A Message from the Program Director

Dr. Susan Wenker

Greetings Alumni and Friends,

Wow, what a year! This past year was filled with anticipation, growth, and reflection; the anticipation of meeting our Class of 2026, the growth of the program as it continues to evolve relative to the educational and social trends affecting our students, and reflection in what our program does well and how we can continue to improve it for our future program participants. All of our work is not possible without an incredibly strong group of talented people who discuss and challenge the norms, individually and collectively.

I would like to thank our students, faculty, and staff for their ongoing commitment and dedication to the PT program. Just as important, my appreciation goes out to our alumni for their continuing support. In this “InTouch” newsletter, we will be highlighting staff who are providing valuable behind the scenes support to the program. Our newsletter will also showcase the great work our students are actively engaged in plus the contributions of our faculty on a local, national, and international level. Finally, we will spotlight two of our valued donors.

It is hard to believe but we are already discussing plans to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the UW-Madison Physical Therapy program! I encourage each of you to go to https://go.wisc.edu/ptnews (see the link at the end of the newsletter also) to share your experiences including fond memories you have during your tenure in the program. Also, we love it when we reconnect with our alumni. Two alumni groups recently visited the program to reminisce about their time here. We welcome other alumni to stop and visit should your class be coming to town.

Faculty Updates

I, along with Dr. Evan O. Nelson were promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health (DFMCH). Dr. Jill Thein-Nissenbaum was promoted to full professor in DFMCH. Congratulations!! We are saying “good-bye” to Dr. Bryan Heiderscheit as he continues his impressive research and fully embraces his roles and responsibilities as the Frederick Gaenslen Professor in Orthopedics and Vice-Chair for Research for the Department of Orthopedics & Rehabilitation at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is also the Director of Research for UW Badger Athletic Performance. Thank you, Bryan, for your many contributions to the Program.

A Farewell Message from Dr. Bryan Heiderscheit

“This fall marks a career transition for me. After 20 fantastic years, I will no longer be teaching in the Physical Therapy Program due to increasing research and administrative responsibilities within the Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation. As the department’s vice chair of research, I will be working with other department and school leaders to advance the research mission while continuing to direct the Badger Athletic Performance program and provide patient care.

When the calendar flips to September, it will indeed feel odd to not be walking into a classroom. But I look forward to continuing to serve as a research mentor to the physical therapy students and as an advisor to those who opt to pursue a PhD. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the faculty and staff of the Physical Therapy Program both present and past as their support and friendship have been constant throughout the years, and to the many physical therapy students for entrusting me with a significant responsibility. I look forward to staying connected outside of the classroom.”

Meet the Program Staff

Sue Arneson is the Administrative Manager and has begun her 7th year with the department. Sue coordinates our fiscal and budget requirements with SMPH fiscal, maintains student scholarships and is the liaison with the WFAA, assists with the entry admissions process, coordinates department events and handles the day to day needs of the department.

Lisa Levy is the Recruitment and Program Assistant and is nearing 20 years with the Program. Her recruitment responsibilities include facility tours to prospective students, manages the Program social media platforms and plans Program events. As Program Assistant, she supports faculty in coordinating lab sessions, assists with semester guest lecture scheduling, proctors exams, and helps with anything else that may come up!

Deonna Suer is the Clinical Education Assistant and has been with the program for 3 years. Her responsibilities include assisting with onboarding requirements for students before clinical rotations, updating requirements along with affiliation agreements for clinical rotation sites, and compiling data in relation to the assessment of students and clinical instructors from sites. Deonna also monitors potential applicant requirements before being offered admission and facilitates recruitment efforts to increase exposure to physical therapy as a possible career choice for middle, high school, and college students.

Tim Jensen joined the DPT program in May 2022 and manages Educational Technology for the department. He works with faculty on all things tech related from setting up their course pages in Canvas to exams in the testing software. He also helps students with questions about tech usage and best practices. He’s part of a larger Ed Tech team in the Department of Informatics and Information Technology at SMPH.

Check out our website for additional information regarding all faculty and staff and join our Facebook and Instagram pages to see in real time what is happening in the Program.

http://www.med.wisc.edu/education/physical-therapy-program
Congratulations to the 2023 Graduates!

Best wishes to the Class of 2024 as they transition to their internships!

Class of 2025 has transitioned into DPT-2s!

Welcome Class of 2026!

Doctor of Physical Therapy Student Organization (DPTSO)

GOLF OUTING: In the fall of 2023, 34 golfers registered to golf with 7 local businesses sponsoring this annual fundraiser. Thank you to the class coordinators and volunteers! You continue the path for future successful golf outings!

2022-2023 Coordinators
Quenten Haack
Alex Shaw
Connor Lynn
Matt Anderson

2023-2024 Coordinators
Dalton Smerchek
Jake Garvey
Nathan Ng
Eric Soderberg

Volunteers
Vitoria Harris
Kevin Niksa
Claire Otto
Steve Kim
Katie Hands
Natalia Vander Zanden
Lauryn Wagner
Ally Wade
Emma Rutherford
Hannah Koziol
Gavin Harden
Evan Wetzel
Ben Zimmerman

A message from the Class of 2024 DPTSO President, Tyler Phan

“I am proud of what DPTSO has accomplished this [past] year and I will look back fondly on the memories that we have made together. Many professors have told me that they used to wonder if things would return to normal post-covid, and we set out to do just that. This past year, DPTSO has brought back the Brewers outing, we broke attendance records for Bucky’s Race for Rehab 2022, we introduced a new annual tree planting event named Project: Earth Day, and we have made the DPTSO Formal bigger and better, among other smaller events and fundraisers. My hope is that DPTSO has made an impact on our classmates’ PT school experience far beyond just what we have all learned in the classroom.”
2022-2023 DPTSO Board
President: Tyler Phan
Vice President: Julia Schiller
Treasurer: Alex Shaw
Secretary: Bailey Osborne
Public Relations: Sydney Petrofske

2023-2024 DPTSO Board
President: Gavin Harden
Vice President: Ethan Taylor
Treasurer: Katie Hands
Secretary: Jacques Sirois
Public Relations: Claire Otto

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/DPTSOUW

MEDiC Clinic
In 2022-2023, MEDiC transitioned from an appointment only to hybrid appointment and drop-in clinic. Many developments occurred to help create a strong foundation for PT MEDiC services. These changes included organizing and taking inventory of PT supplies, reaching out to local community centers for better advertising, and developing a community resource handout for any patients in the Madison area. Additionally, emphasizing interprofessional collaboration has been improving throughout the SMPH clinicians as more patients receive PT consults and take advantage of PT services after their medical appointments. Ultimately, the changes that have occurred this past year will set up MEDiC for even more success.

