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***PODS I, II, Combined PODS II/NIFTI Awards PREFACE***

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The **Foundation for Physical Therapy Research (FPTR)** funds research and develops researchers to optimize movement and health.

The vision of **FPTR** is shaping the future of healthcare physical therapy research.

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***PODS I, II, Combined PODS II/NIFTI Awards GENERAL INFORMATION***

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***Scholarship and Fellowship Award Amount(s)***

**PODS I** - \$7,500 In support of the coursework phase of post-professional doctoral studies prior to candidacy (as defined by the applicant's institution). A PODS I scholarship is competitively renewable for a maximum of one additional year (new application required each year). See pages 4 & 5 for eligibility requirements.

**PODS II** - Up to \$15,000 in support of the post-candidacy phase of post-professional doctoral studies (as defined by the applicant's institution). A PODS II scholarship is competitively renewable for a maximum of one additional year (new application required each year). See pages 3 & 4 for eligibility requirements.

**Combined PODS II/NIFTI** - Up to \$115,000 in support of the final year of the post-candidacy phase + the first two years of the research fellowship (as defined by applicant's institution(s)). This is a nonrenewable award. See pages 4 & 5 for eligibility requirements. **\*Available for 2023**

Maximum aggregate amount per applicant for all PODS I & PODS II post-professional doctoral scholarships is \$45,000

***NO OVERHEAD (indirect costs) ARE ALLOWED.***

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***Scholarship Period***

The scholarship year begins September 1, of the year of application, and ends August 31 of the following year. Students may competitively re-apply for support for up to the maximum specified in each award program and each level. Students may be competitively awarded consecutive PODS I and II scholarships for a total of four years of funding in the PODS program.

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***Use of Funds***

Funds may be requested to meet any type of expense reasonably and logically associated with the successful completion of the doctoral program: academic fees and tuition, supplies, dissertation costs, printing or postage, special services (such as computer time or photographic services), salary, and travel. **A financial report is required as part of the Final Report for this scholarship.**

**Limitations of Use:** Under no circumstances will funds be approved to finance living expenses or program deficits incurred prior to the beginning of the Scholarship Year.

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***Areas of Study***

**Promotion of Doctoral Studies Scholarships** are awarded for students pursuing projects that address the most critical questions regarding clinical research and explain how the project (s) will contribute to the needs of the physical therapy profession, including implications for physical therapy theory and practice, and its relationship, if any, to the Research Agenda

(RA). If a proposed project does not directly address a question or question(s) in the RA, the applicant must explain how the project will enable him/her to directly address the RA in the future. The RA is provided as a guide to identification of the critical research questions in physical therapy.

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## ***PODS I, II, Combined PODSII/NIFTI Awards PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND FUNDING PRIORITIES***

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### ***Statement of Intent for Funding***

**FPTR**, like the physical therapy profession, is dedicated to the goal of improving the quality and delivery of patient care. The Foundation accomplishes this goal by providing support to emerging investigators to promote scientifically based and clinically relevant research related to the effectiveness of physical therapist practice.

**The Foundation supports only those intervention studies in which the interventions are provided by physical therapists, or selected components of the interventions are provided by physical therapist assistants, under the direction and supervision of physical therapists.**

The purpose of **FPTR**'s post-professional Promotion of Doctoral Studies (PODS) program is to fund post-professional doctoral students preparing for research careers, who are PHD students in a program relevant to physical therapy. Specific eligibility requirements and criteria for review and selection are contained in these guidelines.

The total amount of funding may vary from year to year (depending on available resources) and **all money awarded could be considered taxable income depending on the use of proceeds**. Award recipients are responsible for the determination of potential tax of award. All guidelines are subject to change as the needs of the physical therapy profession change.

Guidelines for distribution of funds and criteria for selecting recipients are established by **FPTR**'s Board of Trustees (BOT) and implemented by the Scientific Review Committee (SRC). Selected by **FPTR**'s BOT, the SRC is comprised of physical therapist researchers and others with experience preparing physical therapists and physical therapist assistants for research careers. The SRC reviews applications and makes recommendations to **FPTR**'s BOT for final approval.

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### ***Funding Objectives***

The intent of **FPTR** is to fund the most highly qualified post-professional doctoral students within the applicant pool and to ensure that the physical therapy profession benefits from the commitment, scholarship, and teaching of these individuals. These scholarships will help develop a supply of post-professional, doctorally prepared researchers who will add to or refine the body of evidence on which physical therapist practice is based.

Proposed projects should begin to address the most critical questions regarding clinical research and explain how the project(s) will contribute to the needs of the physical therapy profession, including implications for physical theory and practice, and its relationship, if any, to the Research Agenda (RA). If a proposed project does not directly address a question or question (s) in the RA, the applicant must explain how the project will enable him/her to directly address the RA in the future. The RA is provided as a guide to identification of the critical research questions in physical therapy.

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### ***Funding Priorities***

Applicants meeting the following criteria will prioritize:

- Students who have demonstrated continuous progress toward completion of degree requirements in a timely fashion;
- Students who have demonstrated a commitment to a career as an academic researcher and an educator in a fully accredited physical therapy education program;

Preference will be given to applicants whose research is directly related to the APTA Research Agenda, to the goals and objectives of the Foundation and to applicants whose research addresses health care disparities.

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## ***Limitations of Use***

Under no circumstances will funds be approved to finance living expenses or program deficits incurred prior to the beginning of the Scholarship year.

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## ***Other Support***

All sources of support for the proposed project must be identified in the on-line application.

