

DIAGNOSIS DIALOG: RECAP AND RELEVANCE TO RECENT APTA ACTIONS

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ABSTRACT

For at least 40 years, physical therapists have been contemplating the issue of diagnosis. After the profession chose to require completion of doctoral-level training for entry into the profession, making some decisions about diagnosis became essential. In the 2004 Maley Lecture, Cynthia Coffin-Zadai called the profession to action on the question of diagnosis. One response to her call was the formation of a group of physical therapists from across the country to engage in an extended conversation about diagnosis. The Diagnosis Dialog group first met in St. Louis in 2006 and at the end of the meeting they decided to continue the discussion at another meeting. In fact, they met a total of 13 times over 10 years. The purposes of this article are to a) summarize briefly some of the topics that were discussed and b) demonstrate the relevance of those discussions to recent APTA actions regarding the adoption of the movement system as the core of physical therapist practice, education, and research.

Key Words: Diagnosis, Movement, Movement System

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