Thank you to all the community PTs who support student learning, we could not make MEDiC a success without you!

Community PTs
Brenna M.
Ger M.
Bringa J.
Megan A.
Stef H.
Zac L.
Zachary B.
Curt C.
Julie L.
Jim M.
Stacy H.
Sylvestra R.
Stephanie G.
Matt K.

2022-2023 MEDiC Officers
PT Clinic Coordinators: Joe Albrecht, Shae Giovanni, and Abby Angst
PT Liaison: Lindsay Gissler

2023-2024 MEDiC Officers
PT Coordinators: Liz Lansik, Chelsea Olson, and Jess Rosenau
PT Liaison: Victoria Harris

Pro Bono Clinic
In the 2022-2023 school year, The Dewane Neurorehabilitative Pro Bono Clinic provided care for a total of 19 patients in the fall semester and 18 in the spring semester. Many patients received care from more than one discipline (SLP, OT, and PT). There were over 100 volunteers across disciplines collaborating and providing care for the patients. The clinic finds itself with a few new fun pieces of equipment including a NuStep and Blazepods that get used every week by multiple patients. It was another great year in the clinic!

2022-2023 Clinic Coordinators
Volunteer Coordinator: Sydney Petrofske
Patient Coordinator: Nicole Warren
Outreach Coordinator: Kelly Stern
Resource Coordinator: Haley Neumann

2023-2024 Clinic Coordinators
Volunteer Coordinator: Natalia Vander Zanden
Patient Coordinator: Jake Garvey
Outreach Coordinator: Nathan Ng
Resource Coordinator: Mel Castillo

Advancing Diversity and Education in Physical Therapy (ADEPT)
2022-2023 was a fantastic year for ADEPT! They had various presentations on topics that the Class of 2023 and 2024 expressed curiosity about. Topics ranged from ableism, voting disparities, the criminal justice system, and more! Furthermore, ADEPT hosted presentations about the Physical Therapy profession for over 200 middle school students in the greater Madison area. Lastly, the ADEPT board created a foundation for our mentorship program for underrepresented students interested in Physical Therapy to help aid their journeys to PT school.

You can follow ADEPT on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/ADEPTUW.

2022-2023 ADEPT Council
Co-presidents: Allison Meyer and Muzzy Chaudhry
Secretary: Bailey Osborne
Communications Officer: Hannah Mark
Community Outreach Coordinator: Hannah Koziol

2023-2024 ADEPT Council
Co-presidents: Sarah Navin and Natalia Vander Zanden
Secretary: Tori Salaba
Communications Officer: Emily Draeger
Community Outreach Coordinator: Alicia Thone
**GOBABYGO (GBG)** was a huge success this year! Nine children received customized, adaptable ride-along cars for play and exploration of their environment. These cars are free for families due to a generous donation from UW Health. The program had 60 volunteers to help ‘build’ the cars, including DPT-1s, DPT-2s, OTO students, and an engineering student. All families were “very likely” to recommend GBG to another family, with one family even saying that they “appreciate the enthusiasm and love from the team” on the build day. The coordinators are grateful for the opportunity to plan and run GBG this year and thank Dr. Natalie for all her guidance this year!

**2022-2023 GBG Leads**
Coordinators: Sara Loevinger, Conner Lynn, Tyler Phan, Sarah Piacke, Julia Schiller, and Alex Shaw
Vice Faculty Liaison: Natalie Blonien
PTs Involved: Kelsey Konz and Natalie Blonien

**2023-2024 GBG Leads**
Marissa Gavioli, Lauren Brunke, Evan Wetzel, Mel Castillo, and Ally Wade

To see more photos and videos from our 2023 event, check out our Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/UWGoBabyGo/](https://www.facebook.com/UWGoBabyGo/).

**Only Leaves Should Fall**
In collaboration with Safe Communities of Dane County, PT students learn with, from, and by UW pharmacy students, UW nursing students, and Madison college Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant students to complete falls risks assessments each fall semester. PT faculty: Dr. Judy Dewane, Dr. Kristi Hallisy and Dr. Dobby Stucki

**Badger Honor Flight**
Caitlyn and I have had an awesome time being Badger Honor Flight coordinators over the past year and a half. The National Honor Flight Network is an incredible program that helps veterans from all over the country celebrate and honor their service and sacrifice. It has been extra special to be a part of the Madison Hub, allowing us and some of our classmates the opportunity to integrate and connect with our local community. As coordinators, we had the opportunity to interact with the guardians of veterans at training sessions where we teach safe transferring, stair and curb negotiation and wheelchair safety on ramps. However, the highlight of being coordinators is getting to be with Veterans on flight days during loading and unloading of the plane, even getting to be a part of the send-off and welcome home ceremonies. We are excited to pass along this role to Alicia Thone and Callie Aulik from the class below us this Summer so that UW Madison DPT Program can continue to honor our Veterans.

**2022-2023 Coordinators**
Stella Gillman and Caitlyn Hibner

**2023-2024 Coordinators**
Alicia Thone and Callie Aulik

**Native America Center for Health Professions**
Congratulations to Dr. Tashelle Peigan who was highlighted and supported through the Native America Center for Health Professions. To learn more about NACHP visit their website: [https://nachp.med.wisc.edu/](https://nachp.med.wisc.edu/).