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## ***Payment of Funds***

**In the absence of alternate arrangements, all funds are paid directly to the PODS recipient and could be considered taxable income dependent upon the use of the proceeds. It is the PODS recipient's responsibility to determine tax status.**

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## ***Schedule of Payment***

- 50% September
  - 50% March
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## ***Notification***

PODS Scholarships are awarded in June the year of application. All applicants will be sent notification letters by email.

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## ***Policy Governing Use of Subjects in Research***

**Vertebrate Experimental Animals:** If vertebrate experimental animals are involved in the study, the plan must include specific procedures for review of the protocol in compliance with federal policy on the humane handling of animal subjects. Also, the institution's Animal Care Use Committee (IACUC) must have approved or given a waiver for the project.

**Human Subjects:** If data is to be collected on human subjects, or if data used in the project contains identifiable private information that can be linked to human subjects, the plan must include specific procedures for review of the protocol and securing informed consent of subjects in compliance with federal policy on protection of human subjects.

Proof of IRB Approval is not required at the time of application. If your project is awarded, the first award payment will not be issued until proof of IRB Approval is submitted to the Scientific Program Administrator. It must be on the sponsoring institution's letterhead and signed by the appropriate institution official. If the proposed project has more than one site, IRB Approval or Exemption **must** be obtained for every site in the project. Also, the institution sponsoring the project's research must be covered by an assurance agreement indicating compliance with Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) regulations governing the protection of human subjects.

In addition, if data are to be collected on human subjects, or if data used in the project contain identifiable private information that can be linked to human subjects, the Principal Investigator and all key personnel involved in the conduct of the study must provide certificates demonstrating completion of a human subjects' protection training course. You must provide training validity dates for your particular course as part of your application package and the training must be current according to the dates listed on the certificate.

The NIH Office of Extramural Research's "Human Participant Protections: Education for Research Teams" training course (<https://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php>) is an example of a course that meets this requirement. Also, the University of Miami offers online courses in Human Subjects Research training (<https://about.citiprogram.org/en/homepage/>), which also meets the requirement. In addition, investigators can take such training courses at their home institution, if offered.

**FPTR will *not* accept a letter in lieu of a certificate indicating that a human subjects' protection training course has been taken.**

Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information, the "Privacy Rule," is a federal regulation under the Health

Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 that governs the protection of individually identifiable health information from covered entities through collaborative or contractual agreements. Decisions about whether and how to implement the Privacy rule reside with the researcher and his/her institution.

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### ***Applicant Eligibility***

For PODS I: at the time the award commences, and PODS II: at the time of application, the applicant must:

- Possess a license to practice physical therapy in the U.S. or in a U.S. jurisdiction, or
- Have met all the requirements for physical therapy licensure in the U.S. or in a U.S. jurisdiction, including having received a passing score on the licensure exam, or
- Possess a physical therapist assistant license in the U.S. or in a U.S. jurisdiction, or
- Have met all the requirements for licensure as a physical therapist assistant in the U.S. or in a U.S. jurisdiction, including having received a passing score on the licensure exam.
- Be enrolled as a full or part-time student in a regionally, fully accredited post-professional doctoral program whose content has a demonstrated relationship to physical therapy. **Students enrolled in transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy (t-DPT) programs are not eligible for Foundation scholarship support.**
- Must demonstrate commitment to further the physical therapy profession through research and teaching in the United States and its territories.
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

#### PODS I

- The applicant must have been accepted into a PhD program relevant to physical therapy prior to the start of the scholarship year, September 1, for which the proceeds will be used.
- The applicant will be ineligible for a PODS I scholarship if candidacy status (as defined by his/her institution) is achieved prior to the start of the scholarship year, September 1.
- An application submitted as a PODS I will NOT, under any circumstances, be reviewed as a PODS II in the event it is determined that the applicant will achieve candidacy status (as defined by her/her institution) prior to the start of the scholarship year, September 1.

#### PODS II

- The applicant must have achieved candidacy status (as defined by his/her institution) prior to the start of the scholarship year, September 1.
- An application submitted as a PODS II will NOT, under any circumstances, be reviewed as a PODS I if the SRC determines that the criteria for a PODS II are not met.
- Confirmation of candidacy status must be confirmed in the online application by the mentor/advisor. If candidacy will be achieved after the due date of the online application and before the start of the scholarship year, September 1, written confirmation from the institution must be provided to the Foundation by August 1. If candidacy is not achieved by the start of the scholarship year, funding for the applicant will be withdrawn.

#### PODS II/NIFTI Combined (in addition to the above listed items for PODS I)

- PhD candidacy status (as defined by his/her institution) must have been achieved. In addition, **the applicant must complete all PhD requirements within one year and prior to the commencement of the NIFTI training.** A confirmation letter from their faculty advisor will be submitted by August 1<sup>st</sup>, confirming candidacy status and anticipated completion date, prior to the start of the Scholarship Year.

- An application submitted as a PODS II will NOT, under any circumstances, be reviewed as a PODS I if the SRC determines that the criteria for a PODS II are not met.
- The NIFTI portion of the award must meet the **Institution & Mentor Requirements** as put forth in the NIFTI Guidelines that state: To be considered for a Foundation NIFTI, the mentor/Sponsoring Institution must provide documentation that:
  - The applicant is guaranteed at least 50% release time to work on his/her project
  - The mentor must provide assistance with the research training of the applicant as well as his/her leadership for and mentoring of the applicant
  - The mentor or Sponsoring Institution will provide the equipment required for the NIFTI Research Project

Please note that the Awardee's responsibilities include:

- Fiscal accountability for funds awarded.
- Direct oversight of the scientific process with accountability for the quality of the study as conducted.
- Submission of all progress and final reports to the Foundation.
- Dissemination of results of the study through peer-reviewed publications and public presentation.

