



OUR CENTENNIAL
LOGO! →



M Northwestern Medicine
Feinberg School of Medicine

Spring has made its way to Chicago (at least we think so), and we hope better weather has made its way to your neck of the woods. We're also reminded of the energy, renewal, and excitement that spring brings. It's the perfect time to reconnect with our vibrant alumni community and share some of the incredible stories, milestones, and updates that have happened in your life.

We're excited to share all that our department is up to, student activities, alumni accomplishments and more! Springtime also means graduation at NUPTHMS. Join us in celebrating the Class of 2025 and all they've achieved during their time in the DPT program.

Thank you for being part of the legacy—and future—of our community.



Highlights of this issue:

Kaleckas Lecture and Synthesis Day, Student Activities, Graduation, and Alumni Weekend

16th Annual Kaleckas Lecture & Synthesis Day



For the 2025 Kaleckas Lecture & Synthesis Day, NUPTHMS welcomed Dr. Stephen Hunter, PT, DPT, OCS, FAPTA, as our visiting lecturer. Dr. Hunter spoke to our students, faculty and guests on “Combining outcomes with evidence to improve patient care in a learning health system”.

Dr. Hunter spent his day at the department learning about the DPT program, post-professional work, current research projects, and all the amazing pieces that create NUPTHMS. Currently, Dr. Hunter continues to treat patients and is the director of Internal Process Control for Intermountain Health’s rehabilitation services. He leads a team of 5 internal process control coordinators who work to establish a culture of quality and standardize evidence-based care across all rehabilitation disciplines and services. He is the past president of NARA (National Association of Rehabilitation Providers and Agencies). He supports research efforts including data collection and clinical implementation. Examples include investigations on Total Knee Arthroplasty (TKA) and low back pain (LBP) resulting in recent publications (Minick 2022, Caplin 2022) and three randomized LBP trials (Brennan 2006, Fritz 2014, Delitto 2020). He was the lead clinical author for a review publication developing a care guideline for TKA for physical therapists (Jette 2020).



To learn more about the Kaleckas Lecture, Dr. Hunter, & our 2nd year students’ synthesis projects, please [visit our event page](#).



Daniel M. Corcos, PhD

In March, Daniel Corcos was welcome by the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus (Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation) to teach a Grand Rounds seminar.

Daniel's Grand Rounds presentation was titled, "Exercise in Parkinson's Disease".



Dawn Brown, PT, DPT, EdD

In April, Dawn Brown was accepted into the APTA Academy of Education Fellowship in Higher Education Leadership. This fellowship is valuable in relation to personal and professional leadership, management and building community networks.

Keep up the great work, Dawn!



Craig Hensley, PT, DPT

Congratulations to Craig Hensley with the publication of his latest research looking into the role of further education in our field! Read more about Craig's research, **"The Impact of Physical Therapy Post-professional Education Programs on Productivity in a Large Academic Medical Center"** here.



Amee Seitz, PT, DPT, PhD

Amee Seitz and Kyle Strickland alongside Howard Kim, working in the Emergency Department at NMH created an algorithm to help more novice PTs in the Emergency Department evaluate and treat patients with low back pain. **Their manuscript** was notably selected as an Editor's Choice and the authors have been invited to do a podcast to discuss this manuscript! Amee also co-authored two Delphi studies, showcasing her expertise in shoulder research. **Article 1** and **Article 2**



Rachel Tappan, PT, DPT & Heidi Roth, PT, DHS

In February, Rachel Tappan and Heidi Roth, along with their FSM colleague, Bill McGaghie, had their research paper published in the Journal of PT Education!



Read [“Using Simulation-Based Mastery Learning to Achieve Excellent Learning Outcomes in Physical Therapist Education”](#) here.



PhD Thesis Defense for Kimberly Hemmerling

Congratulations to Kimberly Hemmerling, who had her thesis defense this April, titled, “Advancing functional MRI mapping of human spinal cord functional anatomy and vascular physiology”.

Kimberly’s advisor is Molly Bright, DPhil



PhD Thesis Defense for Neha Reddy

Congratulations to Neha Reddy, who completed her thesis defense this February, titled, “Systems-level sensorimotor mapping for fMRI for applications in brain disorders”.