**Congratulations to the following 2023 Scholarship Recipients!**
- **Barbara J. Morgan PhD Physical Therapy Scholarship Fund:** Elisha Ikhumhen
- **Moncher/Katz Scholarship:** Tori Salaba and Nathan Ng
- **Ridley Family Physical Therapy Scholarship:** Gavin Harden and Natalia Vander Zanden
- **Barbara Ellen Gerlich-Hoefeyzer Scholarship:** Marissa Gavioli
- **PT Student Scholarship:** Ethan Taylor
- **Mildred Harper Scholarship:** Alicia Thone
- **Caroline Harper Scholarship:** Molly Lecher
- **CM & CL Harper Scholarship:** Victoria Harris and Katie Hands
- **Margaret Kohli Scholarship:** Muzzammil Chaudhry, Hannah Koziol, Alex Shaw, and Abby Angst
Student News

- Ramaker/Budlong Scholarship: Mati Arndt and Tyler Phan
- UW Madison PT Alumni Coalition Scholarship: Nicole Warren
- Stephanie Joy (Graham) Lunning Scholarship: Bailey Osborne
- Jean L. Roland Scholarship: Kelsey Murphy and Allison Meyer
- Lemke Scholarship: Sarah Loenvinger

Congratulations to the following students in the Class of 2023 who were accepted into residencies!

Dr. Ramsey Benkert: Health Sports Physical Therapy Residency – University of Florida
Dr. Zach Lorbeck: Sports Physical Therapy – Gunderson Medical Foundation, La Crosse WI
Dr. Kaylie Nytes: UW Health and UnityPoint Meriter Orthopedic Physical Therapy Residency, at the Advanced PT & Sports Medicine Clinic in Appleton, Wisconsin.
Dr. Tashelle Peigan: Women’s Health Physical Therapy Residency – Duke University

APTA WI Honors and Awards

Dr. Daniel Deuel, Class of 2023: Student Emerging Leader Award and DEI Advocacy Award
Dr. Ramsey Benkert, Class of 2023: Student SIG (SSIG) Scholarships for Service: graduate
Tyler Phan, Class of 2024: APTA WI Student Representative at the APTA leadership congress in Washington, D.C.

Micah Wong Spirit Award
This award is peer driven through nominations and votes by DPT-1 and DPT-2 students. Nominees and awardees are individuals who embody Micah’s spirit. He was a fun, loving, and warm individual who drew people in.

DPT-1: Libby Westra
DPT-2: Sydney Petrofske

Instructional Assistant Awards

Anatomy 692
Gavin Harden
Katie Hands
Libby Westra

PT 501 Palpation Lab
Alicia Thone
Tori Salaba
Liz Lansing
Jonathon Fagan
Mel Castillo

2022-2023 Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Lend trainee: Julia Schiller

2023-2024 Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Lend trainee: Lauren Brunke and Abby Opatik

2023 Visiting Lecturer
This year the Physical Therapy Visiting Lecture Fund supported Dr. Mary Massery as the visiting lecturer. Dr. Massery educated students and community members about posture and breathing across the lifespan. Dr. Massery also provided her Linked Breathing and Posture: Part 1 CEU course to clinicians throughout Wisconsin and beyond.

Donor Profiles
We appreciate the support alumni, and their families, provide to the program. This year we highlight Dr. Barbara Morgan along with Judith G. Neigoff.

Dr. Barbara Morgan established the Barbara J. Morgan PhD Physical Therapy Scholarship Fund with the goal of improving access to PT education. Dr. Morgan was a faculty member in the PT program from 1991-2009 and recalls the support she received during her tenure as a faculty member and when she was completing her physical therapy education. Dr. Morgan’s goal is to support students of diverse backgrounds such that the physical therapy profession becomes more representative of the people therapists serve, providing for more equitable access to health care and improved patient outcomes.

Judith G. Neigoff established the Judith G. Neigoff Physical Therapy Scholarship Fund to help financially support the education of future generations of PT students and to create a legacy of supporting PT student’s involvement in State and National advocacy efforts that affect PT practice. Early in her career, she was politically active in passing direct access legislature in Illinois and years later served on the American Physical Therapy Association Arizona board to write rules and regulations regarding physical therapist assistant supervision. The scholarship was established to facilitate future physical therapists to continue the work of moving the profession forward.

These are only two examples of the wonderful support PT students receive from alumni. Thank you to Dr. Morgan and Judith Neigoff and all donors!

Financial support can be provided by visiting our “make a gift” webpage.
https://www.med.wisc.edu/education/physical-therapy-program/make-a-gift/
**Student Research**

**Gavin Hardin**, DPT2: Gavin is a Badger Athletic Performance program student researcher who is assisting with an ongoing project to identify risk factors for bone stress injuries in collegiate distance runners. The results of this project will contribute to developing bone-specific injury risk models, furthering our ability to identify runners who may be at risk for bone stress injuries and potentially intervene to reduce this risk. Gavin has contributed to compiling injury reports and processing biomechanical data and will work towards an abstract and potentially a manuscript over the next year. Gavin is also routinely assisting with preparation of post-injury and post-surgical performance reports for student-athletes from a variety of sports, which helps Badger Athletic Performance serve our student-athletes in a timely manner as well as gives Gavin additional exposure to biomechanical data and how it is leveraged for clinical decision-making.

**Marissa Gavioli**, DPT2: Marissa recently had a publication accepted to the journal of Brain Stimulation titled “Safe, Tolerability, and Feasibility of Remotely Instructed Home-Based Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation in Children with Cerebral Palsy”. This work is done with a team as part of Dr. Bernadette Gilick’s work in the Waisman Center Neuromodulation Laboratory.

**Tori Salaba**, DPT2: Tori is a Badger Athletic Performance program student investigator working on a project to evaluate the influence of visual disruption and dual-task conditions on hopping performance in active people with a history of ACL reconstruction. Most patients post-ACL reconstruction must pass a battery of strength, balance, and sport biomechanics assessments before being cleared to return-to-sport. However, current testing procedures are missing the visual motor and cognitive demands consistent with most sporting environments. Implementing return-to-sport tests that challenge the visual and cognitive systems may better assess return-to-sport readiness, and ultimately, reduce re-injuries. Tori contributes to subject recruitment, data collection and analysis, and going forward will contribute to interpretation and dissemination of results.

