



# PHYSICAL THERAPY TODAY

## ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Summer 2007



*We have a new Director!*



### Message from Dr. Austin Agho, Dean-School of Health Professions and Studies:

It is with great pleasure that I announce the appointment of Dr. Donna Fry as the Director of the Physical Therapy Department in the School of Health Professions and Studies effective July 1, 2007. Dr. Fry has been the interim director since July of 2006.

Dr. Fry joined the University of Michigan-Flint in 1987 as a lecturer and was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1998. In 2004, Donna was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. She has a strong record of teaching and has often been an early adopter of new technology to enhance student learning in the classroom.

Donna has an outstanding record of service to the university. She values working in the stimulating academic environment provided by UM-Flint and believes service to the community, University and profession is a privilege. She served on several university-wide committees including Budget Priorities/Chancellor Advisory Council (BP/CAC), Academic Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC), Faculty Council, and Academic Computing Advisory Committee and chaired ad hoc committees/task forces on distance learning, general education, and accreditation.

Dr. Fry has a national reputation for her expertise in physical therapy for persons with multiple sclerosis (MS). She has conducted research on therapeutic interventions for persons with MS, contributed to national guidelines for treatment of MS, and has been an invited speaker on this topic at national and international conferences. Dr. Fry serves as a reviewer for four respected research journals including *Physical Therapy*, *Journal of Physical Therapy Education*, *Journal of Neurologic Physical Therapy*, and *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*. She also enjoys reviewing books on neuroscience and physical therapy research for *CHOICE*, a magazine of the American Medical Library Association.

Please join me in welcoming and congratulating Donna on her new appointment. She can be reached at 303 East Kearsley Street, William S. White Building, Flint, Michigan 48502-1950; phone number 810-762-3373; or at [donnafray@umflint.edu](mailto:donnafray@umflint.edu)

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## Faculty Accolades

We are very excited to publicly recognize two of our faculty for their recent professional achievements. Congratulations to **Dr. Edgar Torres** who was awarded his DSc degree from Rocky Mountain University in May. His studies focused on orthopedics with his dissertation entitled "Effect of Anchoring and Object Symmetry on Visual Estimates of Angles" conducted to gain insight into the factors that contribute to accuracy of visual estimation of joint angles. Edgar is already advancing his career and has been promoted to Clinical Assistant Pro-

fessor. He continues his work as Director of Physical Therapy for the Urban Health and Wellness Center in our school and looks forward to conducting clinical research in the Center in the near future.

**Dr. Cindy Pfalzer** was just named a Catherine Worthingham Fellow of the APTA! So she now gets to add more alphabet soup after her name, FAPTA. This honor has only been bestowed on two other physical therapists in the state of Michigan, Dr. Richard Darnell and Dr. Beverly Schmolli, so Cindy has joined a highly select group of physical therapists.

The APTA Catherine Worthingham Fellow is awarded to physical therapists who are nationally recognized among their peers as advancing the profession of physical therapy in the area of research, education or practice. Cindy has contributed to the profession for many years through extensive service both at the MPTA and APTA levels serving in many elected leadership roles. Cindy is widely recognized as an expert for her extensive research on rehabilitation of patients with cancer. She is frequently asked to lecture on oncology rehabilitation at a wide variety of national and international meetings.

**Congratulations Cindy!**

# Research

## News from the Department

### *Presentations, Publications and Awards . . .*

#### **Student Research**

“Exercise Training Effects in African-American Women and Caucasians During Radiation Treatment for Breast Cancer” Adams J, Kim S, Kline J, Drouin JS, Birk TJ. Platform: World Congress for Physical Therapy; Vancouver BC June 2007.

“Physical Therapy Utilization in the Hospice and Palliative Care Setting in Michigan” Berg A, Martin K, Onowu N, Thomas B, Drouin JS. Platform: Michigan Hospice and Palliative Care Organization - Annual Conference, Bay City, Michigan May 2007 and Michigan Home Health Association - Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 2007.

“Treatment of Individuals with Cancer: An Examination of Practice Patterns in Michigan” Lisa Bush, Heather Vaughn, Cynthia Kus, Marquitta Breedlove, & Jessica Mercer; DPT Candidate Research. Platform: American Physical Therapy Association Combined Sections Meeting, Boston, MA, February 2007 Awarded: Recogni-

tion Certificate: Runner Up, National Oncology Student Research Award 2007. “Interest in pro bono physical therapy: A survey of licensed physical therapists in Genesee and northern Oakland counties.” Torres E, Coker C, Gregor MA. Poster presented at the Michigan Physical Therapy Association Annual Meeting. Rochester Hills Michigan, October 2006.

