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# 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.

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



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

# 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

	2023	2024
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



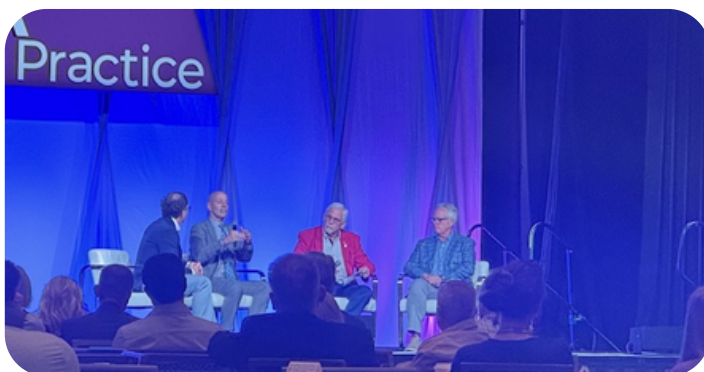
CSM Marquette  
Challenge Student  
Event



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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