**Julia Schiller**, DPT3: Julia, in collaboration with Elizabeth Conrath, PT, DPT, PCS and Rebecca Huss, BSN, RN, presented research during the LEND Program in May 2023 titled “Investigation of Successful Recruitment Strategies in the NICU”. Their work is supported by the Pediatric Neuromodulation Lab.

**Jacques Sirois**, DPT2: Jacques is a Badger Athletic Performance program student investigator working on a project to evaluate the influence of visual disruption and dual-task conditions on hopping performance in active people with a history of ACL reconstruction. Most patients post-ACL reconstruction must pass a battery of strength, balance, and sport biomechanics assessments before being cleared to return-to-sport. However, current testing procedures are missing the visual motor and cognitive demands consistent with most sporting environments. Implementing return-to-sport tests that challenge the visual and cognitive systems may better assess return-to-sport readiness, and ultimately, reduce re-injuries. Jacques contributes to subject recruitment, data collection and analysis, and going forward will contribute to interpretation and dissemination of results.

**Dalton Smercheck**, DPT2: Dalton is a Badger Athletic Performance program student investigator working on a project assessing changes in vertical and joint stiffness during running and jumping following ACL reconstruction. This will provide new insight into the biomechanical loading strategies that athletes adopt post-ACLR. Vertical stiffness, in particular, may be a viable clinical target as it can be inferred from a single marker on the sacrum. Dalton has contributed to this project by processing running collections through our new musculoskeletal processing pipeline and compiling the data specific to this project. He has done some exploratory analysis on this data set and the work has led to an abstract submitted to CSM. He will continue to process and compile the dataset and will assist in drafting future conference abstracts and a potential manuscript.

**Ethan Taylor**, DPT2: Ethan is a Badger Athletic Performance program student investigator working on a project assessing the ability of 2D video analysis to detect asymmetries during running in athletes post-ACLR. Translating findings from 3D motion capture to the clinic is one of the greatest challenges of using this method, as it is not readily available in clinics. Findings from this project will determine if 2D measures of knee flexion angles and vertical center of mass displacement are useful in assessing movement mechanics in a traditional outpatient clinic. Ethan has contributed to this project by developing a protocol for 2D assessments using Kinovea (a free 2D video analysis tool) and has begun to process athletes’ videos for this project. Thus far, his protocol has demonstrated excellent intra-rater reliability. He will continue to contribute to this project by processing, compiling, and analyzing data and will assist in drafting of a conference abstract and a potential manuscript.

Ethan is also a student investigator with the Wisconsin Sports Injury Research Network assisting on a study that will compare injury rates in high school football players who wear Guardian Caps (exterior helmet padding) with players who do not wear these devices during the 2023 Wisconsin high school football season. This type of exterior helmet padding has been required to be worn by certain position group players by the NFL during the pre-season. As a result, an increasing number of high schools across the US are also requiring players to wear exterior helmet padding during practice sessions.

Last winter, Ethan assisted the study team by soliciting schools across Wisconsin to allow their players to take part in the study, enlisting the assistance of the high school athletic trainers to report data during the season and ensuring regulatory compliance for the study team. This summer, Ethan traveled to area school sites to meet with players, parents, and coaches to introduce the study and enroll participants. Currently, Ethan is assisting with data entry and editing and will assist the study team in summarizing and analyzing the data later in 2023.

This large, prospective cohort study has enrolled 2,600+ high school players from 42 Wisconsin high school football teams who will participate in an estimated 140,000 football exposures (practices and games) during the 2023 season. The results of this research will provide accurate data for various stakeholders (high school sport governing bodies across the US, secondary school administrators, coaches, players and their parents) regarding the efficacy of exterior helmet padding to reduce injuries in high school football.
Alicia Thone, DPT: Alicia is a Badger Athletic Performance program student investigator working on a project to compare different methods of assessing shoulder muscle performance and establish normative values for shoulder internal and external strength and endurance in healthy, active individuals. The results of this project will facilitate accurate interpretation of muscle performance assessments in injured athletes and lead to more specific, efficient, and standardized testing protocols for assessing shoulder muscle performance. Alicia has contributed to development of the testing protocol(s) utilized in this study, data collections and analysis, and going forward will contribute to interpretation and dissemination of results.

From PT student involvement in our Pediatric Neuromodulation Laboratory the following peer-reviewed presentations occurred in person at the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine 2023 annual conference in Chicago, IL in September 2023.

Veronika Mak MS, Lindsay Gissler BS, Alina Grimaldo, Julia Schiller BA. ‘The Winds of Change: Integrating Diversity into Pediatric Research Participation and Recruitment’

Preston Christopher BS, Brady Riedner PhD, Marissa Gavioli BS, Annika Bach BA, Chrysanthy Ikonomidou MD, PhD, Melissa Villegas MD, Bernadette Gillick PhD, Gwendolyn Nytes. ‘Rural Access to Pediatric Research Participation and Recruitment’

Faculty and Staff Updates

Natalie Blonien, DPT, NCS
I am entering my sixth year of teaching as a faculty associate and continue to enjoy coordinating the pediatric content for both 635 and 636 for Motor Control and Dysfunction with Dr. Dewane and co-teaching 675 integrative course with teaching faculty and alumnus Dr. Waner. I continue to expand my clinical practice and research opportunities in the multi-disciplinary neuromuscular disorders’ pediatric clinic at American Family Children’s Hospital. There continues to be excitement in treating children and adults with spinal muscular atrophy and we are fortunate to have a robust clinical trials department at the University. I am also assisting in Dr. Bernadette Gillick’s lab in her early Baby Brain Recovery study as a clinical evaluator. In my role service, I continue to serve as the PT faculty liaison to the Waisman Center for the LEND program, and as the Go Baby Go faculty coordinator. We had an incredibly successful Go Baby Go build from the spring with the continued support from American Family Children’s Hospital. Continue to follow our build events on our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/UWGoBabyGo. In my academic pursuits, I continue to explore the role of care coordination and presented a poster at the 2022 APTA Pediatric fall conference in Portland, OR on barriers and facilitators of care coordination among pediatric physical therapists across practice settings in the management of children with special health care needs. I also recently completed a book chapter on stroke rehabilitation for Conn’s Current Therapy, 2024 to be published soon. I look forward to a great 2023-2024 academic year!