**If the PODS I, II, Combined PODS II/NIFTI applicant is a current or prior FPTR funding recipient, he/she/they must be considered in GOOD STANDING with FPTR to be eligible to apply.** Please see sections on Reporting and Requests for Approval of Changes within TERMS AND CONDITIONS for more information about this.

If award is made to an **PODS II or Combined PODS II/NIFTI** applicant that is currently supported by another **FPTR** funding mechanism that concludes before the Period of Performance begins (September 1st), then the new **award is contingent upon the successful submission and approval of the current funding mechanism's Final Report.**

**Further, there can be no overlap between FPTR funding mechanism periods of performance.**

**Physical Therapist Assistant applicants, please note:** FPTR supports only those intervention studies in which the interventions are provided by physical therapists, or selected components of the interventions are provided by physical therapist assistants under the direction and supervision of physical therapists.

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**If the applicant is a current or prior FPTR funding recipient and has not complied with reporting or obligation requirements associated with the current or prior award, he/she will NOT be considered in GOOD STANDING with FPTR and is NOT eligible to apply for a FPTR funding mechanism.**

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## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

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### ***Non-Compliance PODS I, II, Combined PODS II/NIFTI***

Failure of the PODS recipient to comply with the policies governing this scholarship may be grounds for early termination of the scholarship and/or denial of any future consideration by the Foundation for any of its programs. Failure to comply with the policies governing this award will result in the PODS recipient NOT to be considered in GOOD STANDING with the Foundation. **If the PODS recipient is NOT considered in GOOD STANDING with the Foundation, the PODS recipient is NOT eligible to apply for any other Foundation funding mechanism.**

While completing post-professional doctoral studies, should the PODS recipient encounter problems related to academic progress or other matters related to the scholarship, the Foundation may request additional information from which a decision to continue or to terminate the scholarship can be made. **Should an early termination be warranted, the PODS recipient will receive a 60-day notice from the Foundation.**

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**If the applicant is a current FPTR funding recipient and is operating under a No-Cost Extension (NCE) agreement, no PENDING applications for this funding mechanism will be considered. Further, there can be no overlap between FPTR funding mechanism periods of performance.**

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## ***Research Integrity***

**FPTR** expects that the highest ethical standards and compliance with public laws and regulations will be adhered to by all recipients when undertaking any type of research supported by **FPTR** funds. It is expected that recipients will:

- Be intellectually honest in proposing, performing, and reporting research
- Be accurate in representing contribution in research proposals and reports
- Be fair in peer reviews
- Be collegial in scientific interactions, including communications and sharing of resources
- Be transparent in conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest
- Ensure the protection of human subjects in the conduct of research in compliance with the Department of Health and Human Services' regulations governing the protection of human subjects
- Ensure humane care of animals in the conduct of research in compliance with Public Health Service's policy on humane care and treatment of laboratory animals
- Adhere to the mutual responsibilities between investigators and their research teams.

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## ***Obligations/Service***

*All recipients must agree to the above parameters and*

### **PODS I recipients shall agree to:**

- (1) Maintain student status during the years in which the scholarship proceeds will be used;
- (2) Attain candidacy status within four years or refund the scholarship(s) in full;
- (3) Register with ORCID and provide the Scientific Program Administrator with their ORCID Identifier;
- (4) Acknowledge the Foundation's support in all publications, including dissertation, and conference presentations as such: ***This work was supported in part by a Promotion of Doctoral Studies (PODS) – Level I Scholarship from the Foundation for Physical Therapy Research.***
- (5) Participate in any evaluation and/or outcome studies, or surveys, related to the scholarship program sponsored by the Foundation.

### **PODS II recipients shall agree to:**

- (1) Maintain student status during the years in which the scholarship(s) proceeds will be used;
- (2) Satisfactorily defend their dissertation within three years after admission to candidacy or refund all post-coursework scholarship(s) in full;
- (3) Register with ORCID and provide the Scientific Program Administrator with their ORCID Identifier;
- (4) Acknowledge the Foundation's support in all publication, including dissertation, and conference presentations as such: ***This work was supported in part by a Promotion of Doctoral Studies (PODS) – Level II Scholarship from the Foundation for Physical Therapy,***
- (5) Participate in any evaluation and/or outcome studies, or surveys, related to the scholarship program sponsored by the Foundation.

### **PODSII/NIFTI Combined award recipients shall agree to:**

- (1) Transition from student status to research fellowship during the years in which the NIFTI proceeds will be used;
- (2) Acknowledge the Foundation's support in all publication, including dissertation, and conference presentations as such: ***This work was supported in part by a Promotion of Doctoral Studies (PODS/NIFTI) – Level II Scholarship/New Investigator Fellowship from the Foundation for Physical Therapy Research,***
- (3) Agree to participate in any studies of NIFTI recipients sponsored by the Foundation; and,
- (4) Show evidence of submitted or presented material related to the fellowship research to APTA's Annual Conference as a poster or platform presentation within two years of completion.

In addition, upon successful completion of post-professional doctoral studies and the awarding of the degree, recipients of either a PODS I or PODS II or Combined PODS II/NIFTI award will:

- (1) Provide an acknowledgment of the Foundation support in the dissertation;
- (2) Provide the Foundation with an electronic copy of the abstract of the dissertation;
- (3) Show evidence of having submitted or presented material related to the dissertation research to APTA's Annual

- Conference for a poster or platform presentation within two years of graduation; and
- (4) Participate in any studies of scholarship recipients sponsored by the Foundation.

