



**A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR
JULIUS P.A. DEWALD, PT, PHD**

Our PTHMS community of students (DPT, DPT/PhD, DPT/MPH, PhD), faculty, researchers, residents, fellows, and staff have so much to be thankful for as we approach the end of 2023 and begin looking

forward to our 2027 centennial celebration as the oldest continuously accredited physical therapy school in the U.S.

NUPTHMS is one of only 7 physical therapy schools that is an academic department of a medical school. Our goal for decades has been to join the other medical school clinical departments in having full privileges to participate in the tripartite Education, Research and Clinical Practice missions of the academic medical center. In September we signed a historic agreement with Northwestern Memorial HealthCare (NMHC) allowing us to accomplish that goal.

With this agreement, NUPTHMS becomes a full participant within the Northwestern Medicine integrated academic health system that is the shared strategic vision of NMHC (the clinical entity), with Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, of which we are a department. [More information on this collaboration agreement can be found here.](#)

We believe NUPTHMS's academic-clinical partnerships with Shirley Ryan AbilityLab and NMHC provide NUPTHMS with the means to continue to excel as one of the top physical therapy schools in the U.S., and that this academic-medical center model of physical therapy education, research, and practice will allow us all to play a major role in creating and leading science-underpinned rehabilitation interventions into the future.

-EDUCATION-

- Ranked #4 PT Program by USN&WR.
- 5 Post-Professional Residency & Fellowship Programs.
- PhD in Neuroscience.
- DPT/PhD dual degree in Engineering.
- DPT/MPH dual degree in Public Health.
- Full department status within the Medical School.
- We are a Nationally, regionally, & locally awarded Department & Faculty.
- STRIDE student-faculty advising program.
- ROADMAP student-alumni formal mentorship program.
- Heart-to-Heart national student-alumni connections.
- 75 local clinicians as "associated faculty".

-RESEARCH-

- 4 new RO1 grants in 2023.
- \$11,362,839 in grant funding (NUPTHMS PIs only).
- 288 unique scholarly products for 2023.
- 91 accepted peer-reviewed publications for NUPTHMS in 2023.
- 39 university & clinical research collaboration sites.
- 10 PhD Dissertation Defenses.
- Newly created "CHAPTER" Lab for education research.

-CLINICAL PRACTICE-

Formal comprehensive clinical partnerships for research, education, and clinical practice.

Shirley Ryan AbilityLab

#1 U.S. Rehabilitation Hospital

The faculty of NUPTHMS provide patient care through the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab under a comprehensive Collaboration Agreement signed in 2013. Clinical services provided at the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab encompass most areas of inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, including neurologic, orthopaedic, pediatric and women's health physical therapy.

Northwestern Memorial Health Care

#1 Healthcare System in Illinois
NUPTHMS has signed a historic agreement with NMHC establishing comprehensive collaboration to integrate physical therapy Education, Research, and Clinical Practice for the benefit of patients, rehabilitation clinicians, and our faculty members, researchers, DPT students, and physical therapy residents and fellows.



-AWARDS-

APTA DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION (DEI) AWARD

CAROL COURTNEY, PT, PHD
2023 Catherine Worthingham Fellow

DAWN BROWN, PT, DPT, EDD
Appointed to IL State Board of Health

JENNIFER KAHN, PT, DPT
2024 Excellence in Neurologic Education Award & John X. Thomas, Jr. Best Teachers of Feinberg Award

4 NUPTHMS Faculty elected to Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine's Feinberg Academy of Medical Educators (FAME).

4 NUPTHMS students elected to the IPTA Student SIG Executive Committee.