Colleen Cobey, PT, MS, Ex Phys
My teaching appointment involves being the link between all three first-year semesters, with PT 501 Anatomical Applications in the summer, PT 527 Foundations of Examination and Evaluation in the fall, and PT 534 Therapeutic Interventions in the spring. In PT 527 we continue to utilize standardized patients for students to practice history taking and also the final inpatient practical experience through the UW Health Clinical Simulation Program. For my clinical appointment I provide physical therapy services throughout the year at University Health Services (UHS), which serves the students of UW as well as visiting faculty and their families. I am currently involved in a research project investigating if the goniometer and the inclinometer measure the same constructs at the ankle for dorsiflexion and plantarflexion. Finally, I also work with Reenie Euhardy, our former program admission director, and together we offer BLS certification training for our students and faculty in a new hybrid format which allows students to engage in the material online and then practice and successfully pass their hands-on skill portion in person.

Dr. Daniel Cobian
I am grateful for the ongoing opportunity to assume multiple roles as a scientist, clinician, and educator. I maintain a clinical physical therapy practice in Sports Rehabilitation at The American Center, instruct 1st year DPT students in biomechanics and therapeutic exercise courses and 2nd year DPT students in the research seminar series, provide rehabilitation consultation services to Wisconsin Athletics, and contribute to the research initiatives of the Badger Athletic Performance (BAP) program. In the past year I partnered with UW-Madison and Athletics colleagues to present educational sessions on early post-operative ACL rehabilitation at the APTA Combined Sections Meeting, was an invited speaker at the Mountain Land Running Medicine Summit in Park City, Utah, and delivered research & clinical presentations at ACL Study Day, the UW Sports Medicine Symposium, and spoke to the Ohio State Knee Outcomes Team and the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee Sports Medicine group.

I continue to serve in various roles for the American Academy of Sports Physical Therapy. I am a Research Committee member and contribute to CSM abstract reviews, and going forward will manage the Science-meets-Practice sessions. In addition to joining the Planning Committee, I again acted as the research coordinator for the AASPT Annual Meeting & Scientific Conference. Within UW, I am on the admissions committee for the UW Health Sports Physical Therapy residency, and serve as the primary research mentor for the Sports PT residents. Undergraduate and DPT students working under my direction contributed to a variety of projects and effectively presented our research at the APTA Combined Sections Meeting. This spring I was honored to receive the APTA Wisconsin Mentor Award, having been nominated by three of my previous students. Seeing mentored students develop clinical research skills and make meaningful contributions to the knowledge base in our field continues to be one of the most fulfilling aspects of my job.

I look forward to contributing to the didactic and clinical education of our most recent matriculating class of DPT students, along with continuing to expand my research agenda to assist our profession in understanding the neuromuscular implications of musculoskeletal trauma and how to best prescribe and dose rehabilitation interventions to facilitate improved outcomes and long-term quality of life.
Faculty News

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Manuscripts:

Cobian DG, Knurr KA, Snyder GE, Portillo JM, Joachim MR, Heiderscheit BC. Quadriceps and Hamstrings Rate of Activation during the Countermovement Jump is Reduced 6 Months Post-Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction. *Med Sci Sports Exerc.* (in review)


Abstracts:


Dr. Michael Cropes

My first year as a faculty associate has been incredible! I’ve loved my experiences teaching both first- and second-year students in professional seminar courses (PT 539 and 541) and Physical Agents (PT 521). I’d also like to thank Dr. Nelson and Dr. Hartman for inviting me to teach in the chronic pain unit of Clinical Medicine II (PT 665). I’m grateful to work alongside a wonderful interprofessional team at University Health Services (UHS), serving UW-Madison students and visiting faculty. Over the past year, our UHS PT team has collaborated with multiple departments to obtain new gym equipment, to expand the campus locations where PTs serve patients, and to develop interprofessional rehabilitation guidelines for patients with ACL injuries. In my role as DPT Program liaison to the UW Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education (CIPE), I’ve had the opportunity to collaborate with faculty members from diverse health professions programs, designing and implementing curricula rooted in the Quintuple Aim of 1) improved patient experience, 2) better outcomes, 3) lower costs, 4) clinician well-being, and 5) health equity. My experiences with CIPE have deepened my appreciation for “getting out of our silos” and embracing collaborative training and clinical practice patterns among health professionals.

In April 2023, I completed my training in the Northwestern University Fellowship in Advanced Orthopedic Physical Therapy Practice, Research, and Education. Upon completion, I became one of 36 Wisconsin physical therapists recognized as a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists (FAAOMPT). I’d like to thank my Fellowship Director, Carol Courtney, and the numerous mentors who supported my growth throughout the training process! Moving forward, I’m excited to continue my role as an instructor in the UW Health and UnityPoint Health-Meriter Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Residency Program, and to contribute to the advancement of residency and fellowship training throughout the physical therapy profession.

