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For Immediate Release:

The American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine (AACPDM) Welcomes Angela Shierk, PhD, OTR, as Secretary-Elect

The AACPDM Board of Directors is excited to announce Angela Shierk, PhD, OTR, as the Secretary-Elect of the Academy.

Milwaukee, WI., December 9, 2024 - The American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine (AACPDM) is pleased to announce, Angela Shierk, PhD, OTR, as the new Secretary-Elect.

"I am pleased to welcome Angela as the Secretary-Elect. She will be a valuable addition to the Board of Directors, bringing a unique perspective and several years of expertise," states AACPDM President (2023-24), M. Wade Shrader, MD, from Nemours Children's Hospital, Delaware.

Dr. Angela Shierk is a Senior Clinical Scientist at Scottish Rite for Children and an Assistant Professor at the University of Texas Southwestern in the Department of Applied Clinical Research in Dallas, TX. She completed her PhD at Texas Woman's University in Occupational Therapy.

Her research focuses on exploring the effectiveness of therapeutic interventions to improve upper limb use and independence in youth with cerebral palsy including constraint-induced movement therapy augmented with virtual reality, the implementation of constraintinduced movement therapy using a caregiver coaching model for young children with cerebral palsy, and the implementation of goaldirected home programs.



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Dr. Shierk has been an AACPDM member since 2018 and currently serves on the Research Committee. In addition, she is an active member of the Texas Occupational Therapy Association serving as a continuing education reviewer, the American Occupational Therapy Association serving as the Quarterly Editor of the Children and Youth Special Interest Section, and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Common Data Elements for Cerebral Palsy Oversight Committee.

ABOUT AACPDM:

The American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine (AACPDM) is an organization made up of over 1,100 healthcare professionals dedicated to improving the health and quality of life for individuals with cerebral palsy and other childhoodonset disabilities.

What distinguishes AACPDM is the collaborative approach of its members, who work together to establish a global network aimed at achieving the best possible outcomes for patients. Our membership includes pediatricians, neurologists, surgeons, physiatrists, therapists, nurses, special educators, engineers, and scientists.

The mission of the AACPDM is: Empowering and supporting a collaborative multidisciplinary community that:

- Provides accessible and robust scientific education for health professionals and researchers;
- Fosters innovative research as well as its dissemination and implementation; and
- Advocates for equitable access to evidence based and patient centered care.

Learn more about our Academy by visiting <u>www.aacpdm.org</u>.