“A three-month pilot health promotion and exercise program in cancer survivors to improve endurance and health-related quality of life.” Pfalzer L, Floros D, Hoppe J, Rexer P, Westover J, Cowdery J, Fry D, Kincaid C. Poster: World Confederation for Physical Therapy conference, Vancouver, Canada. June 2-6, 2007.

“A three-month health promotion and exercise program in cancer survivors to improve strength, function, and health-related quality of life.” Pfalzer L, Blum S, Skokan M, Kneller S, Nahs S, Cowdery J, Kincaid C, Fry D. Poster: World Confed-

eration for Physical Therapy conference, Vancouver, Canada. June 2-6, 2007.

“Computerized Tapping Tests of Dexterity in People with Multiple Sclerosis.” Fry D, Barden A, Feaster S, Sebold C. Poster Presentation: Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers Annual Meeting, Scottsdale, AZ. June 2, 2006 and Michigan Physical Therapy Association Annual Meeting, Rochester, MI. October 14, 2006.

“Body Weight Support Treadmill Training in Patients with Multiple Sclerosis.” Poster Presentation: Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers Annual Meeting, Scottsdale, AZ. June 2, 2006 and Michigan Physical Therapy Association Annual Meeting, Rochester, MI. October 14, 2006. Scharzter M, Brandt A, Bomia K, Scott H, Przybylski J, Fry D. Awarded: Labe C. Scheinberg Award from the Consortium for Multiple Sclerosis Centers. Awarded: Michigan Physical Therapy Association Student Research Poster Presentation Award.



#### **Faculty Search**

We are currently seeking interested candidates to fill two faculty positions due to recent retirements. Both of these positions are tenure track full time appointments. If you or anyone you may know might be interested in joining our faculty, please have them contact Becky Rodda at (810) 762-3373 or email brodda@umflint.edu

**We hope  
you'll join us!**

#### **Faculty Research**

“Early Diagnosis and Treatment Intervention for Lymphedema.” Washington FA, Gergich NL, Pfalzer LA, McGarvey CL. NIH Poster Day, NIH, Bethesda, MD, August 2006.

“Pre-operative assessment improves early diagnosis and treatment of lymphedema: a case-control series.” Soballe PW, Gergich N, Washington F, Pfalzer L, McGarvey CL. Society of Surgical Oncology 60th Annual Cancer Symposium, Washington DC, March 15-18, 2007.

“Pre-operative assessment improves early diagnosis and treatment of lymphedema: a case-control series.” Soballe PW, Gergich N, Washington F, Pfalzer L, McGarvey CL. Twenty Second Annual National Naval Medical Center Academic Research and Case Report Competition. National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD, April 6, 2007.

“Healthy Aging: Eating Better and Moving More.” Steve Banks, Lucinda Pfalzer, Donna Fry, Becky Rodda, Laura LoVasco. Platform Presentation: Michigan Area Agencies on Aging Conference, Lansing, Michigan. May 31, 2007.

“Pre-operative assessment improves early diagnosis and treatment of lymphedema: a case-control series.” Gergich NL, Washington FA, Pfalzer LA, McGarvey CL, Soballe PW. 15<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the World Confederation of Physical Therapy (WCPT). Vancouver, Canada, June 2-8, 2007. WCPT Conference Proceedings. Physiotherapy 2007;93(Suppl 1): S264, Abstract no. 29-05.

## News from our Alumni!

### U of M-Flint DPT ALUMNUS WRITES BOOK ABOUT EXPERIENCES AS BRAIN TUMOR PATIENT

SAN DIEGO, CA In September 2005 U of M-Flint alumnus Eric Galvez (DPT 2003) was diagnosed with a golf ball sized meningioma between the brain stem and cerebellum. In the following months he had a craniotomy, radiation therapy, and a lengthy dose of physical, occupational, and speech therapy. "I was put in a very unique position because I had surgery and rehab where I used to work. The people I used to work side by side with were now treating me as a patient!" said Galvez. "I was keeping a blog ever since I moved to San Diego, so the book is based on my personal blog. PT school prepared me for all the physical impairments I would be up against in rehab, but I had no idea what to expect as a patient. As a PT we only see patients on our

'scheduled time'. It made me realize the extent of the 'extracurricular challenges' a patient has to deal with. This project details my thoughts and emotions during the time waiting for surgery and all the treatments associated with being a patient. I decided that when I got out of the hospital, I should share my experiences with students and patients. The perspective of a young active male patient with a medical background is very rare." Eric will be in Flint 10/5 for a brief lecture and book signing event at the U of M Flint campus bookstore. Stop in and see Eric! You are also invited to visit his web site for more information about the book and future events.