PODS, either I or II, and PODSII/NIFTI Combined recipients who cannot comply with any of these obligations and/or requirements must notify the Foundation in writing and request an extension of the requirements (see page 7, Request for Approval of Changes). **Failure to meet these obligations and/or requirements will jeopardize the PODS and PODS/NIFTI recipient's GOOD STANDING with the Foundation and could make them ineligible to apply for future Foundation funding.**

### ***Reporting***

Recipients shall provide reports to **FPTTR** following the schedule guidelines described below. Failure to submit a report by the stated deadline will delay or jeopardize continued or future support by the **FPTTR**. **If the recipient fails to comply with reporting requirements, he/she will NOT be considered in GOOD STANDING with FPTTR and will NOT be eligible to apply for any other FPTTR funding mechanism.** If funds are to be paid on an alternate payment schedule, the reporting schedule will be adjusted accordingly.

**Interim Report:** If you are not applying for additional funding an interim report must be submitted to release the 2<sup>nd</sup> installment of funds. Instructions related to the original submission are sent to you from the Scientific Programs team or you can request information related to these reports at [Info@Foundation4pt.org](mailto:Info@Foundation4pt.org).

**If awarded Combined PODSII/NIFTI Award:** the interim report within 6 months of commencement of fellowship will require:  
Research plan including specific aims  
Approvals/Exemptions/Certifications  
Research Strategy describing innovation, scientific rigor and transparency

**Progress Report:** All recipients shall e-mail Progress Report(s) to the Scientific Program Administrator. For a 1-year grant, one Progress Report is due 6 months into the grant year. A grant with a 2-year Period of Performance will require Progress Reports at 6 months, 12 months and 18 months. A Progress Report shall include:

1. A brief summary of work completed during the Scholarship Year;
2. A discussion of any major problems (if any) encountered to date;
3. Objectives accomplished as compared to the original timeline;
4. An explanation and justification for any deviation from the original plan of action; and
5. An explanation of any proposed changes to the plan.

In addition, the report(s) should include a list of presentations, abstracts, and articles published or submitted for publication related to this study.

The recipient is also required to submit electronic copies (hard copies are acceptable only when electronic copies are unavailable) of the following:

1. Copies of abstracts and articles related to this project
2. Copies of any survey instruments developed or used in the course of the project
3. Copies of measurement instruments developed or used in the project
4. Any other information pertinent to the research project

**Failure to submit a Progress Report on time may delay or forfeit the release of the next increment of funding.** In addition, a sub-committee of the SRC may review Progress Reports and make recommendations for non-competitive renewal for Year 2.

**Final Report:** All recipients are expected to submit a Final Report to **FPTTR** within thirty (30) days of completion of their funded **PODS I, II, Combined PODS II/NIFTI program.** **Failure to submit a Final Report will bar the recipient from any future FPTTR funding as the recipient will NOT be considered in GOOD STANDING with FPTTR. Further, any PENDING funding award from FPTTR will be contingent upon the submission and approval of a Final Report if there is overlap between the current Period of Performance and the other funding mechanism's application deadline.** The Final Report should be submitted electronically to FPTTR's Scientific Programs team.

The content of the Final Report my reiterate the details of any Interim/Progress Report and should be complete up to the last

day of the award period. The final Report must be labeled with the recipient's name, the type of award received, and the period of performance of the award. The Final Report must also include in clearly defined sections:

1. A summary description of the overall program, work completed, and the results of the dissertation study, if completed;
2. An abstract of any research projects undertaken during the period of support (suitable for reprint by the Foundation);
3. A list of publications or manuscripts submitted for publication as a result of work supported fully or in part by the Foundation; and
4. A financial report detailing expenditures supported by the scholarship.
5. Plans for dissemination of information related to the study

Recipients are also required to update the electronic abstract with the following information and e-mail it to the Scientific Program Administrator at the time the Final Report is submitted:

1. **Findings:** Results from the project.
2. **Lay Language Summary:** An *updated* description of the project in terms a non-physical therapist can understand that includes a *summary of the project findings*, suitable for distribution and publication by **FPTR**.
3. A complete list of all presentations, abstracts, and articles submitted, in press, or published that are related to this study.

**Additional Final Report Requirement for PODS II recipients:** Within 30 days of completion of the doctorate, PODS II recipients must submit a copy of the abstract of his/her Foundation-supported doctoral dissertation research project to the Foundation.

**Dissertation:** The recipient shall submit to the Foundation an electronic copy of his/her dissertation abstract as soon as possible following successful defense of the dissertation and awarding of the degree with confirmation that it has been successfully defended (a scanned PDF of the signed cover page is enough).

**Publications:** A copy of each published manuscript based on research supported fully or in part by the Foundation shall, upon publication, be submitted to the Foundation.

**Acknowledgement:** Acknowledgement of Foundation support for each published manuscript must be stated as such: *This work was supported in full/part by a Promotional of Doctoral Studies I, II, Combined PODS II/NIFTI scholarship from the Foundation for Physical Therapy Research.*

#### ***Request for Approval of Changes***

**Changes to the Plan:** The recipient must obtain written approval from **FPTR** before making any material change in the plan of action, timetable for completion (including no-cost extensions), acquisition of subjects, etc. Requests for changes to the plan must be made in writing. **FPTR shall have thirty (30) days to review such requests and respond in writing to the recipient.** If the request is made less than thirty (30) days prior to the next scheduled payment, the monies may be held until approval of any changes is given.

