



Northwestern University Department of Physical Therapy and Human Movement Sciences

**A message from
Emily S. Becker,
PT, MS, EdD**

Director of
Communications,
Development, & Alumni
Relations



Our newsletters are back, and we have so much to share! From notable award wins and the arrival of a new PT class, celebrating Alumni Weekend and so much more, NUPTHMS has been busy with activity and learning! Looking ahead to the year to come, we are excited to offer more CEU opportunities and Grand Rounds Seminars, share work that our Faculty and Alumni are a part of, highlight student achievements and events, and so much more.



Highlights of this issue:

FAME Faculty Honorees, PTHMS & NWH Partnership, Alumni Weekend, Welcome to the Class of 2026!



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI) AWARD

NUPTHMS was awarded the APTA (American Physical Therapy Association) Minority Initiatives Award! We want to recognize Tobey DeMott Yeates, DPT, and the steadfast DEI committee for their relentless dedication. This award acknowledges programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, showcasing ongoing initiatives empowering minority students for three consecutive years. Let us champion diversity and inclusion, reshaping the landscape of PT education!



EDUCATION LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2023

Earlier in October, many of our faculty made their way east to Philadelphia for the Education Leadership Conference (ELC). ELC stands as a collaborative initiative between the APTA Academy of Education and the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy, with a primary goal of fostering excitement, education, and invigorating discussions among all stakeholders invested in physical therapy education.



PTHMS' Historic Collaboration Agreement with Northwestern Medicine

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT PTHMS RECENTLY SIGNED A HISTORIC AGREEMENT WITH NORTHWESTERN MEMORIAL HEALTHCARE (NMHC), ESTABLISHING COMPREHENSIVE COLLABORATION INVOLVING PHYSICAL THERAPY EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND CLINICAL PRACTICE. YOU CAN FIND THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND MORE INFORMATION [HERE](#).

This agreement caps our 16-year effort to include PTHMS as a full participant in Northwestern Medicine (NM), the integrated academic health system that is the shared strategic vision of Northwestern Memorial HealthCare with NU's Feinberg School of Medicine.

NMHC includes 11 Chicago-area hospitals and over 50 outpatient clinics, all of which now become our academic-clinical partners. This agreement will benefit PTHMS and NMHC in many ways. It will...

1. Provide every PTHMS DPT student to have at least one clinical experience with an NM site.
2. Result in our DPT students getting credentialed with NM (complete background checks, etc., and receive NM ID) soon after starting the DPT program.
3. Open the door for more NM therapists to function as educators within the DPT curriculum.
4. Provide PTHMS faculty with clinical and research privileges at NM sites. This will, in turn, add new clinical research opportunities for faculty-led student Synthesis Projects.
5. Endorse PTHMS roles in translational research within NMHC, resulting in new grants, increased scholarly productivity, and quality-improvement projects to promote system-wide evidence-based care.
6. Create new residencies and fellowships.
7. Grow a deep teaching hospital culture within rehabilitation services throughout NMHC.

In summary, this agreement will help PTHMS maintain our national leadership role in physical therapy education, research, and clinical practice well into our second centennial which begins in 2027.

DAWN BROWN, PT, DPT, EdD Appointed to the Illinois State Board of Health



Just recently, Dawn Brown, PT, DPT, EdD, was appointed to the Illinois State Board of Health by Governor J.B. Pritzker. “This prestigious honor not only reflects the excellence of NU-PTHMS but also enhances our public relations. Dawn, your accomplishment is truly outstanding! We extend our heartfelt congratulations, and your success fills us all with immense pride.”

-Jules Dewald, PT, PhD, Department Chair

CAROL COURTNEY, PT, PhD 2023 Catherine Worthingham Fellow

Congratulations to Carol Courtney, PT, PhD, who was selected as a 2023 Catherine Worthingham Fellow. The Catherine Worthingham Fellow of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), is the association’s highest membership category, and serves as inspiration for all physical therapists to attain professional excellence. This honor is eligible to APTA physical therapist members or life member physical therapists who have demonstrated unwavering efforts to advance the physical therapy profession for more than 15 years, prior to the time of nomination.



