

JPTA PROFILE

Japanese Physical Therapy Association Guide



Japanese Physical Therapy Association

Greeting



Actively providing user-oriented services that support daily life and lifestyles

Providing quality professional services that help to maximize effects

As physical therapists we promote health and prevent lifestyle-related illnesses in young and middle-aged patients, help patients to rehabilitate after an illness or injury and prevent their conditions from worsening and requiring long-term care, as well as provide various services in a wide variety of occupational settings to enable people to live longer and healthier lives. Physical therapists are exercise experts and can provide treatments that safely and reliably achieve maximum effects.

Providing user-oriented physical therapy that helps to enrich the way that people are able to live their lives

Each person lives their own life in their own special way. And even for the same illness or injury, people have different goals and values. Physical therapists are experts who focus on the individuality of each person, and are skilled at providing user-oriented treatments. We aim to be mindful of the way of living that each person desires and tailor the physical therapy to suit them.

Aiming to provide for never-ending needs and helping to create social value

People have lasting needs throughout their entire lives. Problems requiring solutions will not lessen over a person's lifetime. Physical therapists are experts who continue to take on the challenges of solving such seemingly undoable, impossible and endless problems. While continually solving such problems, physical therapists become familiar with creating social value together with people and society.

Helping to support structures and changes in society and enable the nation to be focused on social security

Physical therapy is indispensable even as game-changing approaches are urgently needed to respond to major changes in social structures and goals, such as measures for the elderly, children's policies, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and digital health. As physical therapists, we will give the highest priority to such measures.

Physical therapists are involved in all areas of treatment, providing medical care, long-term care, health care, and welfare-related services, all of which help people to live longer and healthier lives no matter what social changes occur. Through our commitment to provide therapy that supports the physical functions of people of all generations, we aim to enhance Japan's capabilities as a nation that provides social security for everyone.

We believe in a people-oriented approach to physical therapy and will continue to provide services that form the foundation of the social security of the nation. And as physical therapists, we aim to be closely involved in the health and happiness of everyone.

Hideyuki Saito, President

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. As part of the activities of this association, 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

In order to provide better physical therapy to the public, physical therapists continue to study on their own through various training programs and strive to deepen their specialized knowledge and skills in physical therapy, which are advancing day by day. The association also operates a lifelong learning system based on the acquisition of registered physical therapists so that physical therapists nationwide can continue to improve their skills. In addition, with the incorporation of the Japanese Society of Physical Therapy (JSPT) in 2021 (see page at right), we are publishing a new association journal 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

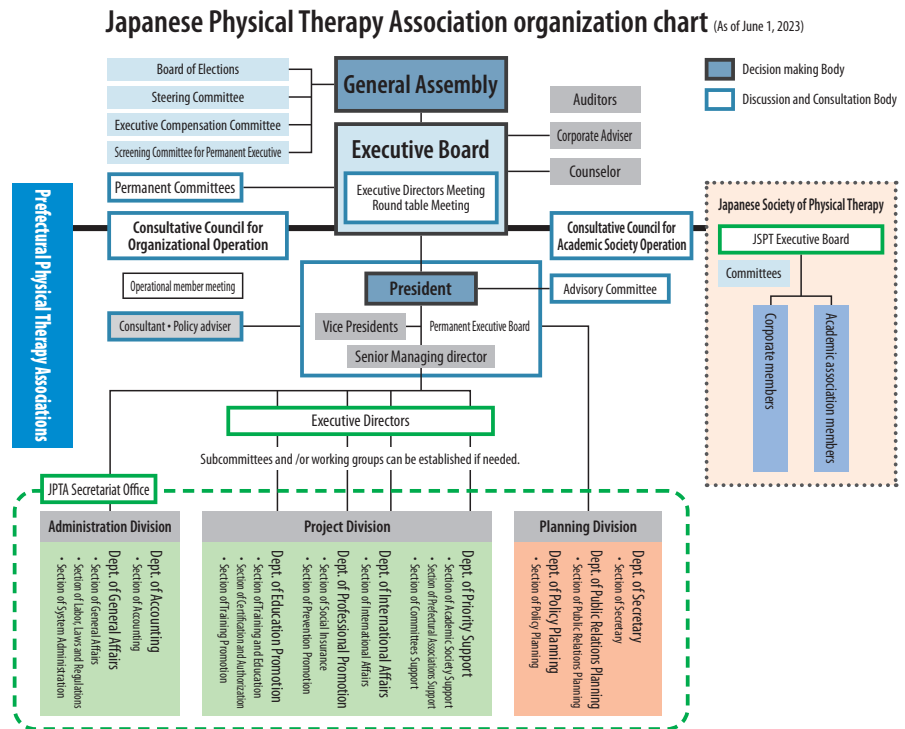
Aiming to provide information that will benefit the health and lives of the public and promote proper understanding and spread of physical therapy, we disseminate information through owned media, handbooks, posters, physical therapist guides, videos, and other media. Our PR activities include holding 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.



