

New Member Onboarding Kit

Hello!

I want to be the first to welcome you to RESNA, our community of assistive technology professionals! In this Member Kit, you will find an overview of all the opportunities your RESNA membership grants you. From certification to continuing education to our Annual Conference, everything RESNA does has one goal in mind: **to maximize the health and well-being of people with disabilities through technology.**

Over the years we have grown to encompass the entire spectrum of assistive technology, and offer new and innovative ways to stay on top of the latest developments across a wide array of disciplines.

Here are just a few of the resources your membership provides access to:

RESNA Connect:

RESNA Connect is an online community providing AT professionals with an outlet to have discussions, share resources, and collaborate to move initiatives forward to advance AT.

Professional Specialty Groups & Special Interest Groups:

The Professional Specialty Groups (PSGs) allow RESNA members to network with others based on their primary professional identities, such as therapists, engineers, educators, suppliers and manufacturers.

The Special Interest Groups (SIGs) connect assistive technology professionals from diverse backgrounds to other members that share similar interests. Grouped around common themes and issues, the SIGs encourage an interdisciplinary approach to information sharing, collaboration and connection.

Assistive Technology (AT) Journal

A free, unlimited on-line subscription to RESNA's *Assistive Technology* Journal is included in your membership. This includes unlimited access to the Journal archives, as well as current issues. In addition, the Journal will be hosting a study club throughout the year where you can join to discuss a recently published article of interest to the assistive technology community. We will also have one of the article's authors on hand to answer any questions you may have and provide insight into their work and its' implications for practice.

Certification:

RESNA offers two accredited certifications to recognize assistive technology service providers who have met an international standard of job-based knowledge and experience. The Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) Certification is specifically for AT professionals who analyze the needs of consumers with disabilities and help those individuals select the appropriate assistive technology and provide training on those devices. The Seating and Mobility Specialist Certification is a specialty certification focused on seating and mobility assessment, funding, implantation, and outcomes.

RESNA members save on application fees for both exams, and also receive discounts on continuing education for certification renewal.

RESNA Annual Conference:

The RESNA Annual Conference brings together assistive technology professionals from a variety of disciplines to exchange ideas about the latest innovations and research helping people with disabilities lead independent, healthy lives.

RESNA members who submit session proposals are prioritized for the conference program. RESNA members also receive a discount on registration.

These are just a sampling of the benefits you receive as a RESNA member. RESNA is a welcoming community and you will find that much of the organization's value is being a part of a professional home that understands you. I strongly encourage you to reach out to your fellow members if you have any questions or needs.

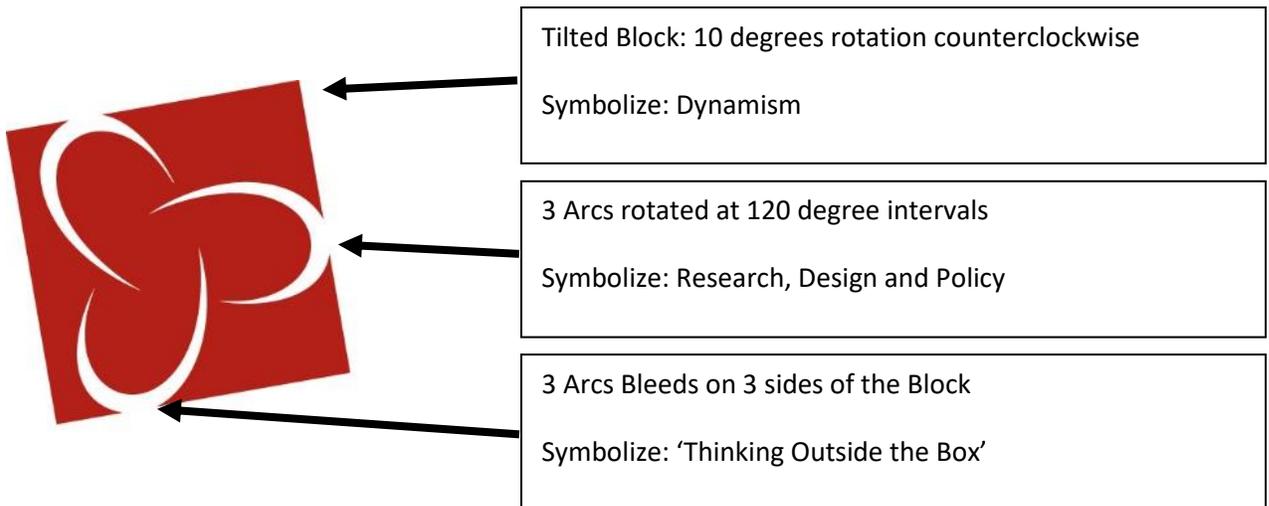
Thank you,
Maureen Linden, MS
RESNA President

