

Welcome Heather Stagliano, OTR/L, DHSc, New CPME Director

Following an extensive search, Heather M. Stagliano, OTR/L, DHSc, has been appointed to serve as the new director of CPME. Her appointment is effective December 4. Dr. Stagliano replaces Alan Tinkleman, MPA, who retired at the end of November after a distinguished career with CPME spanning more than 30 years.

Dr. Stagliano comes to CPME from the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) in Bethesda, MD, where she was associate chief officer for Accreditation. Prior to joining AOTA, Dr. Stagliano was a practicing occupational therapist for 19 years at University of Florida Health and the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center in Gainesville, FL, and the VA Palo Alto Health Care System in Palo Alto, CA. She earned a bachelor's degree in occupational therapy and a master's in health science at the University of Florida, and she earned her doctorate in health sciences from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Dr. Stagliano learned about CPME during her tenure at AOTA. "The accreditation community is relatively small, and



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I had heard nothing but positive things about APMA and CPME from my peers," she said. "Upon learning that CPME was looking for a new director, I knew it was an opportunity I needed to explore."

Dr. Stagliano places a high value on education and training, as well as the role accreditation plays in ensuring quality patient care. "I have had the good fortune of teaching students in the clinical setting at a teaching hospital, and in the academic setting as an adjunct professor at the University of Florida," she said. "I take pride in the fact that we are entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring the best possible outcomes for our students, which translates to the

best possible outcomes for our patients. At their core, both occupational therapy and podiatry are about improving and maximizing quality of life for our patients, and I am grateful to be part of that cause."

Dr. Stagliano has been married for 21 years and has a college-age daughter and a high school-age son. She enjoys cooking and hiking. ■