Prefectural Physical Therapy Associations

Local organizations working with JPPTA

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.

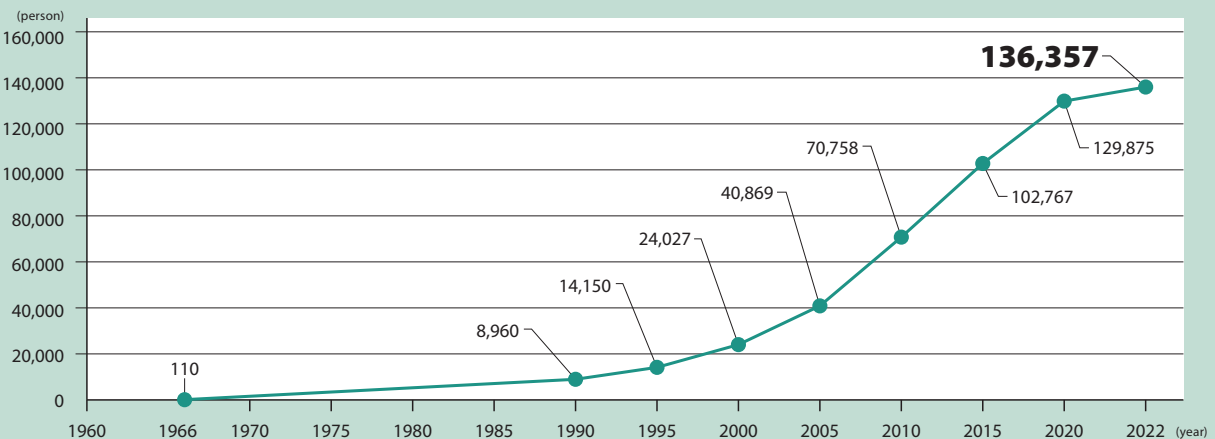
As the central organization of professional physical therapy associations, JPPTA lobbies the government and other national professional associations, and works together with the community-based activities of prefectural physical therapy associations to contribute to the spread and improvement of physical 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 (15 corporate members and 5 academic association members) have further enhanced their research activities, and are working on the standardization of physical therapy and 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 FY2022 (including 20,048 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



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

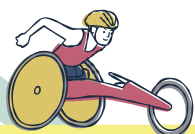
Hospital/Clinic



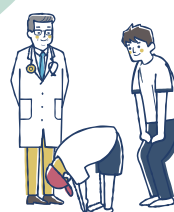
Persons with disabilities welfare center/
Children(persons) with disabilities day care center or
Admission facility/Working support at Hello Work/
Special support class or school



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



Sports support for children~ women/
athletes



Association Outline

As of June 22, 2023

Name	Japanese Physical Therapy Association	
President	Hideyuki Saito	
Address	7-11-10 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 106-0032, Japan	
Executives	One President Three Vice Presidents One Chief Managing Director (concurrent)	Seven Standing Directors Twelve Directors Three Auditors
Number of Members	Regular member: 136,357 (including absentees) Supporting company: 56	*As of March 31, 2023
Number of Staff	52 (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 mutual welfare (7) Other necessary businesses to achieve the purpose of this association (Clause 4 in the Article of JPTA)	
Scale of business	1,366.22 million yen	*FY2022
Website (EN)	https://www.japanpt.or.jp/english/	

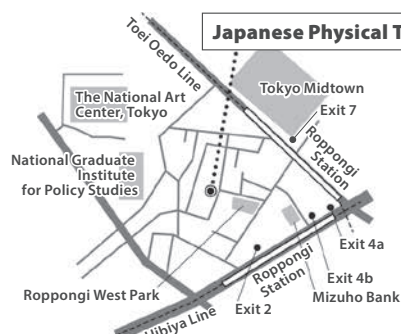
History of the Japanese Physical Therapy Association

- 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 (Kanazawa Coll. of Medical Technology and Nursing)
- 1990 Certified as an academic research group by the Science Council of Japan**
- 1992 Started university education (Department of physical therapy, Hiroshima University School of Medicine)

- 1994 Started new member education program of the association**
- 1997 Introduced lifelong learning system and professional physical therapist system**
- 1998 Sendagaya Kaikan completed
- 1999 Held the workshop of World Confederation of Physical Therapy (Yokohama)**
- 2009 Firstly 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 Asian Physical Therapy Forum
- 2020 Completed construction of new building, transferred secretariat office and administrative functions**
- 2022 Start of new lifelong learning system**

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