Dr. Jen Doster

I am grateful to have the opportunity to co-instruct PT 501 Anatomical Applications, PT 527 Foundations of Examination and Evaluation and PT 534 Therapeutic Interventions with Colleen Cobey and our various expert guest lecturers. I am currently completing Evidence in Motion’s Fellowship in Pain Science and continue to weave pain neuroscience education into the DPT-1 course curriculum. It is my hope that my clinical experience provides a bridge for the students to apply their didactic and laboratory work successfully during their clinical experiences. I also serve as a member of the DPT Admissions Committee and enjoy witnessing the talent and enthusiasm our program draws each year. I am not only invested in educating the next generation of physical therapists, but I am committed to fostering their compassion, empathy and self-care needed for a long healthy career.
Dr. Jeanne Duncan

2023 has been a year of re-establishing normal for me on many different levels including clinical education, teaching and clinic responsibilities and personal life with 2 teenagers! There never seems to be a dull moment in the Duncan house! I continue to coordinate and co-teach PT 523: Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Aspects of Physical Therapy in the 2nd year of the curriculum with Jim Carlson, MPT, Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Clinical Specialist (Class of 1999) and mentor of the VA Cardiopulmonary Residency program. We are excited to implement some new changes to the course based on student feedback to get more hands-on experience in the simulation center and at Madison College with the Respiratory Therapy Program. My clinic appointment remains at University Health Services where I am able to provide physical therapy services to students here on campus.

Dr. Sue Wenker and I hosted the APTA Credentialied Clinical Instructor Program on campus earlier this spring. With the newly revamped level one course content, we were excited to lead the participants through the 2-day course to improve their skills and knowledge of being a clinical instructor. I also enjoyed the connections made with these current and future CI’s.

I continue to be in the role as Academic Co-Chair position for the Clinical Education SIG for APTA Wisconsin. It is great to be more involved at that level to support and advance clinical education here in the state.

Clinical Education Corner

First, we would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to all who have taken a student, assisted with mentoring, and/or provided support to UW Madison DPT Clinical Education! The clinic is where theory meets reality and, without partners like you, our students would not experience the kinds of successes they do.

We are excited to have Dr. Michael Cropes as part of the clinical education team! Dr. Cropes has fully transitioned into the Assistant Director of Clinical Education role and, moving forward, he will take over responsibilities for the 2- and 4-week clinical placements. We are currently finalizing the site selection process for all placements for 2024. The process is both exciting and stressful for students and the clinical education team, as we must navigate meeting requirements and students’ specific needs. We plan to send out final communication to all facilities at the end of September for all matched placements for the 2024 calendar year.

Placement offerings for 2024 continue to be below pre-COVID levels, which is understandable for many reasons. We continue to look to our terrific alumni base to consider taking on future students. Clinicians, please let your Site Coordinator know if you are interested in taking a student, so they are informed when filling out the 2023 commitment form next spring. Should your facility not be a clinical partner with our program, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me at any time (duncan@pt.wisc.edu) to discuss the potential to create an agreement.

Deonna Suiter, PTA continues to work remotely from Alabama and while we do not get to see her much, we are truly grateful for her assistance behind the scenes. There have been many technological updates and upgrades in clinical education this year including our Exxat Database and the exciting new PT CPI 3.0. While it can be daunting at first to relearn systems and revamp processes, we feel that both upgraded systems will be great improvements moving forward. Despite some early glitches, we have already heard the PT CPI 3.0 takes less time to complete and it continues to be meaningful to address the assessment needs of students to ensure successful completion.

Thank you for your time and patience with these new systems! Once again, thank you to all who have offered placements and have educated our DPT students throughout the years. We appreciate all that you do for them and the Program. Without your partnership, our Program would certainly not be as successful!

Dr. Kristine Hallisy

Our UW-Madison Tai Chi Prime (TCP) research team is over 12 months into our 2-year Baldwin Wisconsin Idea grant. Phase 1 (TCP leader training) has certified numerous race-concordant TCP leaders who will begin delivery of the evidenced-based TCP falls prevention program to Milwaukee’s Latinx and African American/ black communities. Our Latinx community partner (CORE El Centro) is also benefiting from additional UW-Madison Institute for Clinical and Translational Research pipeline funding via a grant entitled Disseminating and Implementing Inclusive Tai Chi Prime to Latinx Communities. This funding will support Spanish translation of TCP educational materials and videos for a Latinx version of the TCP program.

Invited Research Presentations – National/International

2023 Hallisy KM, Salihu E, Chewning B. Two-year Participatory Planning Model to Adapt and Disseminate Inclusive Tai Chi Prime in African American/Black and Hispanic Communities (Phase 1). The Science of Tai Chi and Qigong as Whole-Person Health. Osher Center for Integrative Medicine, Boston, MA (Oral Abstract Research Report, September 19, 2023).


State and Regional CME

2023 Hallisy KM. Doctors of Physical Therapy: The ‘Other’ Good Hands People. APTA-Wisconsin, Student SIG, Student Conclave, Carroll University, Waukesha, WI
Each year here at UW, PT comes with new opportunities and this past year has not disappointed. I found myself up in front of students more often with the addition of a couple of seminar courses on top of my current teaching responsibilities (PT 664/5 and PT 512). In addition to my classroom teaching, I am coordinating more of the domestic and international experiential learning opportunities in the curriculum. I really enjoy seeing our students immerse themselves in the community and it gives me great joy to see students gain a greater appreciation and understanding of the amazing work that is being done around the world. My hope is that they graduate with a greater sense of purpose and inspiration and go on to use their knowledge and skills not only to serve the person in front of them but also the larger community both around the corner and around the world. I believe UW PT has been a leader in experiential learning for a very long time and I am honored to carry on that tradition.

My service to the University, Program, and Profession consumes a significant part of my time but continues to be very fulfilling. A highlight of my year was traveling to Jamaica to visit the University of West Indies (UWI) Physical Therapy Program. UWI is one of the premier academic institutions in the Caribbean and their PT program trains most of the PTs in the region. We hope to work together in some capacity in the near future.

My scholarship continues to move along. I was able to co-author several papers for publication ranging in topics from Global Health ethics, to identifying students who want to work in medically underserved communities and critical service learning. I also have a paper co-authored with a couple of clinicians from the community that has been accepted for publication in the Wisconsin Medical Journal looking at the concept of providing physical therapy services in the emergency department. A practice that several hospital systems in Dane County have adopted and has finally come to fruition at UW Health with one of our alumni leading the way.