[www.ericgalvezdpt.com](http://www.ericgalvezdpt.com)



#### \*\*\*\*\* Development Update - Annual Telefund and Congratulatory Gifts \*\*\*\*\*

It might not surprise you that between the Annual Telefund and the retirement of both Paulette Cebulski and Cindy Kincaid the Physical Therapy Department has raised over \$12,000 in the 06/07 Fiscal Year. A special thank you to Paulette Cebulski for assisting with the P.T. pre-call mailing, and also to Cindy Kincaid for her help. Cindy designated gifts in honor of her retirement to the Paulette Cebulski Scholarship so it could be endowed.

Many others gave their support to the Dick Darnell Endowment Fund, Virginia Wilson Memorial Fund, Student Research Fund, Student Emergency Fund, and the Unrestricted Fund. It would also be appropriate to acknowledge other scholarships and funding sources within the Physical Therapy Department like the Fry Physical Therapy Student Assistance Fund, Wendy Frost-LaFontaine Memorial Scholarship, Coleman J. Ross Jr. & Lois R. Ross Scholarship, and Ernestine R. Smith, Ph.D. MPH P.T. Scholarship. Without our friends, faculty, staff, and alumni, the achievements within the Physical Therapy Program may not have come to fruition.

Enclosed in the newsletter (see page 4) is a list of the generous donors who gave a much needed gift this year. If you did not see your name and you gave a gift please let us know so we can add your name in the next newsletter. As the new major gift officer for the School of Health Professions and Studies I would be remiss if I didn't mention there are many ways to support the UM-Flint Physical Therapy Department. Please feel free to contact me anytime if you're interested in supporting the fine work of the UM-Flint Physical Therapy Department. I can be reached at [staedend@umflint.edu](mailto:staedend@umflint.edu) or by telephone at 810-767-1459. We look forward to hearing from you and thank all of you again for your ongoing support. Giving a gift to the Physical Therapy Department is a way to touch many students, and to make a meaningful difference in their lives.

Stacey Doyle  
Major Gift Officer

## Another Successful Telefund Year!

### Leadership Level

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Kincaid, Cynthia  
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Murdock, Richard

### Friend Level

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Carron, Gretchen

### Colleague Level

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Bennett, S. Pamela  
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Blackwood, Jennifer  
Boright, Lori  
Boselli, Kathleen  
Bourey, Ann  
Bourque, Susan  
Boynnton, Lynda  
Budaj, Diane  
Campbell, John  
Chlopan, Lynda  
Davenport and Associates  
Denholm, M. Denise  
Deremo, Edwin  
Deremo, Charlyn

Dilla, Charles  
Doyle, Cindy  
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Elwell, Katherine  
Erickson, Melissa  
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French, Robert  
French, Lucy  
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Graham, Marilyn  
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Gross, Barry  
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Hamilton, Jason  
Hamilton, Carrie  
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Hinterman, Carolee  
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Hoover, Christopher  
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Keeler, Sylvia  
Kowalski, Ann

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Mumford, Lisa  
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Olsen, Linda  
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Roller, Michelle  
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Shannon, Craig  
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Stansberry, Sue  
Stuedle, Ellen  
Struble, Dana  
Susan, Catherine  
Susuki, Michelle  
Suwinski, Peggy  
Takemoto-Buckles, Judith  
Taylor, Catherine  
Turcotte, Diane  
Varghese, Reeba  
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**Thank you very much!**

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Please send this form to the Physical Therapy Dept at the University of Michigan-Flint, 303 E. Kearsley St., 2157 WSWB, Flint, MI, 48502 or e-mail Reva Kidd at rpeariso@umflint.edu with the above information if you are willing to serve in this capacity.

## COMMENTS FROM ALUMNI FORM

If you would take a minute to fill out the following information, and/or attach an additional page, we would like to share this information in future newsletters. If you have updates on name or address changes that you want us to know for your file, we would appreciate hearing from you on an ongoing basis. In either case, please send this information to: Physical Therapy Department, University of Michigan-Flint, 303 E. Kearsley St., Flint, MI 48502.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Yr. of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

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What would you like us to share about you in the alumni newsletter (where do you work, position, education, professional activities, awards, marriage, family, children, etc)?

### **M** ALUMNI TELEFUND **FLINT**

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\* If your employer is a matching gift company, please contact your human resources office and send us the appropriate forms.

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**Thank You!**

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