Neha’s advisors are Molly Bright, DPhil, and Jules Dewald, PT, PhD



PhD Thesis Defense for Kacey Suvada

Congratulations to Kacey Suvada, who completed her thesis defense this April, titled, “Quantifying the Effect of Trunk Postural Control on Reaching Ability Post Hemiparetic Stroke”.

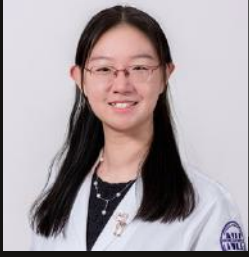
Kacey’s advisors are Ana Maria Acosta, PhD, and Jules Dewald, PT, PhD



PhD Thesis Defense for Kristina Zvolanek

Congratulations to Kristina Zvolanek, who completed her thesis defense this January, titled, “Novel Functional MRI Approaches for Mapping Cerebrovascular Hemodynamics in Sickle Cell Disease”.

Kristina’s advisor is Molly Bright, DPhil

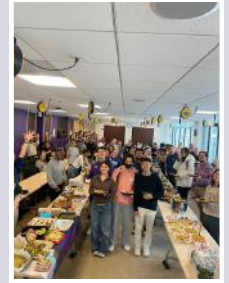


Acute Care's Rising Star: Kelly Xie!

One of our second year students, Kelly Xie, was recently featured on the official podcast of APTA Acute Care, Acute Conversations. [You can listen to the episode on Spotify here!](#)

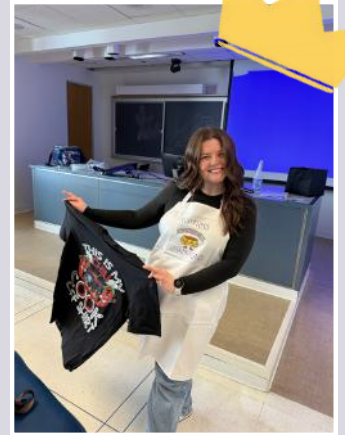
Celebrating Everyone!

In April, our Community and Culture Committee & Student Affinity Groups hosted the Multicultural Lunch for all to enjoy! From samosas, to noodles, to bagels and chips/guac and more, we chowed down to a feast that showcases who we are.



The Great Chili Showdown!

In March, our students hosted a chili cook off in support of the Marquette Challenge. We had 12 chili connoisseurs who aimed to be declared winner! In the end, we all left with full stomachs and empty crock-pots.



We've Got Spirit, Yes We Do!

Before heading into finals, our students rocked their best gear for Spirit Week!



School Spirit

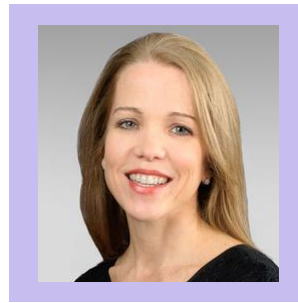



**Class of
2025**



PRECHTL GENERAL MOVEMENT ASSESSMENT BASIC & ADVANCED COURSES

In April, we welcomed individuals from across the country to participate in 4 day basic & advanced Prechtl General Movement Assessment courses. Presented by Colleen Peyton, PT, DPT, PCS, and Alicia Spittle, PT, PhD, these courses consisted of lessons, demonstrations, and discussions of video recordings. Research conducted in the last 20 years has shown the qualitative assessment of spontaneous movement in the fetus, newborn, and young infant is an early and reliable indicator for diagnosis and prognosis of neurological disorders. Compelling evidence is now available that qualitative assessment of General Movements—a specific type of spontaneous movement—under the age of five months is the best predictor of cerebral palsy.



GRAND ROUNDS SEMINARS

The department has been rather busy hosting excellent Grand Rounds! We welcomed: Jean Fitzpatrick, PT, PhD, MHS, OCS (left), Andrew Miri, PhD (right), and Anthony Carlsen, PhD (bottom). We are appreciative of our speakers' time with NUPTHMS and we look forward to future seminars!