**No-Cost Extension (NCE):** A written request for extension of reporting deadlines with no additional funding must outline in detail the reasons for the request. **Such a request must be received by the Foundation 30 days prior to the expiration of the original term of the scholarship.** In general, it is the policy of the Foundation to consider granting no-cost extensions to scholarships, fellowships and research projects only under the following conditions:

1. All reports have been filed with the Foundation in a timely fashion as specified in the Letter of Agreement.
2. The Foundation has been notified of the need for an extension at least 30 days in advance of the award's termination.
3. When the reason for the request is a change or pending change in the status of the scholarship, fellowship, or grant recipient that prevents the accomplishment of the goals and objectives for which the award was made, **the awardee shall have notified the Foundation of such change or pending change within five days of the awardee's becoming aware of such change.**

If the Foundation, in its sole discretion, believes that its interests are best protected by allowing the PODS recipient to use all

or some of the funds awarded to complete an education program, a research project or portion of a research project, a no-cost extension may be granted as determined by the Foundation's Executive Director and Scientific Program Administrator.

**In the event that a NCE is granted, no PENDING applications for another FPTTR funding mechanism from the recipient will be considered until the term of the extension has expired and the recipient has met the reporting and obligation requirements of the award.**

**Changes in Status of PODS I, II, Combined PODS II/NIFTI Recipient:** The recipient must notify **FPTTR** upon becoming aware of any changes or pending changes (e.g., changes of major advisor) that may prevent accomplishment or substantially alter the goals and objectives of the research program. **Such notice must be received by FPTTR within five (5) days of the recipient's becoming aware of any such change or pending change.** **FPTTR** may request additional information from which a decision to continue or to terminate the **PODS I, II, Combined PODS II/NIFTI** can be made. **FPTTR**, in its sole discretion, shall determine whether the change jeopardizes the PODS recipient's ability to complete the education program, a research project or portion of a research project and whether funding of the project shall continue. **In cases of early termination, the recipient and Sponsoring Institution shall be notified by FPTTR in writing sixty (60) days prior to the termination of the award.** The Sponsoring Institution should be aware that if the decision is made by any party to terminate the grant, any unpaid award increments may be forfeited, or pro-rated and/or unused funds already awarded will be requested to be returned to **FPTTR**.

**If the recipient fails to notify FPTTR at all or not within the specified time period, they will NOT be considered in GOOD STANDING with FPTTR and will NOT be eligible to apply for any other FPTTR funding mechanism.**

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#### ***Ownership of Equipment***

Title to all apparatus, equipment, material, instruments, and products purchased, built, prepared or fabricated by an agency with **FPTTR** research grant funds will normally vest in the recipient, with the understanding that such equipment will remain in use for the specific project for which it was obtained.

For items of equipment having a unity acquisition cost of \$1,000 or more, the award letter may reserve the right to transfer title to **FPTTR** or to a third party named by **FPTTR** when such third party is otherwise eligible.

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#### ***Data Sharing Policy***

The Foundation, like the physical therapy profession, is dedicated to the goal of improving the quality and delivery of patient care. The Foundation accomplishes this by providing support to emerging investigators to promote scientifically based and clinically relevant research related to the effectiveness of physical therapy practice. The main output of research is new knowledge.

To ensure this knowledge can be accessed, read, applied, and elaborated in fulfillment of these goals, the Foundation for Physical Therapy Research encourages funded researchers to share data with the research community and with further expectations to publish their findings, including but not limited to publication in peer reviewed journals.

For guidance refer to: [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/data\\_sharing/data\\_sharing\\_guidance.htm#ex](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/data_sharing/data_sharing_guidance.htm#ex)

All clinical trials must be registered.

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#### ***FPTTR Credit Acknowledgement***

To ensure that support provided by **FPTTR** is adequately reflected, all publications, presentations, and press releases prepared in connection with the research program must include an appropriate credit line as follows:

**"This research has been supported in full/part with an PODS I, II, Combined PODS II/NIFTI Award from the Foundation for Physical Therapy Research."**

Posters must display the **FPTTR** logo and presentations must use the **FPTTR** funding acknowledgement slide provided at time of award.

The Letter of Agreement will specify the endowment or group responsible for funding the **PODS I, II, Combined PODS II/NIFTI**

which should be added to the acknowledgement as well.

**FPTR may not consider future funding requests from the Sponsoring Organization/Institution and will deny future funding to the recipient if credit acknowledgment is not included.**

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#### *Publications Resulting from PODS I, II, Combined PODS II/NIFTI Awards*

- Publications are not subject to **FPTR** approval.
  - The Sponsoring Organization/Institution or recipient shall notify **FPTR** of the intention to release for publication the results of **FPTR**-funded research.
  - One (1) copy of all submitted papers should be sent electronically to **FPTR** at the time of submission.
  - One (1) copy of all published papers and/or abstracts relating to the funded study should be sent to **FPTR** electronically immediately upon publication.
  - For a period of five (5) years following the completion of the project and submission of the Final Report, upon request, the recipient is required to submit information to **FPTR** electronically regarding all submitted, in press or published papers; and submitted or accepted abstracts related to the **PODS I, II, Combined PODS II/NIFTI Award**.
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#### *Presentations Resulting from PODS I, II, Combined PODS II/NIFTI Awards*

- Presentations are not subject to **FPTR** approval.
- The Sponsoring Organization/Institution or grantee shall notify **FPTR** of the intention to present the results of **FPTR**-funded research.
- The recipient is required to submit results from the completed project to a national or international conference (preferably APTA) for a poster or platform presentation within two (2) years after completion of the **PODS I, II, Combined PODS II/NIFTI Awards**.
- One (1) copy of all poster presentations and exhibits relating to the funded study should be sent to **FPTR** immediately following presentation.

