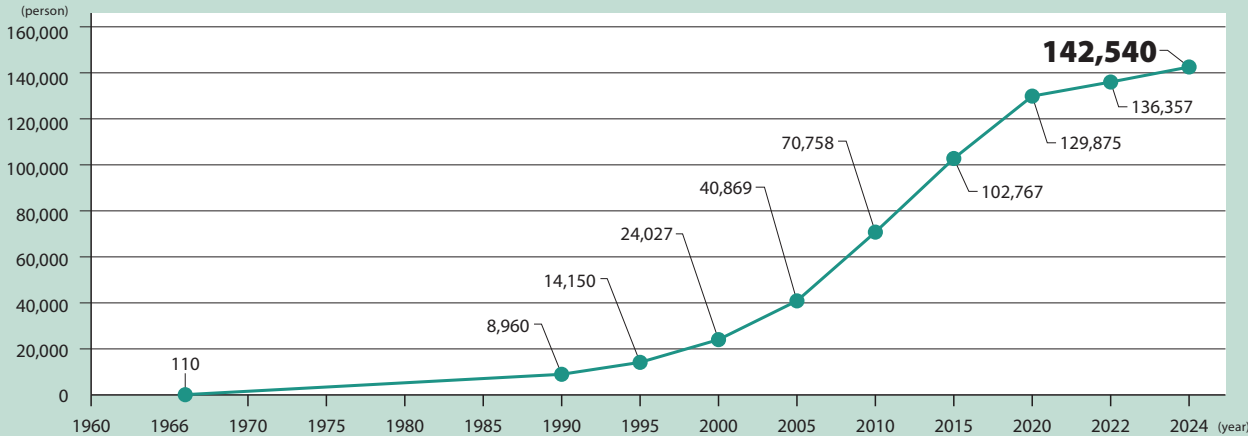
As the central organization of professional physical therapy associations, JPTA lobbies the government and other national professional associations, and works together with the community-based activities of prefectural physical therapy associations to contribute to the spread and improvement of physical therapy, as well as the advancement of medical care, nursing care, health, and welfare of the nation.

Japanese Society of Physical Therapy

Toward the promotion of the science of physical therapy

We have entered an era in which physical therapy based on science and evidence is very much needed in the fields of medical care and long-term care. The Japanese Society of Physical Therapy, which became an incorporated association in April 2021, and its member organizations (17 corporate members and 3 academic association members) have further enhanced their research activities, and are working on the standardization of physical therapy and creating data for policy proposals based on the research results. We encourage the many members of the Japanese Physical Therapy Association to participate in our academic society activities and will continue to promote the significant progress of their achievements.

Changes in numbers of memberships



*As of the end of FY2024 (including 26,968 absentees)

What is physical therapy?

What physical therapists can do.

Evaluate and analyze physical functions and pain.

Create an appropriate physical therapy program.

Give guidance about improving the basic action capability.



Give guidance on correct actions for the purpose of preventing recurrence and worsening of illness.

Conduct physical therapy to ease pain and improve physical function.

Provide support for independent living and improved quality of life.

Places where physical therapists are active

City or ward office/
Public health institute/Health center/
Area comprehensive support center

Graduate School/
Laboratory/Company

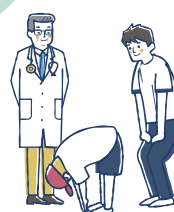
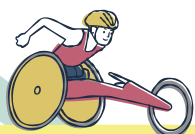
Hospital/Clinic

Rehabilitation day care center/
Home-visit rehabilitation/
Rehabilitation facility for the elderly/
Advice for housing improvement and welfare equipment

Persons with disabilities welfare center/
Children(persons) with disabilities day care center or
Admission facility/Working support at Hello Work/
Special support class or school

Care prevention/Health promotion/
Lifestyle related disease prevention service/
Frailty prevention

Sports support for children~ women/
athletes



Association Outline

As of June 8, 2025

Name	Japanese Physical Therapy Association	
President	Hideyuki Saito	
Address	7-11-10 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 106-0032, Japan	
Executives	Five Vice Presidents One Senior Managing Director	Four Executive Board Members Twelve Board Members
Number of Members	Regular member: 142,540 (including absentees) Supporting company: 64	*As of March 31, 2025
Number of Staff	46 (including temporary staff)	
Purpose	The purpose of this corporation is to improve the personality, ethics and academic skills of physical therapists, to promote the spread of physical therapy in Japan, and thereby contribute to the promotion of medical care, health and welfare of the people. (Clause 3 in the Article of JPTA)	
Business Descriptions	(1) Projects that contribute to the promotion of public health and welfare and prevention of disability and illness (2) Projects that contribute to the promotion of the academic and scientific technology in physical therapy (3) Projects that contribute to international cooperation and contribution (4) Projects that contribute to improving health and education by cooperating with educational institutions (5) Projects for issuance of publications about physical therapy and research study (6) Projects that improve the social status of physical therapists and are related to welfare (7) Other necessary businesses to achieve the purpose of this association (Clause 4 in the Article of JPTA)	
Scale of business	1,372.30 million yen	*FY2024
Website (EN)	https://www.japanpt.or.jp/english/	

History of the Japanese Physical Therapy Association

1963 Founded Japan's first physical therapist training institution

1965 Promulgation of the Physical Therapists and Occupational Therapists Act

1966 Established Japanese Physical Therapy Association
Held the 1st Japanese society of physical therapy
Held the 1st national training workshop of Japanese physical therapist

1972 Approved as an incorporated association by the Ministry of Health and Welfare

1979 Started junior college education

1990 Certified as an academic research group by the Science Council of Japan

1992 Started university education

1994 Started new member education program of the association

1997 Introduced lifelong learning system and professional physical therapist system

1999 Held the workshop of World Confederation of Physical Therapy (Yokohama)

2009 Elected the physical therapist to be a member of the House of Representatives

2012 Approved as the public interest incorporated association by Prime Minister

2017 Held the 1st Asian Physical Therapy Forum

2020 Completed construction of new building, transferred secretariat office and administrative functions

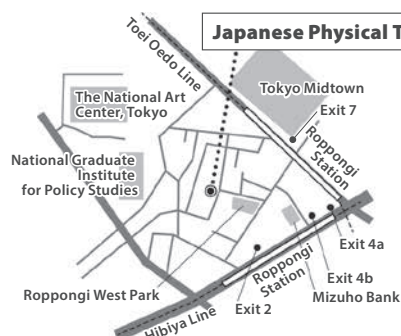
2022 Start of new lifelong learning system

2025 Held the World Physiotherapy Congress in Tokyo

2025 Started global standard entry-level education program

Access information

7-11-10 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 106-0032, Japan Tel: +81 3-5843-1747 / Fax: +81 3-5843-1748



Access by subway

4-minute walk from Exit 7 of Roppongi Station on the Toei Oedo Line

4-minute walk from Exit 4b of Roppongi Station on the Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line