JENNIFER KAHN, PT, DPT 2024 Excellence in Neurologic Education Award



Dr. Jennifer Kahn, PT, DPT, who has been honored as the 2024 recipient of the prestigious Excellence in Neurologic Education Award by the Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy! “This achievement is truly a testament to Jen’s remarkable dedication to teaching neurologic content in our DPT program and her outstanding leadership role as one of our directors for the neuro residency program, which she has been skillfully managing. Jen, your hard-earned recognition is richly deserved! Heartfelt congratulations on this well-earned honor.”

-Jules Dewald, PT, PhD, Department Chair

Feinberg School of Medicine Medical Education Day

In September, NUPTHMS Faculty participated in Feinberg School of Medicine's Medical Education Day (Med Ed Day).

Emily S. Becker, PT, MS, EdD

Presentation: *Exploring the Peer Leadership Network of Rehabilitation Professionals Following Leader Development Training through Q-Methodology and Focus Groups.*

Rachel S. Tappen, PT, DPT

Presentation: *NU-CHAPTER Lab: Formation of a Health Professions Education Research Lab in a Doctor of Physical Therapy Training Program.*

**Sally Taylor, DPT, Emily S. Becker, PT, MS, EdD, Yixuan Che, SPT,
Jordan Mousley, SPT, Jacob Lum, SPT**

Poster: *Measuring Proximal Outcomes Following LAMP Leadership Development Training.*

NUPTHMS Faculty inducted
into the Feinberg Academy
of Medical Educators
(FAME)!



Jennifer M. Ryan, PT, DPT, MS
Dawn S. Brown, PT, DPT, EdD
Emily S. Becker, PT, MS, EdD
Heidi Roth, PT, DHS
(Left to Right)

Jennifer Kahn, PT, DPT was
honored with the John X. Thomas,
Jr. Best Teachers of Feinberg
Award at the FAME Med Ed Day
Award Ceremony, in
acknowledgment of her
contributions to curriculum
development and pioneering
teaching methods.





Daniel Corcos, PhD

In the September 2023 issue of The Philanthropist, a newsletter for supporters and friends of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, the article, "Gift for Parkinson's Disease Research a Tribute to Late Husband", Dr. Daniel Corcos, PhD reflects on the importance of the generous donation Jacqueline (Jackie) Gilbert made in honor of her late husband Howard, towards Parkinson's disease research. Dr. Corcos's research focuses on the benefits of exercise as therapy for people with Parkinson's disease. [Click here](#) to read the full article.



Fabian J. David, PhD

Fabian J. David, PhD, and his team from the Cognitive Oculomotor Optimization Laboratory recently had two papers accepted. The first, [Munoz et al, 2023](#), was the first to examine the effects of two Parkinson's disease treatments, medication, and deep brain stimulation, on both eye and reaching movements during the same eye-hand coordination task. The second, [Trevarrow et al, 2023](#), evaluated the effect of subthalamic nucleus deep brain stimulation (STN-DBS), which is like a pacemaker for the brain, on memory-guided reaching in people with Parkinson's disease (PD) and healthy controls. You can read more about each paper by clicking the purple text in this paragraph.

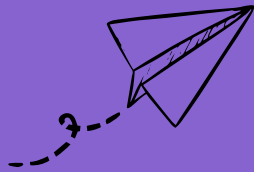


Matthew Smith, PT, DPT, DSc

This past September, Matt Smith, PT, DPT, DSc, and colleagues had two papers published. The first, ["What Are the Publication Rates for Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy Conference Abstracts?"](#) quantifies the proportion of conference abstracts in sports and orthopaedic physical therapy that progressed to peer-reviewed manuscript publication, and to identify factors associated with publication after 2011. The second, ["What factors do physical therapists consider when determining patient prognosis: A mixed methods study"](#) was to determine the prognostic domains and factors that influenced a PT's clinical reasoning processes.

Welcome

CLASS OF
2026



INCOMING DPT
CLASS OF 2026



64
Female

32
Male

TOTAL STUDENTS

96

The incoming first-year
class was selected from
712 applicants

22 STATES
REPRESENTED



65

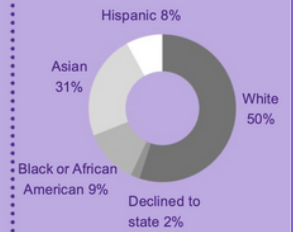
UNDERGRADUATE
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

More than 24 undergraduate majors

4 COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED



RACE & ETHNICITY



This past August, we welcomed the
Class of 2026 to NUPTHMS!