RESNA Logo



RESNA's new icon originates from an ancient legend which gives purpose and meaning to its identity. The Gordian knot was an intricate knot that posed a great challenge to untie. Alexander the Great attempted to untie the knot because the ends were not visible.

Failing to untie it in the conventional way, he sliced it in half with his sword, exposing the ends. The Gordian knot and Alexander's solution to untying it, have become a metaphor for using creative thinking to solve difficult problems. This metaphor has meaning for RESNA members, who untie difficult problems every day and creatively think "outside of the box" in order to solve problems for people with disabilities.



RESNA Leadership

Reach out to our Board of Directors if you have any questions, are looking for mentorship, or just want to say hello!

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RESNA Connect

RESNA Connect

RESNA Connect is an online community platform giving you the opportunity to collaborate, post resources, start discussions and move initiatives forward as we strive to advance AT. As a member, you have access to exclusive communities on this platform. **The RESNA Connect platform allows you to:**

- Identify and join your Professional Specialty Group (PSG) community to network with colleagues from your respective AT field (*RESNA members only*)
- Join a Special Interest Group (SIG) community that resonates with your skills and interests so you can help advance the field of AT through inter-disciplinary collaboration (*RESNA members only, except the International and 24-7 PCM SIGs*)
- Exchange ideas on assistive technologies and applications through the AT Forum community
- Personalize your settings, so you can decide how and when you receive community notifications
- Collaborate with fellow community members via the Discussion feature and share documents in the community libraries
- View community rosters and send messages to individual members

[Access RESNA Connect](#)

Need more help? Access the [RESNA Connect User Guide](#) for instructions on getting started!

Professional Specialty Groups

The Professional Specialty Groups (PSGs) allow RESNA members to network with others based on their primary professional identities, such as therapists, engineers, educators, suppliers and manufacturers. Many AT professionals work in settings where they may be the only rehabilitation engineer, the only physical therapist, the only speech language pathologist, etc., on the team. PSGs are an antidote to that professional isolation. PSG members often serve as information liaisons within their professional organizations.

Educators

Educators are an important and growing component of membership within RESNA. The Educators PSG consists of educators at the primary, secondary, and post-secondary level. [Learn more!](#)

Engineers & Technologists

The mission of the Engineers and Technologists PSG is to define, support, and promote the roles of rehabilitation engineers, technologists and technicians in research and development, education, manufacturing, and service delivery. [Learn more!](#)

Occupational Therapists

The mission of the Occupational Therapy PSG is to enable individuals to meet their goals and lead fulfilling lives through the use of AT and advance the practice of Occupational Therapy. [Learn more!](#)

Physical Therapists

The Physical Therapists PSG members have a shared interest in exploring technological solutions for people with physical and developmental disability. [Learn more!](#)

Speech-Language Pathologists/Audiologists

The mission of the Speech-Language Pathologists/Audiologists PSG is to build awareness of assistive technology for communication and cognition within the therapy and engineering professions, to foster relationships among practitioners and researchers, who wish to explore this exciting and growing rehabilitation field, and encourage new ideas to improve functional outcomes for individuals with communication and cognitive disability. [Learn more!](#)