By far, the highlight of my year was having the privilege to present alongside colleagues from South Africa, Suriname, India, and Norway during a focused symposium at the World Physiotherapy Congress in Dubai. The symposium was on the interdependent relationships between environment, health and physical therapy and how physical therapy education programs are addressing these in their curricula.

It’s hard to believe another year is over which means another cohort is moving on to bigger and better things and my three girls are getting older as well! Havana is seven years old and heading into second grade and Hana and Maya are 4.5 years old. It’s never a dull moment in our house and I wouldn’t want it any other way!

Dr. Jeff Hartman

Dr. Evan Nelson

In the coming year, I will be involved with a number of projects that will disseminate findings from work done at the University of Wisconsin the past few years. I am working with the UW pediatric sports medicine research group to develop a novel measure of sport specialization in youth athletes. Over the past 3 years, the group has worked to develop a psychometrically robust measure of sport specialization that is relevant to the current reality of sport participation in the United States. The results of our work will be released in the coming year. Over the past year, I’ve developed a community-academic partnership with the Waunakee Community School District Track and Field Team (W). This growing partnership aims to develop new methods to prospectively monitor training and examine the relationship with running-related injuries in high school runners. This unique partnership allows us to conduct research using wearable device and emerging technologies for athlete monitoring. Ultimately this partnership intends to enable faster dissemination of contemporary running medicine research into the high school athletic environment. I received a Fellowship from the Morgridge Center for Public Service to support this work.

Peer-Reviewed Publications


Hartman, J; Dholakia. An exploratory study of physical therapists from high-income countries practicing outside of their scope in low and middle-income countries. Journal of Bioethical inquiry (Accepted for publication, 2023. JBIN-D-22-00061R1.)

 Peer-Reviewed Manuscripts


Dr. Jeff Hartman

Community Teaching – Invited Presentations


Service Activities – School of Medicine and Public Health

2023 Member, Injury Prevention Community Health Improvement Strategy (CHIS) Advisory Committee, UW Hospitals and Clinic Authority Board. CHIS Chair: Mary R. Lauby, Injury Prevention Coordinator, Level I Trauma Center, UW-Health.

Dr. Evan Nelson

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Peer-Reviewed Manuscripts


Conference Abstracts & Presentations:

**Nelson EO.** It’s not a popularity contest: Implementing student course evaluations that focus on learning. UW-Madison Teaching & Learning Symposium 2023. Madison, WI


**Nelson EO, Tauferner S.** Getting the right picture at the right time: diagnostic imaging referrals for the sports PT. 2022 American Academy of Sports Physical Therapy Annual Meeting & Scientific Conference. Indianapolis, IN.

**Dr. Jill Thein-Nissenbaum, PT, DSc, ATC**

Hello!

Thank you for giving all of us the opportunity to share some updates with you via this newsletter. Most recently, I was promoted to full professor. I am so appreciative and grateful for all of the support of my PT faculty members as well as colleagues in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health. It really does take a village!

I will start my 15th season with Badger Sports Medicine and UW Athletics this fall. I continue to see athletes from all 23 sports. I am fortunate enough to collaborate daily with athletic trainers, strength and conditioning coaches and team physicians and the other PT, Bailey Lanser, PT, ATC, SCS (UW-DPT ’19). The amount of collaboration and exchange of knowledge that happens on a daily basis between the athletic trainers and the physical therapists is really, in my opinion, the way all health care should be. We recognize each other’s strengths, and everyone is willing to learn from each other. We all become better health care professionals because of this amazing relationship.

In addition to my classroom teaching, I have continued to teach a 2-semester Sports PT elective. This has been something that the students have requested for a few years, and the interest has continued to grow. This is an opportunity to expose the students to interventions that are commonly seen in the clinic, but not necessarily mainstream enough to be taught in a physical therapy curriculum. These concepts include interventions such as dry needling, blood flow restriction, and assisted soft tissue mobilization. The feedback has been positive, and we will continue to modify the course based on student feedback.

With regards to recent publications, I had an opportunity to collaborate with other physical therapists in the Big 10 who work in college athletics. We created a survey for physical therapists who work in college athletic training rooms to obtain a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities. Our data was recently published. It was wonderful to collaborate with my peers in the Big 10.

An additional publication came from data that was collected by several of my colleagues and me working on a research study designed by Tamara Scerpella, MD. We were able to publish some of our long-term findings regarding adolescent female bone acquisition. I am extremely grateful to have the opportunity to collaborate with Dr. Scerpella on this study!

**Publications:**

Zarro M, Silverson O, Soensken W, Thein-Nissenbaum J, Cataldo E, Rowland R, Staker J. Roles and responsibilities of the physical therapist in collegiate athletics: Results of a national survey. JISPT. Published online October 1, 2022:1128-1135.


Howlett B, Thein-Nissenbaum JM. High Altitude Illness: Recognition, Diagnosis and Management. Conn’s Current Therapy; 2023. (in review)

**Presentations:**

Bone health throughout the lifespan. Wisconsin Physical Therapy Association State Meeting, Wisconsin Dells, WI. October 7, 2022.


Female adolescent bone acquisition: fostering healthy bones for a lifetime. Invited 2-day exchange as Visiting Lecturer, Penn State University, State College, PA. April 20-21, 2023.

**Dr. Sue Wenker**

I am excited to share that I was promoted to associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, a big relief following a year of change. I am continuing to learn in the role of the director of the program and enjoy having completed the cycle at least once! In addition to my administrative roles, I am currently the interim-director of the UW Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education (CIPE) and received the news that I will be co-PI on another grant with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to expand the UW CIPE Healthy Aging Initiative to develop an interprofessional program for health profession students regarding brain health. Through the work of Badger Talks, opportunities to educate caregivers of people living with dementia along with share pearls around exercise for the aging adult. Additionally, I was recognized as a Scholarly Fellow for the National Academy of Practice, consulted with the American Physical Therapy Association Geriatric Academy regarding the hybridization of the Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults series, and, most recently, initiated training to become an onsite reviewer for the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.

