
2024 ANNUAL REPORT



FOUNDATION FOR
PHYSICAL THERAPY
RESEARCH

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A Letter From Our President

Reflecting on 45 years of progress, I'm moved by how far this community has come over the last four decades and excited for all that's still in front of us. As President of the Foundation for Physical Therapy Research, I am honored to help guide your investment in research that leads to better care, stronger evidence, and a healthier future. As the research funding organization for APTA, we are committed to shaping the future of our profession through research, and you are helping us do so.

In 2024, we awarded \$262,500 in scholarship funding to 25 highly qualified doctoral students and candidates who are committed to pursuing a career in physical therapy research. We also awarded a total of \$780,000 to fund ten physical therapy research grants.



Paul A. Rockar, Jr., PT, DPT, MS,
FAPTA

Recognizing the tremendous impact CoHSTAR has made in health services and implementation science, we are excited to continue emphasizing the importance of health services research in 2025 through our new health services research grant. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we have awarded over \$24 million to more than 700 researchers and aspiring researchers over the past 45 years.

We also continued to emphasize the importance of physical therapy research with PT and PTA students across the country through the Marquette Challenge. Over \$150,000 was raised for physical therapy research during the 2023-24 Marquette Challenge. Our student networking event at CSM 2024 in Boston allowed us to connect directly with so many of these students who support our mission.

Celebrating our funding recipients and connecting with donors like you is always a highlight of our year. Whether at local events, virtual gatherings, or our annual networking reception at CSM, each opportunity to come together reflects the strength of the community we've built over the past 45 years. Right now, investing in physical therapy research is more important than ever. Your belief in research is what allows us to continue supporting and developing the next generation of physical therapists. Thank you for making this work possible. I hope this report gives you a glimpse of just how far your support goes.

With Gratitude,

Paul A. Rockar, Jr., PT, DPT, MS, FAPTA

President, Foundation for Physical Therapy Research

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Paul A. Rockar Jr." in a cursive script.

CELEBRATING

45 YEARS OF PHYSICAL THERAPY RESEARCH

A Brief Look at Moments That Powered Our Progress

1979

The Foundation for Physical Therapy is incorporated as a charitable organization dedicated to advancing the profession through clinical research, doctoral scholarships, and fellowships.

1987

Orthopaedic Section establishes Endowment Fund to support orthopaedic physical therapy research.

1989

Marquette University completes its first Challenge, with students from 14 schools raising \$7,400. The University of Miami wins and earns naming rights for the next year.

10 years

1995

The Section on Geriatrics establishes the Section on Geriatrics Fund to support geriatric physical therapy research.

1998

The Marquette Challenge exceeds \$1 million raised for physical therapy research since its creation.

The Charles M. Magistro Endowment is established with a \$100,000 gift from Charles M. Magistro, PT, FAPTA.

The Promotion of Doctoral Studies Scholarships are established.

1999

The Section on Pediatrics establishes the Pediatrics Section Research Grant Fund to support pediatric physical therapy research.

20 years

2001

The Neurology Section establishes an endowment fund to fund the Patricia Leahy Scholarship and Marylou Barnes Scholarships for doctoral studies in physical therapy.

2002

Foundation creates Clinical Research Network (PTClinResNet), a 3-year, \$1.5 million, multi-site study with Carolee Winstein, PT, PhD serving as principal investigator.

CELEBRATING

45 YEARS OF PHYSICAL THERAPY RESEARCH

A Brief Look at Moments That Powered Our Progress

2004

APTA Delaware launches the Delaware Challenge, calling on all chapters to donate \$2 per member.

A \$1 million gift from Charles Magistro, PT, FAPTA, and family is added to the Magistro Endowment Fund.

2006

The Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Section establishes endowment fund for cardiovascular and pulmonary physical therapy research. Foundation extends funding for doctoral scholarships and research grants to include Physical Therapist Assistants.

2007

The Education Section establishes an endowment fund for educational physical therapy research.

The Orthopaedic Section pledges a major donation to continue building their endowment fund.

2010

The Section on Women's Health establishes endowment fund for women's health physical therapy research.

2013

\$3 million campaign launched to support health services and policy research. Fundraising goal achieved within one year with support from APTA and its components, individuals, and corporations.

2015

A multi-year grant provides funding for the Center on Health Services Training and Research (CoHSTAR), led by principal investigator Linda Resnik, PT, PhD, FAPTA.

2016

The first Chair and founder of the Foundation, Charles M. Magistro, PT, DPT (Hon), DrSci (Hon), FAPTA, passes away at age 91.

2017

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists (AAOMPT) establish an endowment fund.

The Academy of Acute Care Physical Therapy pledges a major gift to support acute care physical therapy research.

