



Fall Newsletter, October 2021

“Sport can create hope, where once there was only despair” - Nelson Mandela

Membership Update Survey

Welcome back everyone to another calendar year for APATS. If you have changed positions, locations, or contact information, we ask that you update your contact information by clicking on the link to this [survey](#).

Transition to WhatsApp

As you may have known, it is getting increasingly difficult to access WeChat from around the world. APATS coordinators have decided to initiate a transition from WeChat to WhatsApp as our official messaging platform. We will continue to post messages on both platforms for the time being but wanted to give all our members an equal opportunity to access our information and updates wherever they may be. If you would like to be added to the APATS WhatsApp please click on this [link](#).

October 31st, Spooky Quiz Night and Social

Come join us to reconnect or meet new members of APATS. We haven't been able to connect with old friends or new for the past 2 years and wanted to give you an opportunity to meet up and spend some time together. This will be an informal meet up on Zoom, but we will plan to have a fun Kahoot quiz to get people mixed and engaged. Dressing up with and having an adult beverage is encouraged. The meeting time is set for October 31st @ 8 PM Beijing time (8 AM East Coast, 5 AM West Coast). Zoom meeting link can be found [here](#).

Member Spotlight: Daniel Mar Chong



How long have you been an athletic trainer?

Over 20 years

Where did you come from (work history)?

I have a fairly varied background- I started off in a traditional setting at the NCAA Div I with a wide range of sports. After several years, I decided I needed a different challenge and took on the role of Director- Injury Management Services|Athletic Training for Walt Disney World, where I oversaw and provided services at all three of their major parks- Animal Kingdom, Magic Kingdom and the Studios, as well as, Disney Cruise Lines. I thoroughly enjoyed the professional challenges that role presented and I definitely learnt a lot about working with performing arts and stunt professionals. A family issue and a chance meeting led me to pivot to working in performance training and performance rehabilitation- I helped a group develop and build out their own facility and after that I branched out and built out my own company. A couple years in, I was recruited to help with the China Women's Volleyball team which was what brought me to China. I've been with the team since the preparation for the 2016 Olympic Game cycle.

What do you enjoy most about international athletic training?

From my perspective, you are able to get a unique point of view in seeing what other countries and various professionals do in equivalent positions.

Tell us a little about your family?

I'll keep that part private, but I'm part of a big family and was born and raised in Trinidad and Tobago (a small Caribbean nation).

What is your proudest moment as an athletic trainer overseas?

I don't think I have a "proudest moment" in my overseas career in general. We've had much success with this team over the last several years and I've been fortunate to be a part of it, but I think I'm most proud of the genuine relationships that I've built with the people involved with this team.

What is your fondest memory as an athletic trainer overseas?

I think there's a uniqueness in my story as generations ago, my family left China for a "better life" and decades separated, I've returned to contribute something professionally to the country and its athletes.

How is your current role different from a traditional ATC job?

My role is definitely different from a traditional ATC job. One of the biggest differences is that I am also responsible for the performance training for a good portion of the team. Additionally, Chinese teams are notorious for their rigorous training schedule and even though ATCs can see long work hours, my work schedule typically runs from 7:30am till 10:00pm with just breaks for lunch and dinner. Within that time frame, I would say that I am physically doing some work function for 90% of the time. Six, sometimes, seven days of the week- It's a brutal schedule.

Where is the best place you've traveled to and why?

Because of our work schedule, competition travel usually does not afford much free time for anything. I would say Rio holds a special place in my heart because of our journey to the Olympic Gold Medal in 2016.

What athletic training chore do you absolutely hate doing?

To be honest, I don't have any one thing I particularly hate doing.

What is one thing you miss from your home country?

Family.

What is something you learned in the last week?

Re-learning how to relax. I've been working non-stop for the past several years

If you could work in any country as an athletic trainer, where would you work?

England. Richmond FC. Football is life.

What is the most important trend you see today in the field of athletic training?

It's important for ATC's to continue to learn new skills while staying true to the skills that make athletic trainers "unique". With social media and other forms of new media, I see a lot of young practitioners "trying" techniques or quoting information they've seen online. I think we have to be aware and careful about the information that we are using in the care of our athletes.

WEBSITE & Social Media

Check out our ever-evolving website here, www.apats.org

Follow us on Instagram at: [APATSociety](https://www.instagram.com/APATSociety)

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