**Dr. Jill Thein-Nissenbaum, PT, DSc, ATC**
Invited Research Presentations

Nelson EO, Hartman J, Wenker SL. Designing meaningful course assessments for physical therapy education. UW Madison SMPH Medical Education Day, Madison, WI, health profession students. 2022

Steinkamp L, Wenker SL, Duncan J. Recognizing and Managing Microaggressions in the Clinical Learning Environment. UW Madison SMPH Medical Education Day, Madison, WI, health profession students. 2022

Nelson EO, Hartman J, Wenker SL, Sesto M. Designing meaningful course assessments for physical therapy education. APTA Combined Sections Meeting, San Antonio, TX, physical therapy professionals and students. 2022

Steinkamp L, Wenker SL, Duncan J. Recognizing and Managing Microaggressions in the Clinical Learning Environment. APTA Combined Sections Meeting, San Antonio, TX, physical therapy professionals and students. 2022


Peer-reviewed Presentations


Wenker, SL; Khalili, HK; Hawley, KS; Smith, KO; Development of the UW-Madison Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education Healthy Aging Initiative (UW CIPE-HAI) to Create Interprofessional Education Experiences. Med Ed Day. 2023


Dual Degree (Master’s Degree in Public Health and Doctor of Physical Therapy Program)

The UW Madison is only one of five programs in the United States allowing students an efficient and cost-effective way to blend the outcomes of both programs. We are in the third cycle of the Dual Degree MPH/DPT match. Dr. Daniel Deuel graduated in 2023, Allison Myers is currently completing her last year in both programs, and Elisha Ikhumhen finished his first year in the MPH program and is currently a DPT-1 student.

Alumni Updates

Madeline Ogles (Waite), 1994 – I just completed the Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy through the College of St. Scholastica in December 2022. This has been an item on my to-do list for over 15 years. It’s great to be a Badger-Saint!

Allison Hodgson (Gabrielson), DPT, was selected by the APTA as a 2022 recipient of the Emerging Leader Award. Allison will be one of 32 members who will be recognized in the November issue of APTA Magazine. The Emerging Leader Award was established to annually honor individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary service to the profession and APTA early in their careers.

Brett Roberts (2002), PT received the Recognition of Legislative Commitment Award from the APTA.

2023 Margaret E. Kohli Award
Congratulations to Dr. John “JD” Garbrecht, PT, DPT, recipient of the 2023 Margaret E. Kohli award for outstanding alumni contributions. Dr. Garbrecht is a proven clinical and administrative leader at multiple shore and operational commands with over 35 years of enlisted and officer service within the United States Marine Corps and United States Navy. He is an organized and visionary leader who has been instrumental in setting up multiple human performance, rehabilitation, and resiliency programs within the Department of Defense to include the Marine Special Operations Command Performance and Resiliency program and later the Preservation of the Forces and Family program (POTFF) as well as several facilities treating critically wounded service members and aiding in their recovery. The number of lives Dr. Garbrecht has positively affected is unable to be calculated — congratulations Dr. Garbrecht!

The Class of 1983 celebrated their 40th anniversary with a visit to campus including attending the Badger football game and visiting the physical therapy program at the Medical Sciences Center. Contact Sue Arneson at skarneson@pt.wisc.edu if you are interested in hosting an alumni event or to schedule a tour of the physical therapy program.

Alumni Donations
Would you like to have a legacy impact on the UW-Madison DPT Program? Bequests, or gifts from estates, Life Income gifts (the donor makes a gift and receives an income for life), and gifts of real estate can have a tremendous impact on the UW Physical Therapy Program. Planned Gifts may be given to support students (scholarships and unique learning opportunities), faculty, research, and programs. For more information on naming the PT program as a beneficiary of your will, to find out which assets make the most tax-efficient bequest to charity, and to be inspired by the stories of your fellow alumni who have created planned gifts please contact Jill Watson at jill.watson@supportuw.org or 608-262-4632. Please see https://www.med.wisc.edu/education/physical-therapy-program/make-a-gift/ for descriptions on ways to donate on-line.

Most recently, the PT program created a Rural Scholarship to defray student costs when completing internships in rural areas. The Program’s goal is to provide clinical experiences in rural areas to increase the number of students choosing jobs in rural communities after graduation.

To contribute to any of the scholarship funds visit the “Give a Gift” tab on our webpage.

Let’s keep In Touch!
We love hearing from our alumni!

Drop us an email to let us know of any news you’d like to share with us at: https://go.wisc.edu/ptnews
Also, you can keep up-to-date with the program on our Facebook page: https://bit.ly/2Z6ReTe
Instagram: @uwdptprogram
DPT Honor Roll
July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

$500 +
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Suzann K. Campbell
Pamela F. Carlson
Collette L. Engerson
King-Sze I. Fung
John D. Garbrecht
Rebekah Griffith
Shirley M. and Berdean D. Jergenson
Mitchell L. and Cheryl Jordan
James W. Leonard
Vicki and James Lundeen
Elizabeth M. Petty and Karen K. Milner
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Julie T. O’Connell
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$1 - $99
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Jacob J. Bliefemicht
Sarah L. Burdick
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Catherine S. and Richard L. Easterday
Ellen M. and Scott Ferris
Craig A. Gehrke and Nancy E. Olson
Lois H. Harrison
Amy Hulbert
Curtis J. Jevens
Bartholomew D. and Colleen M. Lanahan
Kathleen A. Moriarty
Janice A. Pauc
Thomas B. Murphy and Nancy J. Peterson
Jodee L. Plazek
Helen Wahlstrom Stratton
Todd M. and Susan Stuebe
Christina A. Wipperman
Please visit the following website for descriptions of these funds and ways to donate on-line:

https://www.med.wisc.edu/education/physical-therapy-program/make-a-gift

- **Physical Therapy General Fund** (132301343)
- **Physical Therapy Student Scholarship Fund** (132583031)
- **Mary McKinney Edmonds Fund** (recruitment and support for students who are under-represented in medicine) (112583323)
- **Janet Lemke Fund** (for research) (132584234)
- **Visiting Lecture Fund** (132301395)
- **DPTSO General Fund**