For a period of five (5) years following the completion of the **PODS I, II, Combined PODS II/NIFTI Awards** and submission of the Final Report, the recipient is required to submit summary information to **FPTR** at least annually regarding each poster presentation and/or exhibit presentation related to the **PODS I, II, Combined PODS II/NIFTI Awards** project.

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#### *Press Releases Concerning PODS I, II, Combined PODS II/NIFTI Awards*

- Press releases prepared by the recipient are not subject to **FPTR**'s approval.
  - For a period of three (3) years following completion of the **PODS I, II, Combined PODS II/NIFTI Awards** and submission of the Final Report, the recipient shall provide **FPTR** with an electronic informational copy of all announcements to the media related to the recipient and/or the work to be done or work accomplished under the **PODS I, II, Combined PODS II/NIFTI Awards**.
  - **FPTR** may use the abstract from the original grant proposal and information contained in the electronic abstract and the Progress and Final Reports in preparing announcements to the media and other efforts to promote public awareness and appraise potential **FPTR** funding sources of work in progress.
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#### *Royalties/Patent Policy*

Any invention that has been accorded **FPTR** support shall herein be referred to as a **FPTR** Invention. The **PODS I, II, Combined PODS II/NIFTI Award** recipient shall notify **FPTR** in writing within thirty (30) days of the filing by the Sponsoring Organization/Institution or recipient of any application for a patent, and of any invention first introduced into practice with the financial support, in whole or in part, of **FPTR**.

**Title:** Title to any **FPTR** Invention shall belong to the Sponsoring Organization/Institution or recipient and not to **FPTR**.

**Patent Abandonment:** No patent application or patent shall be abandoned by the Sponsoring Organization/Institution or grantee without first notifying **FPTR** in writing and affording **FPTR** the opportunity to take title to **FPTR** Invention and pursue

the patent process at **FPTR**'s expense.

**Revenue Sharing:** It is expressly understood that **FPTR** shall share 50/50 in the Net Royalty Income derived from a **FPTR** Invention. Net Royalty Income is defined as gross royalty income generated by **FPTR** Invention less the direct, out-of-pocket patent costs of the Sponsoring Organization/Institution or recipient. **FPTR** shall have the right to accounting with respect to the determination of Net Royalty Income.

Upon notification of the filing of a patent application, the Sponsoring Organization/Institution or **PODS I, II, Combined PODS II/NIFTI Award** recipient shall enter into a written agreement (the Revenue Sharing Agreement) with **FPTR** wherein the sum certain, method of payment, and duration of **FPTR**'s participation shall be scheduled. Any disputes between the parties related to the Revenue Sharing Agreement shall be settled in arbitration by a majority of three arbitrators.

**FPTR** and the Sponsoring Organization/Institution or **PODS I, II, Combined PODS II/NIFTI Award** recipient shall each designate one arbitrator, and the two so selected shall select the third arbitrator. Any such arbitration proceeding shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association.

**Patent Assignment:** In the event the Sponsoring Organization/ Institution or recipient or licensee, if any, has not taken effective steps to bring **FPTR** Invention to practical application within three (3) years after the issuance of a United States patent on such a **FPTR** Invention, the Sponsoring Organization/Institution or recipient agrees to assign said patent to **FPTR**. Notice of such right of assignment to **FPTR** shall be included and agreed to in any licensing agreement entered into between the Sponsoring Organization/Institution or recipient and third-party licensee. **FPTR** shall have the right to cancel any licenses issued under said patent upon exercising the right of assignment.

**Government Agencies:** Notwithstanding the foregoing, if any **FPTR** Invention is made with joint support of **FPTR** and any agency or department of the United States Government, **FPTR** may defer to the patent policy of that agency or department if such deference is a required condition of support provided by the agency or department.

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#### ***CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF PODS I, II, Combined PODS II/NIFTI Award APPLICATION***

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**FPTR**'s SRC has responsibility for reviewing applications for the **PODS I, II, Combined PODS II/NIFTI Award** and recommending to **FPTR** BOT which proposal(s), if any, will qualify for funding. The SRC, in evaluating applications, will take into account the following:

**Applicant:** Is the applicant's academic record of high quality? A summary of the applicant's professional background, future goals, publications and presentations will be considered. Does the applicant demonstrate a commitment to research and teaching in the field of physical therapy? Does the applicant have the potential to develop as an independent and productive researcher?

**Mentors, Advisors, Facilities:** Are the research qualifications (including successful completion of funded research) and track record of mentoring PhD students appropriate for the field? Are the research interests of the applicant and mentor compatible? Does the mentor have adequate understanding of the applicant's research training needs? Does the mentor demonstrate the ability and commitment to assist in meeting the training needs?

**Objectives and Plan of Study:** Does the applicant outline appropriate objectives of graduate study that will enable him or her to become an independent investigator? Does the proposed plan of study address the applicant's objectives stage of the degree program in which the applicant is currently studying? Will the plan of study provide the applicant with experiences that will develop research skills needed for his/her independent and productive research career? Is the likely research direction of the applicant consistent with the APTA's Research Agenda? Does the applicant describe the potential significance and feasibility of the research plan?

**Training Plan**

Are the goals and objectives consistent with how proposed research will be carried out? Is the Training Plan consistent with the applicant's stage of research development? Will the Training Plan provide the applicant with individualized and supervised experiences that will develop research skills needed for his/her independent and productive research career?

**Timeline**

Is the timeline realistic for the applicant's proposed work and course of training?