Suppliers & Manufacturers

The mission of the Suppliers & Manufacturers PSG is to build awareness of assistive technology products and devices within the therapy, engineering and product design professions, foster relationships among suppliers and manufacturers who wish to explore this exciting and growing rehabilitation field, and encourage new ideas to improve functional outcomes for individuals with all types of disability. [Learn more!](#)

Vocational Rehabilitation

The mission of the Vocational Rehabilitation PSG is to advance knowledge transfer within the discipline of vocational rehabilitation toward increased VR professional assistive technology service delivery competence through technical assistance, communication, training and education. [Learn more!](#)

Special Interest Groups

The Special Interest Groups (SIGs) connect assistive technology professionals from diverse backgrounds to other members that share similar interests. Grouped around common themes and issues, the SIGs encourage an inter-disciplinary approach to information sharing, collaboration and connection.

Access and Communication Technology

The mission of the Access and Communication Technology SIG is to facilitate education and information sharing between RESNA members and other professional organizations that have an interest in AAC, computer applications, and information technology to benefit people with disabilities. [Learn more!](#)

Accommodations

The Accommodations special interest group exists to provide communication and networking opportunities for assistive technology professionals who conduct research, develop new technologies, or provide accommodation services for the workplace or home. [Learn more!](#)

Cognition and Sensory Loss

The Cognition and Sensory Loss SIG is a multidisciplinary group interested in assistive technologies that support cognition and perception, including cognitive disabilities, sensory loss, dysphasia (swallowing and eating) and special education. [Learn more!](#)

Emerging Technologies

The Emerging Technologies SIG is a group of assistive technology professionals who regularly evaluate, assess, and integrate new technologies into their practice to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities. [Learn more!](#)

International

The International Special Interest Group is a forum for RESNA members interested in networking, providing services, and conducting research relative to Assistive Technology outside of North America. [Learn more!](#)

K-12 Practice

The members of the K-12 SIG work to improve the lives of those with disabilities in the K-12 setting and improve practice of those who work in the K-12 setting through improved access to AT services. [Learn more!](#)

Wheeled Mobility and Seating

The Wheeled Mobility and Seating SIG members work to provide an appropriate framework for identifying the essential steps in the provision of a wheelchair. [Learn more!](#)

24-7 Posture Care Management

The mission of this Special Interest Group (SIG) is to globally advance the practice of 24 hour positioning in all contexts including low resource settings, through collaboration, education, advocacy, and research. [Learn more!](#)

Certification

RESNA offers two accredited certifications to recognize assistive technology (AT) service providers who have met a national standard of job-based knowledge and experience. By promoting the professionalism of AT service providers, RESNA's certifications ultimately serve to protect consumers of AT solutions.

Assistive Technology Professional Certification

The ATP certification recognizes demonstrated competence in analyzing the needs of consumers with disabilities, assisting in the selection of appropriate assistive technology for the consumers' needs, and providing training in the use of the selected devices.

[Learn More](#)

Seating and Mobility Specialist Certification

The Seating and Mobility Specialist (SMS) is a specialty certification for professionals working in seating and mobility. While the ATP is a broad-based exam covering all major areas of assistive technology, the SMS exam is focused specifically on seating, positioning, and mobility. The program is intended for clinicians, suppliers, engineers and others involved in seating and mobility technology service provision.

[Learn More](#)

What does it mean to get certified? Perspectives from the field

With assistive technology becoming more essential in providing support to students in higher education, obtaining my ATP certification was the next step in providing quality AT to my students. Being one of a handful of professionals in the college setting with this credential has not only set myself apart, but it also elevates the office I work in, and the work I do with students. I am **#ATPproud** knowing that I am helping to lead the field of Assistive Technology in Higher Education and am surrounded by other motivated professionals who are doing the same.

-Rachel Kruzel, Assistive Technology & Accommodations Specialist, *Augsburg University*

Assistive Technology Standards Board (ATSB)

The RESNA Assistive Technology Standards Board (ATSB) coordinates the development of voluntary consensus standards in the United States and represents the needs and views of U.S. stakeholders in international standardization. The ATSB is the U.S. Technical Advisory Group to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for the development of international standards through the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) pertaining to assistive technology and other products for persons with disabilities. RESNA is accredited by ANSI, the American National Standards Institute, as a standards organization.