Stanley Paris, PT, PhD, FAPTA, FAAOMPT, and his wife, Catherine Patla, PT, DHSc, MS, OCS, MTC, FAAOMPT, donate \$3 million—the Foundation's largest gift to date.

2019

The Academy of Education pledges a major donation to continue building their endowment fund.

The Foundation rebrands to the Foundation for Physical Therapy Research to better reflect the research-focused mission.

40 years

Where We Are Today

2024 Impact

\$262,500

to fund 25 highly
qualified doctoral
students and candidates.



\$780,000

to fund ten physical
therapy research
grants.



\$1,042,500

Total funding awarded in 2024.

Mission

To fund research and develop researchers to optimize movement and improve the health of society.

Vision

To shape the future of health through physical therapy research.

Financials

We are honored to safeguard the financial health of the Foundation as we continue to grow and strengthen the profession. Through the generosity of our donors and prudent financial management, we remain well-positioned to fund physical therapy research and support the researchers driving innovation forward. As we continue to build a cadre of researchers who will advance the field, the Foundation remains committed to using every donation responsibly and effectively in pursuit of our mission.

We are proud to hold a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, the highest possible rating, which reflects our strong financial health and commitment to transparency. This designation reassures donors that their contributions are used effectively to advance our mission.

Additionally, our Platinum-level rating from Candid, also the highest level of recognition, demonstrates our dedication to sharing clear and comprehensive information about our financials, impact, and operations. These ratings affirm our commitment to responsible nonprofit stewardship and donor trust.

To ensure openness with our supporters, we invite you to review our summarized financial information below.

Sincerely,
Don Jackson, PT, MS
Treasurer



Don Jackson, PT, MS

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2024	2023
TOTAL ASSETS	\$28,578,223	\$26,510,869
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$1,382,685	\$1,418,698
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$27,195,538	\$25,092,171
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$28,578,223	\$26,510,869

2024 Event Highlights

CSM Donor
Networking Reception



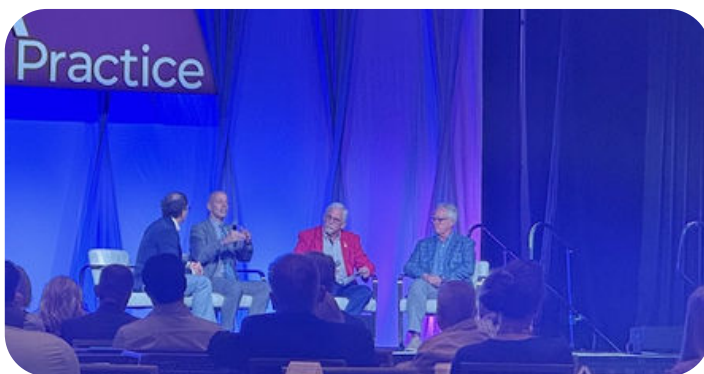
CSM Marquette
Challenge Student
Event



DMV Donor &
Board Mixer



PPS Annual
Conference



2024 Service Awards

Stuart Binder-Macleod, PT, PhD, FAPTA

2024 Bartlett Trustee Recognition Service Award

Academy of Pelvic Health Physical Therapy

2024 Premier Partner in Research Award

Olive “Beth” Whitehead, PT, MPH

2024 Spirit of Philanthropy Award

Evan Hartigan

2024 Innovation in Fundraising Award

Steven Wolf, PT, PhD, FAPTA

2024 Magistro Distinguished Service Award

Scan to watch the available
acceptance remarks.



2023-24 VCU-Marquette Challenge

The 2023–2024 VCU-Marquette Challenge was a strong display of students supporting the future of their profession. Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) earned top honors as this year’s Challenge winner, raising a total of \$24,150.60 for physical therapy research. That makes five consecutive years of VCU earning the top spot. In September 2024, Foundation staff had the chance to visit their program and connect with students and faculty in person.

Moving forward, the Marquette Challenge will follow the calendar year, giving students more flexibility to organize, engage, and make an even greater impact on the profession they are helping to shape. The Challenge remains one of the top annual fundraisers for the Foundation and has helped raise over \$5 million since its inception in 1989.

**2023-2024
Total Raised
\$150,243.38**

The submission deadline
for the 2025 VCU-
Marquette Challenge is
December 11, 2025



Since 1989, PT and PTA students have raised more than

\$5 million

for physical therapy research

CoHSTAR Success

Since its launch in May 2015, the Center on Health Services Training & Research (CoHSTAR) has built a strong pipeline of physical therapy researchers specializing in health services and implementation science. As of 2024, the initiative has supported the production of hundreds of peer-reviewed publications, abstracts, and conference presentations. Through postdoctoral fellowships, visiting scientist opportunities, and summer training sessions, CoHSTAR has elevated the standard of excellence and significantly expanded research capacity across the profession.