SAVE THE DATE



INTEGRATING PILATES REFORMER INTO REHABILITATION: A TRAINING FOR PHYSICAL THERAPISTS



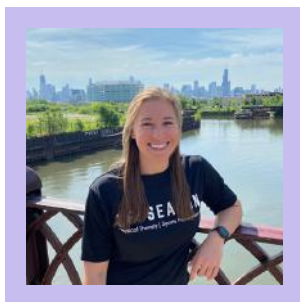
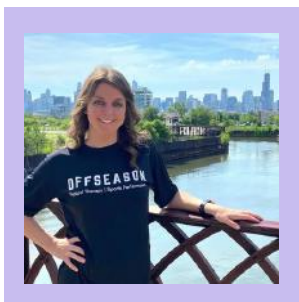
MEG MOORE ('19)

**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13
2:00-4:00 PM CT**

LOCATION: IN-PERSON
reform PT & Pilates
Wilmette, IL

SPEAKER
MEG MOORE, PT, DPT, PCES
FOUNDER OF REFORM PT + PILATES & THE
REFORM 350HR PILATES INSTRUCTOR
TRAINING PROGRAM

**BE ON THE
LOOKOUT FOR
REGISTRATION**



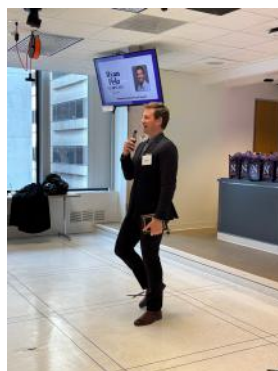
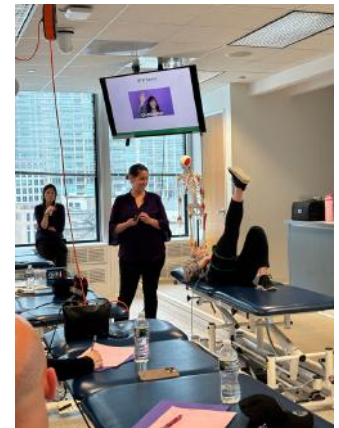
Private Practice Blue Print: Building Your Brand

A big thank you to Danielle Morency, PT, DPT, CSCS ('19) left, and Lois Kettering, PT, DPT, CSCS ('19) right, for presenting during our Winter CEU. They shared their story of what it took to build their practice and what they are up to today!

ALUMNI NEWS



ALUMNI
WEEKEND



IF YOU HAVE PHOTOS YOU WISH TO SHARE, PLEASE EMAIL THEM
TO IOBY.SANDERS@NORTHWESTERN.EDU

CALLING ALL CLINICIANS

Northwestern prides itself on matching our students with high quality instructors all over the country for their full-time clinical education experiences. One of the best ways for us to do that is to connect with our alumni pool. If you're interested in serving as a clinical instructor, contact your local SCCE to let them know. For questions, please reach out to Cori.Arquines@Northwestern.edu to learn more.

ROADMAP MENTORS NEEDED

In 2022, we started a new mentor-mentee program called the Professional Development and Mentoring Program, or Roadmap. This program aims to build relationships between students and alumni to help guide the students in their professional growth. Roadmap meets monthly at noon in the PTHMS department. We are looking for four mentors per year and would love your participation! To learn more, [click here](#). For questions, please contact v-tysseling@northwestern.edu



**Angelica Alberto,
PT, DPT, MPH**

In March, Angelica Alberto, PT, DPT, MPH ('22), was invited by the Northwestern Alumni

Association to give a presentation about her path from NUPTHMS to where she is now, her integrative physical therapy and wellness practice in Los Angeles. Thank you for sharing your story with the Northwestern Community!

You can learn more about Angelica's work here.



**Emily McCarthy,
PT, DPT**

Please join us in congratulating NUPTHMS alum, Emily McCarthy PT, DPT, PhD

('21) above left, for receiving the Academy of Oncology's Student research award during CSM! Emily earned her PhD at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and is participating in research in Pediatric Oncology.





CENTENNIAL

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT **STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS!**

MERCH SALE

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS!



ORDERS MUST
BE PLACED BY

MAY 16, 2025



SHOP HERE!



IF YOU LIVE/WORK LOCAL TO NUPTHMS ORDERS CAN BE PLACED TO NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP WHEN WE RECEIVE SHIPMENT.



**Is there a CEU you think would be interesting
or do you have a topic you can teach on?**

Let us know!

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 quarterly newsletter. You can also contact nupthmsalumni@northwestern.edu.