**Progress and Potential:** Does the program and proposed plan of study have the potential to provide the applicant with requisite individualized and supervised experiences that will develop his/her research skills? Does the program and proposed plan of study have the potential to serve as a sound foundation that will lead the applicant to an independent and productive researcher? Is the applicant demonstrative continued progression, through examination of transcripts of required coursework, completion of comprehensive exams, approval of dissertation proposal, and time dedicated to dissertation work, towards completion of doctoral programs?

**Institutional Environment and Commitment to Training:** Are the facilities, resources, (e.g., equipment, lab space, computer time, subject populations) and training opportunities appropriate to develop a researcher who is capable of designing and implementing high quality research? Is there appropriate institutional commitment to fostering the applicant's education and training as an independent and productive researcher?

**Additional Considerations:** Reviewers may address other considerations such as format, cohesiveness, and completeness of applications.

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## AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION RESEARCH AGENDA

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Adopted and promulgated by APTA's Board of Directors (BOD), the Clinical Research Agenda (CRA) was the result of a series of conferences and editorial review processes in which large numbers of physical therapists participated. The Agenda was published in May 2000 (*Clinical Research Agenda for Physical Therapy. Phys Ther. 2000; 80:499–513.*)

The CRA underwent extensive review and revision based upon input from all APTA Sections to produce the new Research Agenda, published in March 2011. The term "clinical" was removed from the title in recognition of a "more comprehensive perspective of physical therapy research than the manner in which the Clinical Research Agenda was perceived" (Goldstein et al., 2011, p. 1). The new Research Agenda reflects the changes in rehabilitation practices as well as expands upon the scope of rehabilitation research (Goldstein et al., 2011, p. 5).

APTA supports research that is conducted across all points on the continuum of health-related research. The BOD recognizes that the domains along this continuum should not be perceived as mutually exclusive areas of knowledge and that research across the continuum is vital to the profession of physical therapy. In March 2005, the BOD passed P03-05- 18-49, Continuum of Research in Physical Therapy:

The profession of physical therapy is committed to understanding and participating in basic science, mechanistic, translational, clinical, and health services research, in order to provide patients/clients with the most current, appropriate, and effective management. The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) has an obligation to foster leadership and participation in all research efforts related to the science of physical therapist practice. The science is inherently transdisciplinary and encompasses a seamless continuum of research from basic underlying mechanisms and theory to clinical application. The key questions confronting physical therapy require employment of the full range of methodological designs and approaches.

The CRA, and now the Research Agenda, should be read in this context. The Research Agenda describes prototypical questions that are relevant to clinical practice—and that are answerable in the near-term—within the broad array of questions along the continuum of research germane to physical therapy. Additional specific questions, including basic and applied scientific inquiries, also could provide new knowledge that would enhance physical therapist practice. If the answers to additional research questions can be applied to clinical practice, those questions would then be consistent with the intent of the Research Agenda and can be legitimately included as part of the Research Agenda.

More information regarding the review and revision of the Research Agenda may be found at:

Goldstein MS, Scalzitti DA, Craik RL, Dunn SL, Irion JM, Irrgang J, Kolobe THA, McDonough CM, Shields RK. The Revised Research Agenda for Physical Therapy. *Physical Therapy. 2011;91(2):1-10.*

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### I. Basic Science Research

1. Identify how genetic, anatomical, biomechanical, physiological, or environmental factors contribute to excessive stress, injury, or abnormal development of body tissues and systems.
2. Determine if modifiable genetic, anatomical, biomechanical, physiological, or environmental factors can decrease risk of excessive stress, injury, or abnormal development of body tissues and systems.
3. Examine the effects of physical therapy interventions that are provided independently or in combination on cellular structural properties and physiological responses of healthy, injured, or diseased body tissues.
4. Investigate the factors that modify the response to physical therapy intervention and positive tissue adaptation (e.g., genetic, functional, structural, psychosocial, and physiological factors).
5. Determine the optimal dose of physical therapy interventions (frequency, duration, intensity) to achieve optimal cellular and physiological adaptation/response of body tissues and systems.
6. Examine skill acquisition and motor development in individuals with movement disorders.
7. Examine the relationship between biomarkers and impairments in body structure and function, limitations in activity, and restrictions in participation. (Biomarkers are any tools used to identify and quantify biologic responses).
8. Define the role for physical therapy in the maturation and modeling of genetically engineered tissues.
9. Determine the mechanisms by which physical therapy interventions modify disease and age-related or injury induced changes in normal cellular structure and function using appropriate human and animal models.
10. Develop new physical therapy interventions to promote tissue growth and adaptation.

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## **II. Clinical Research**

1. Determine the relationships among levels of functioning and disability, health conditions, and contextual factors for conditions commonly managed by physical therapists (e.g., International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health).
2. Develop and evaluate models of health and disability to guide the investigation, prevention, and treatment of health conditions relevant to physical therapy.
3. Identify factors that predict the risks of, or protection from, health conditions (injury, disorders, and disease).
4. Examine the impact of health promotion interventions that include the involvement of physical therapists on activity and participation of individuals with movement disorders.
5. Evaluate and develop effective interventions to prevent or reduce the risk of disability associated with common health conditions.
6. Determine the effects of interventions provided by physical therapists to address secondary prevention in patients/clients with chronic diseases (e.g., diabetes, obesity, arthritis, neurological, other disorders).
7. Determine the physical therapist's role and impact in contemporary delivery models on prevention of diseases and their secondary side effects.
8. Identify technologies to assist physical therapists in developing prevention approaches that optimize outcome.
9. Develop and evaluate effective patient/client classification methods to optimize clinical decision making for physical therapist management of patients/clients.
10. Identify criteria for progression in levels of care, activity, or participation of the patient/client.
11. Identify thresholds for adequate physical function to optimize outcomes and prevent injury.
12. Identify contextual factors (e.g., personal and environmental) that affect prognosis.
13. Identify technologies to assist physical therapists in determining patient/client classification.
14. Determine predictors of recovery from adverse effects associated with medical or surgical treatment.
15. Determine the effectiveness and efficacy of interventions provided by physical therapists across relevant domains of health.
16. Determine interactions among interventions provided by physical therapists.
17. Determine the effectiveness and efficacy of interventions provided by physical therapists delivered in combination with other interventions (e.g., medical, surgical, or biobehavioral interventions).
18. Determine the effects of frequency, duration, intensity, and timing of interventions provided by the physical therapist.
19. Develop and test the effectiveness of physical therapist interventions for primary and secondary conditions or disability.
20. Develop and test the effectiveness of physical therapist interventions to optimize treatment outcomes for specific subgroups of patients/clients.
21. Develop and test the effectiveness of decision support tools to facilitate evidence-based physical therapist decision making.
22. Develop and test the effectiveness of methods to improve patient/client adherence to the plan of care and self-management.