CoHSTAR STATS



28 CoHSTAR
Trainees



453 Peer-Reviewed
Publications



46 Invited
Presentation



49 Research
Abstracts

“

CoHSTAR has afforded me the opportunity to find my place as a physical therapist researcher. For me—and for our profession—CoHSTAR brought health services research from the fringe to the mainstream. I am forever grateful.

”

Joshua Johnson, PT, DPT, PhD
Duke University School of Medicine

Researcher Spotlights

In 2024, we highlighted the work of 10 researchers who received Foundation funding early in their careers. Representing a range of physical therapy specialties, these investigators have gone on to lead important studies that continue to build the evidence base for the profession. Their work is a powerful testament to the value of investing in research and the lasting difference it makes for physical therapy and the patients it serves.

Scan to read
the 2024
researcher
spotlights.



Linda Resnik, PT, PhD, FAPTA



Beth Smith, PT, DPT, PhD

Spotlight on CoHSTAR: What Does It Take to Fund and Deliver Transformative Health Services and Policy Research?

Exploring Infant Neuromotor Development: An Interview with Beth Smith



Julie Fritz, PT, PhD, FAPTA



Laurie King, PT, PhD



Sara Gombatto, PT, MSPT, PhD



Meryl Alappattu, PT, DPT, PhD

Learning Beyond Measure: Julie Fritz's Reflections on Continuing Growth in Research

How the Foundation Helped Laurie King Become an Independent Researcher

Closing the Gap: Research Aims to Improve Outcomes for Hispanic and Latino Patients

The Progression of Pelvic Health Awareness: Meryl Alappattu's Research and Future Plans



Edelle Field-Fote, PT, PhD, FAPTA



Stephanie Di Stasi, PT, MSPT, PhD



Richard Shields, PT, PhD, FAPTA,



Jim Gordon, PT, EdD, FAPTA

How AI Is Set to Transform Physical Therapy: Insights From Edelle Field-Fote

Bridging Research and Real-World Practice: Stephanie Di Stasi on Pragmatic Trials and Hernia Care

From Spinal Cord Research to Shaping Physical Therapy Education: The Researcher Behind the PT Graduation Questionnaire

Pioneering Evidence-Based Practice: How Jim Gordon Helped Shape PT Research



AI will give us the ability to track outcomes in large groups of people who receive interventions, which will, in turn, help us refine our educational approaches to ensure that future physical therapists are equipped with the most effective tools and knowledge.



Edelle Field-Fote, PT, PhD, FAPTA



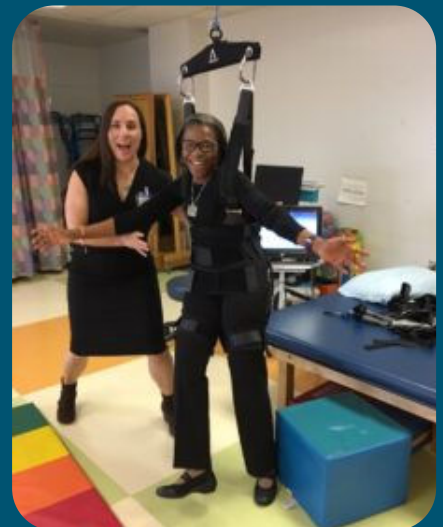
Sometimes, people believe that researchers need to educate clinicians on the right way to do things. But I don't think that's the case. There has to be a way in which our research infrastructure connects better to our clinical infrastructure.



Jim Gordon, PT, EdD, FAPTA



Through innovative technology and research methods, we strive to enhance early intervention strategies and improve outcomes for infants at risk of developmental disorders.



Beth Smith, PT, DPT, PhD

2024 Research Grants



Mary Austin, PT, DPT

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Pelvic Health Physical Therapy Research Grant
Patient Preferences on Chaperone Use in Pelvic Physical Therapy Across Practice Settings and Locations in the U.S.

