RESNA

Fall Forward with RESNA

WRITTEN BY: Andrea Van Hook, RESNA Executive Director

Back-to-school season, sweater weather and the holidays are just around the corner. As fall approaches, RESNA, the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America, is gearing up with new board members, plans for its 2027 conference and a lineup of educational webinars.

Rita Stanley, a RESNA fellow, became president of the RESNA Board of Directors on Aug. 1. Stanley is widely recognized for her expertise in assistive technology, public policy and government affairs. She currently serves as vice president of government relations for RxFunction Inc. and previously served as vice president of government relations for Sunrise Medical for approximately 38 years.

Marta Figueiredo, OT, Prof. Doc.OT, MSc IB candidate, an associate professor at the Escola Superior de Saúde do Alcoitão in Portugal, is the new president-elect. She will serve two years in that role before becoming RESNA president in 2028.

Alisa Brownlee, ATP, CLIPP, CAPS, WSP, a home accessibility and assistive technology specialist at ALS United Mid-Atlantic, was elected to a second term as board secretary.

Stephanie Bay, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, ATP; Sue Redepenning, OT, ATP; and Allison Sevillano, DPT, PT, ATP, PCS, were elected to three-year board terms.

The RESNA president may also nominate members to serve one-year terms on the board. Gunjan Dhawan, OTD, OTR/L, ATP; Christina Maragioglio-Esposito, MS, ATP, RET; and Julie Piriano, PT, ATP/SMS, joined the board as presidential nominees.

Jim Lenker, Ph.D., OT, a RESNA fellow, is now the immediate past president.

RESNA 2027 at Abilities International Conference New York

RESNA's 2027 conference will be held in conjunction with the Abilities International Accessibility Conference New York Metro on April 29-30, 2027, in Edison, New Jersey. The conference will feature educational sessions focused on the latest developments in assistive technology, along with scientific papers, student competitions and the Developer's Showcase. Combined with Abilities International's expansive exhibit hall, the event will provide a comprehensive conference experience encompassing all areas of assistive technology.

Additional details will be announced in the coming months. The conference submission platform is scheduled to open in September.

Fall Education Schedule

RESNA will offer a full schedule of educational opportunities this fall, including Tech Tuesday product demonstrations, Webinar Wednesday continuing education programs, the AT Fundamentals course and certification pop-up sessions. In addition, Mark Schmeler, Ph.D., OTR/L, ATP, will present the Colin McLaurin Distinguished Lecture at the University of Pittsburgh on a date to be announced.

Tech Tuesday product demonstration webinars are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 3 p.m. EDT. The fall schedule includes:

- **Sept. 22:** Tobii Dynavox, a global provider of communication solutions for people with disabilities.
- **Oct. 27**: Quantum Rehab, showcasing its power wheelchairs designed to enhance comfort, functionality and quality of life.
- **Nov. 24:** Wandercraft, introducing EVE, a hands-free exoskeleton for standing and walking at home.

Educational webinars are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 3 p.m. EDT:

- **Sept. 16:** The Maker Special Interest Group will present "Best Practices and Guidelines for DIY Assistive Technology."
- **Oct. 21:** "Balancing Assistive Technology on the Tip of Your Finger: Neuromuscular Needs Across the AT Continuum," presented by Christine Kennedy, OTD, OTR/L, ATP.

AT Fundamentals is RESNA's foundational course for professionals entering the assistive technology field. Although it is not an ATP examination preparation course, it provides a valuable review of assistive technology topics beyond participants' daily areas of expertise.

Certified ATPs teach the course, and tuition includes a complimentary ATP practice examination. The final course offering of 2026 will run from Oct. 13 through Nov. 5.

Certification Pop-Ups, free informational webinars about the ATP certification program, are offered on the second Thursday of each month at noon EDT. Certification staff members review eligibility requirements, the application process and study strategies for the ATP examination. Organizations are encouraged to direct new employees to the RESNA website for additional information.

CONTACT THE AUTHOR
Andrea may be reached at
EXECOFFICE@RESNA.ORG

Andrea Van Hook is executive director of RESNA. She has more than 20 years of experience in nonprofit association management and lives and works in Washington, D.C.