The students had a week filled with educational and social activities, aiding their transition into life as a DPT student.

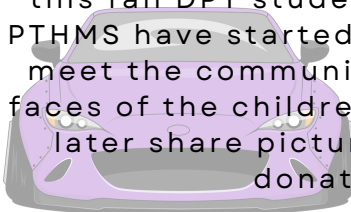
During the packed week, students connected with their fellow classmates & Roadmap Mentors, engaged with their Faculty Advisors through STRIDE Teams, participated in medical improv, explored different interest & infinity groups at the Student Activities Fair, heard from Faculty inside and outside of NUPTHMS, tested their great tech and we can't forget, our annual Field Day! Nothing like a good old game of balloon toss to get your first year started.

STUDENT NEWS



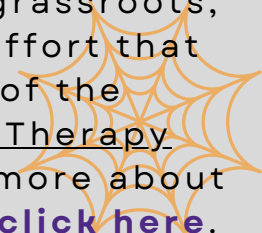
GoBabyGo!

Infants and toddlers learn and engage through play, exploration, socialization, and early mobility within their environments. One of the ways that the Department of Physical Therapy and Human Movement Sciences at Feinberg School of Medicine has been able to give back to the local community is by partnering with community therapists to provide individualized mobility solutions to infants and children with movement challenges via our GoBabyGo! Program at PTHMS. GoBabyGo! retrofits off the shelf motorized cars to allow for individualized mobility solutions for children referred to the program. Receiving a car through GoBabyGo! at PTHMS may be a child's 1st means of independent mobility and this mobility can really broaden a child's view of their world- allowing them access to new play and socialization opportunities. The PTHMS GoBabyGo! program is a partnership and collaborative effort between the child and their family, PT faculty, DPT students, engineers and engineering students at Northwestern, and the child's community therapists. Second year DPT students at PTHMS have the opportunity to engage in GoBabyGo! during their final Complex Patients' course, as a victory lap before heading out to the clinic. Additionally, starting this fall DPT students in the Pediatric Student Special Interest Group (Peds SSIG) at PTHMS have started to work on ways to expand the build opportunities we can offer to meet the community's needs. It is awesome to see the smiles and excitement on the faces of the children and their families as they take their 1st drive on delivery day and later share pictures driving in their communities. Have questions or interested in donating to a child's future mobility? Please reach out via gobabygo@northwestern.edu (or [donate here](#)).



HALLOWEEN MARQUETTE CHALLENGE

Our students hosted their first Marquette Challenge of the year this Halloween! A nice break from classes, pizza, candy, and the always entertaining costume contest were enjoyed! **With the support of students, faculty, & staff, over \$1,000 was raised for this challenge!** The Marquette Challenge is a grassroots, student-led fundraising effort that supports the mission of the Foundation for Physical Therapy Research (FPTR). To learn more about the Marquette Challenge, [click here](#).

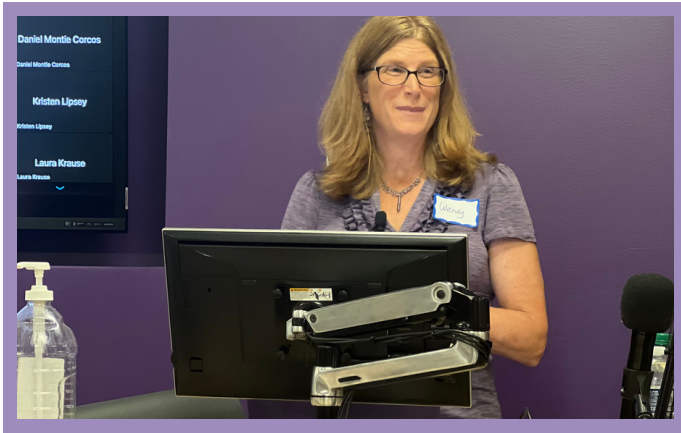




GRAND ROUNDS SEMINARS

The department's two most recent Grand Rounds Seminars featured, Marcelo Worsley, PhD (above) and Monica Perez, PT, PhD (below). Marcelo's seminar was titled, "SportSense: Bridging Sports, Technology & Learning in Higher Education" and Monica's Seminar discussed, "Are We Optimizing Our Therapies Enough?". We are appreciative of both of their time with NUPTHMS and we look forward to future seminars:

- Nov. 29 | Jennifer Ryan, PT, DPT, MS, CCS
- Jan. 31 | Jeffrey J.H. Cheung, PhD
- May 8 | Garrett Griffith, PhD



HYPERMOBILE EHLERS DANLOS SYNDROME (EDS) & RELATED COMORBIDITIES

In September, we welcomed Wendy Wagner, PT, MPT, (Class of '98) to educate us on Ehlers Danlos Syndrome. Wendy went through the underlying causes of, and assessment and treatment suggestions for, common clinical symptoms that frequently present for physical therapy. While many have knowledge of EDS, there are many who do not know enough to care for these complex patients. We appreciate Wendy spending the evening with us!



ALUMNI WEEKEND OCTOBER 13 & 14, 2023

The NUPTHMS Alumni Association was ecstatic to host a successful Alumni Weekend, where many of our wonderful alumni had the opportunity to reconnect and relive fond memories with their classmates and fellow Alumni.

The diverse CEU presentations provided insightful and engaging experiences, and our Alumni enjoyed a variety of social gatherings including the popular Happy Hour and our annual Alumni Awards & Luncheon. It is always a meaningful experience to recognize the outstanding achievements of our alumni and their contributions to their respective fields.

Looking ahead, we are excited for future Alumni Association sponsored events throughout the year & Alumni Weekend next year! We look forward to seeing you throughout the year.



2023 AWARD WINNERS

LEFT TO RIGHT:

- **TASHA WEATHERSPOON, PT, DPT, CERP** ('98)
 - DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION AWARD
- **MEGHAN LAMOTHE, PT, DPT, OCS, ATC** ('17)
 - YOUNG ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
- **ANDREA ZUJKO, PT, DPT, OCS, COMT** ('02)
 - ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
- **LCDR LEE RYDER, PT, DPT,** ('18)
 - DONNA FROWNFELTER COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



CRYSTAL APPLE AWARD

Our dear friend and colleague, Sally Edelsberg, has been honored with Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine's 2023 Crystal Apple award. She has dedicated countless hours, endless attention, and boundless passion to the goal of providing students with the opportunity for an education in physical therapy at Northwestern, regardless of financial circumstances. Her tireless efforts have made a significant impact on the lives of many. We couldn't be prouder of her incredible achievements, and we invite you to join us in congratulating Sally on this well-deserved recognition. To celebrate Sally's remarkable accomplishment, we encourage you to take part in one or more of the following ways:

1. **Write a Personal Message to Sally:** Please take a moment to share your congratulatory messages, stories, or anecdotes about Sally. Your words of encouragement and appreciation will mean the world to her. [Click here](#) to send your message.
2. **Make a Donation to the Sally Edelsberg Scholarship Fund:** Your contribution will honor Sally's unwavering commitment to PT students and support aspiring physical therapists. [Click here](#) to donate.
3. **Watch a Video About Sally's Inspiring Journey:** Sally's remarkable journey, accomplishments, and the impact she has had on our community have been captured in a new Living History video. To watch, [click here](#).



DID YOU HEAR?

Lindsey Plass, PT, DPT, OCS, FAOMPT ('12), was featured in a New York Times article titled, "[When to Try Physical Therapy Before Surgery](#)".



Justin Lantz, DPT, OCS, FAOMPT ('12), was selected for the SpineLine Top 20 Under 40 Award by North American Spine Society (NASS). This award is to honor and recognize the top 20 future leaders in the field of spine care based on their outstanding contributions, accomplishments, community service and philosophy of care. He is the first physical therapist (DPT) to ever win this award. Dr. Lantz currently holds a joint appointment as an Associate Professor of Clinical Physical Therapy and Associate Professor of Clinical Family Medicine at USC and is the founder and director of the USC Spine Physical Therapy Fellowship program.

SHARE YOUR NEWS!

AT NUPTHMS, WE WANT TO HIGHLIGHT THE INCREDIBLE WORK OF OUR ALUMNI AS YOU MOVE FORWARD IN YOUR CAREERS AND PERSONAL LIVES. IF YOU HAVE ANY NEWS TO SHARE, PLEASE [SUBMIT INFORMATION HERE](#) TO BE CONSIDERED FOR OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER. YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT NUPTHMSALUMNI@NORTHWESTERN.EDU.