Jessica Feda, PT, MPT, DPT, DSc

Baylor University
Paris Patla Manual Therapy Research Grant
Validation of a Clinical Prediction Rule to Identify Patients with Neck Pain Likely to Benefit From Cervical Spinal Manipulation: A Randomized Trial



Jamie Greco, PT, DPT, EdD

Duke University School of Medicine
Physical Therapy Education Research Grant
Outcomes of Faculty Residencies: A Multi-site Mixed-method Investigation of Key Interested Parties

Rashelle Hoffman, PT, DPT, PhD

Creighton University
Geriatric Physical Therapy Research Grant
The Influence of Movement Velocity Biofeedback on Muscle Activation and Self-perception in Older Adults With Sarcopenia



Melike Kahya, PT, PhD

High Point University
Marilyn Moffat Geriatric Physical Therapy Research Grant
Multi-Session Transcranial Alternating Current Stimulation to Improve Dual-Task Balance and Brain Activity in Older Adults with Mild Cognitive Impairment

2024 Research Grants



Dana McCarty, PT, DPT, PhD

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Paris Patla Physical Therapy Research Grant
*Immersive Physical Therapy in the Neonatal Intensive
Care Unit: Comparing Delivery Models to Improve Infant
and Parent Outcomes*

Megan O'Connell, PT, DPT

The Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of
Military Medicine
Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Research Grant
*Efficiency and Equity of Dry Needling in Physical Therapy
Practice*



Raine Osborne, PT, DPT, EdD

University of North Florida
VCU-Marquette Challenge Foundation Research Grant
*Factors Shaping DPT Students' Post-Professional
Education Pathways*

Jenna Tosto Mancuso, PT, DPT

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Magistro Family Foundation Research Grant
*Use of Paired Vagus Nerve Stimulation in the Mobilization
of Patients with Prolonged Disorders of Consciousness: A
Pilot Feasibility Study*



Yo Shih, PT, PhD

University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Jayne L. Snyder Physical Therapy Research Grant
*Training With Restricted Vision: Implications for Fall
Prevention in Older Adults (A Pilot Study)*

2024 Promotion of Doctorial Studies Scholarships

Pre-candidate Awardees



Cheryl Brunelle, PT, DPT

Massachusetts General Hospital
Viva J. Erikson Award



Stacey Chen, PT, DPT

Washington University
in St. Louis
Goergen Award



Jacob Corey, PT, DPT

University of Delaware
Bella May Award



Rebecca Fillipo, PT, DPT

Duke University School of Medicine
Acute Care Award



Keri Fisher, PT, DPT

Teachers College, Columbia University
Mildred L. Wood Award



Ben Friedman, PT, DPT

University of Maryland, Baltimore
APTA Geriatrics Award

“This support not only affirms my commitment to advancing physical therapy research but provides me with the resources to advance our understanding of pain and improve patient outcomes.
Rebecca Fillipo, PT, DPT”

2024 Promotion of Doctorial Studies Scholarships

Pre-candidate Awardees



Christina Holl, PT, DPT
University of Southern California
Award funded by California PT Fund



Matthew Neehouse, PT, DPT
Northwestern University
Patricia Leahy Award



Morgan Potter, PT, DPT
University of Delaware
Bella May Award



Ben Reader, PT, DPT
The Ohio State University
Phoebe Rhomberger Award



Nushka Remec, PT, DPT
University of Southern California
APTA Pediatrics Award



Andrew Smith, PT, DPT
University of Delaware
Goergen Award



Carly Smith, PT, DPT
The Ohio State University
Charlene Mae Nelson Award



Melissa Kim Tran, PT, DPT
University of Colorado Denver |
Anschutz Medical Campus
Acute Care Award



Check out Melissa's "Day in the Life" Video!

2024 Promotion of Doctorial Studies Scholarships

Candidate Awardees



Colleen Burke, PT, DPT

Duke University School of Medicine
Florence Kendall Award



Katherine Colcord, PT, DPT

University of California, Irvine
School of Medicine
Karen St. John Award



Sara Davidson, PTA, BS

Youngstown State University
Karen St. John Award



Chelsea Duppen, PT, DPT

The University of North Carolina at
Chapel Hill
APTA Geriatrics Award



Regan Harrell, PT, DPT

University of Pittsburgh
Phoebe Rhomberger Award



Matthew Heindel, PT, DPT

University of Southern California
Bella May Award



This scholarship supports my passion and commitment to advancing the field, empowering me to make meaningful contributions that can ultimately improve patients' health outcomes.

Colleen Burke, PT, DPT



2024 Promotion of Doctorial Studies Scholarships

Candidate Awardees



Elizabeth Maus, PT, DPT

The Ohio State University
VCU-Marquette Challenge Award



Kiersten McCartney, PT, DPT

University of Delaware
Charlene Mae Nelson Award



Rowena Tam, PT, DPT

University of California, San Diego
Pelvic Health Award



Wesley Thornton, PT, DPT

University of Colorado Denver |
Anschutz Medical Campus
Marylou Barnes Award

“ [Foundation support] has provided me the ability to develop a research agenda I am passionate about, and collaborate with researchers who are already having a lasting impact on my career.

Wesley Thornton, PT, DPT ”

Donors

Our work would not be possible without the support of our donors. Thank you for your continued generosity and dedication to advancing physical therapy research.

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