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## **III. Education/Professional Development**

1. Evaluate the effect of physical therapist post-professional specialty training on clinical decision making and patient/client outcomes.
2. Determine the best methods to foster career development and leadership in physical therapy.
3. Determine the optimal criteria for board certification.
4. Evaluate the effect of clinical education models on clinical outcomes, passing rates on the National Physical Therapy Examination, and employment settings after graduation.
5. Determine the impact of professional-level physical therapist education on professional behaviors.
6. Assess the effectiveness of models of professional education on clinical performance.
7. Determine the relationship between student cultural competency and clinical decision making.
8. Evaluate the effectiveness of different methods used to improve cultural competence.
9. Develop and evaluate the most effective methods for facilitating physical therapist acquisition and use of available information resources for evidence-based practice.
10. Evaluate the skills needed by practitioners to provide optimal patient/client care, patient/client advocacy, and cost-effective care.

#### **IV. Epidemiology**

1. Examine the incidence, prevalence, and natural course of health conditions (disorders, diseases, and injuries) commonly managed by physical therapists.
  2. Examine the incidence, prevalence, and natural course of impairments of body functions and structure activity limitations, and participation restrictions associated with health conditions commonly managed by physical therapists.
  3. Investigate the effects of contextual factors (e.g., personal and environmental) on the effectiveness of intervention provided by physical therapists.
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#### **V. Health Services Research/Policy**

1. Perform economic evaluation of specific physical therapy interventions.
  2. Evaluate the effect of physical therapy service delivery models on economic and patient/client outcomes and consumer choice.
  3. Determine the relationship between documentation and payment.
  4. Evaluate the comparative cost and/or cost-effectiveness of specific physical therapy interventions compared with or in combination with other interventions.
  5. Investigate factors that influence patient/client choices when selecting a health care provider or making treatment decisions.
  6. Develop and evaluate new methods for incorporating patient/client values and expectations into the decision-making process.
  7. Evaluate the effectiveness of shared clinical decision-making schemes between the patient/client and therapist on clinical outcomes and costs.
  8. Establish the extent to which physical therapists deliver services in accordance with recommended guidelines for specific conditions and its impact on outcomes.
  9. Determine disparities in the access to and provision of physical therapy and their impact on outcomes.
  10. Examine the interaction among access, culture, and health literacy on physical therapy outcomes.
  11. Examine the cultural competence of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants and its impact on intervention.
  12. Develop innovative medical informatics applications for physical therapy and assess their impact on clinical decision making.
  13. Investigate the influence of health policies on practice patterns and outcomes.
  14. Evaluate methods to enhance adherence to recommended practice guidelines.
  15. Assess the impact of continuity of physical therapy services on outcomes.
  16. Describe patterns of physical therapy use and identify factors that contribute to variation in utilization.
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#### **VI. Workforce**

1. Examine the effects of staffing patterns on the outcomes of physical therapy.
  2. Assess productivity of physical therapists in various settings and identify factors (e.g., use of extenders, mandates) that contribute to variations in productivity.
  3. Identify and test the best methods to assess past, current, and future demand and unmet needs for physical therapy.
  4. Identify the demand for services among populations underserved by physical therapists.
  5. Determine factors that contribute to the retention of physical therapists across various settings and geographic regions.
  6. Determine factors that contribute to the retention of physical therapists across various settings and geographic regions.
  7. Determine the effectiveness of recruitment and retention initiatives in reducing the gap between supply and demand in various practice settings.
  8. Identify variables that influence the decision of whether or not to enter the physical therapy profession.
  9. Assess the impact of expanded scope of practice on supply and demand.
  10. Investigate the relationship between the distribution of physical therapists and population health outcomes.
  11. Examine the effects of workforce issues on career pathways (e.g., participation in residency, fellowship, research training).
  12. Examine the effects of participation in extended clinical training experiences on workforce.
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## **VI. Measurement Development and Validation**

1. Develop or adapt measures of effectiveness and impact of physical therapy at the community level.
2. Develop new tools or refine existing tools to measure the impact of physical therapy on activity, participation, and quality of life.
3. Provide evidence to guide selection and interpretation of measurement tools for specific purposes, conditions, and populations.
4. Develop and test a minimum set of measures to evaluate the process and clinical outcomes for specific conditions and populations.
5. Develop reliable and valid measures of cultural competence of physical therapy providers and students.
6. Determine how contemporary technology (e.g., ultrasound, gen array, magnetic resonance) can be used to measure the effects of injury/disease and physical therapy intervention on body structure and function.
7. Determine optimal measurement methods to enhance clinical decision making for specific conditions and populations.