All of RESNA's AT Technical Committees are open to anyone interested in participating in the standards development process. Each committee is required to have a balance of consumers, clinicians, manufacturers, prescribes, etc. All perspectives are welcomed and encouraged. There is an additional fee to be a voting member. For membership information, visit the webpage for the committee in which you are interested or contact technicalstandards@resna.org.

[Learn More](#)

Tools for Preparing for Certification

ATP Readiness Tool

Each candidate's level of professional knowledge, AT experience, education, learning and test-taking styles varies. Therefore, you are in the best position to structure preparation activities to meet your needs. This resource is intended to help you assess your readiness for the exam and is recommended for use with other resources in preparation for the exam.

[View the ATP Readiness Tool](#)

Online Practice Exams

RESNA has developed a 50-question online practice exam for ATP candidates. For a \$99 fee payable by credit card, you will have 60 minutes to complete the practice exam. When you complete the exam, or at the end of the 60-minute session, you will be provided a diagnostic report that shows your overall score (passing/not passing), all questions that you have answered correctly and incorrectly as well as providing you with the correct answer.

[View Practice Exam](#)

Assistive Technology Journal

Assistive Technology[®], the official journal of RESNA, is a peer reviewed applied, scientific publication in the multi-disciplinary field of technology for people with disabilities. The journal's purpose is to foster communication among individuals working in all aspects of the assistive technology area including researchers, developers, clinicians, educators and consumers.

RESNA members receive an online subscription to the journal as part of their membership, along with full access to current and past issues. Members may also receive a printed copy of the AT Journal for an additional \$35 annual fee. The journal is published by Taylor and Francis.

The AT Journal considers papers from all assistive technology applications. Only original papers are accepted. Technical notes describing preliminary techniques, procedures, or findings of original scientific research may also be submitted. Letters to the Editor are welcome and books for review may be sent by authors or publishers.

[Click Here for Member Access to the Journal](#)

RESNA Events

RESNA Annual Conference



RESNA members receive discounted registration to the [RESNA Annual Conference](#)! The RESNA 2022 Annual Conference will be held virtually July 13-15, 2022 and will bring together assistive technology professionals from a variety of disciplines to exchange ideas about the latest innovations and research helping people with disabilities lead independent, healthy lives.

The Annual Conference Features:

- Educational Sessions
- Product Demonstrations
- Scientific Platforms
- Scientific Posters
- Student Scientific Paper Competition
- Student Design Challenge
- Exhibit Hall
- Developer's Showcase
- Networking Events

Members receive an exclusive discounted rate to register for the RESNA Annual Conference!



Stay up to date on the rest of RESNA's upcoming events, including partner events, webinars, and more!

RESNA Membership Toolkit

Marketing Your Membership

RESNA has developed a media toolkit and materials to help you promote your membership to consumers, colleagues, and referral sources. The purpose of the RESNA Membership Toolkit is to provide current members holders with tools, templates, and tips they can use to promote their RESNA Membership, what it offers, and what it means to be a RESNA member.

What's included in the Toolkit:

- Press Release
- Sending a Credible Press Release
- Media Relations Helpful Hints
- What to Do With Your RESNA Membership Press Release
- Membership Q&A

[Download Membership Toolkit](#)

More Resources

Add RESNA to Your Email Signature

- [Instructions for an Outlook account](#)
- [Instructions for a Gmail account](#)
- [Instructions for a Yahoo account](#)



Candidate Brochure

RESNA Membership – this brochure may be used to let others know about your RESNA Membership, what it offers, and what it means to be a RESNA member.

[Download Brochure](#)

PowerPoint Slides

These membership PowerPoint slides may be used in a presentation promoting your work as a RESNA Member. You may use all of the slides, or pick the ones that best fit your presentation.

[Download Slides](#)