FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR

One of the most impactful quotes attributed to John F. Kennedy is one that he actually never delivered. As part of a speech that was to be given on that fateful day in Dallas in November 1963, the president’s remarks were to include, “Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.” In other words, both are intrinsically linked — you can’t have one without the other.

At the Emory Division of Physical Therapy every faculty member is committed to training not just the world’s brightest, most skilled physical therapists, but the most bold, innovative leaders in our field. In a health care system that is increasingly complex, where caregivers are expected to do much more with significantly less resources, we are challenging our students to fill the leadership gap to ensure that no matter how difficult external factors become, patient care is never compromised. That means developing physical therapists who are adept in business and can help a practice respond to community need by spearheading growth and innovation. It also involves teaching our PTs to be leaders in developing and improving public health policy.

In 2010, Emory DPT became one of the first physical therapy programs in the country to adopt a dual degree program. Since then, 18 students have earned a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Emory along with either an MBA or MPH. In conjunction with the physical therapy degree, we also offer a PhD in Applied Physiology from the Georgia Tech School of Biosciences or a Master of Arts in Biotechnology.

In this issue of Emory Physical Therapy, we are pleased to chronicle the careers of five of those dual degree graduates. While those papers highlight some of those fun activities such as lunch-time trivia, yoga, group walks or a night out at a professional sporting event.

And finally, please make sure to read about some individuals within the Emory DPT family who are making a major positive impact in the field of physical therapy research. On page 5, we highlight the impressive research efforts of Emory DPT alumnus Michael Ellis who was recently awarded a prestigious National Institutes of Health Research Project Grant (R01) for his groundbreaking research that could improve the lives of stroke victims. We are so proud of Michael and hope you are as inspired by his remarkable career at Northwestern University as we are.

On page 8, we chronicle the collaborative projects that Emory faculty members Mark Lyle and Peter Sprague are working on that have the potential to change the standard of care in the treatment of patients who have had ACL reconstructions.

As we celebrate the many Emory DPT graduates who are enjoying success around the world, this summer, we welcomed the class of 2023, comprised of 72 students from 31 states, China and Korea and representing 52 universities and 24 undergraduate majors.

I hope you enjoy this publication and sincerely thank you for your continued support of the Emory Division of Physical Therapy.

Best wishes,
Marie Johanson, PT, PhD
Professor and Interim Director

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EMORY Physical Therapy

IN THIS ISSUE FALL 2019

FEATURE STORY
Emory DPT Dual Degree Students Making Impact 2
Meet five dual degree graduates experiencing success in and out of the clinic.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
Ellis Awarded Prestigious RO1 Grant 5
’03 Emory DPT graduate Michael Ellis becomes leading rehabilitation researcher.

CENTER SPREAD
Bringing the Fun Back to Graduate School 6
Emory DPT faculty and students collaborate to promote fun and wellness.

NEW PROGRAM
New DPT Mentorship Program a Huge Hit 9
In first semester of new Emory DPT mentor program, 110 students sign up.

RESEARCH
Emory Faculty Members Work to Change Standard of Care 10
Lyle and Sprague project could improve outcomes for ACL surgery patients.

AND MORE . . .
Departmental Awards 11
Student Awards 12
Alumni & Faculty Notes 13

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PHILIP IKOKU: A RISING STAR IN THE BOARDROOM
Since graduating from Emory with dual DPT/MBA degrees in 2016, Philip Ikoku has spent his entire professional career working with large hospitals and health systems throughout the country in the areas of strategic and capital planning and value-based care. Despite not being a practitioner, Ikoku, who is the director of business development at the St. Louis-based Tamoris, has no regrets about his three-year journey completing his Doctor of Physical Therapy degree at Emory and still sees himself as a physical therapist. 

“I adopt a philosophy that my family has that says there’s no wasted experience when you’re advancing yourself in the educational realm and doing something you love,” Ikoku says. “I gained a ton of perspective, ability and knowledge in the PT program and led my love for clinical science and interpersonal interaction.”

Today, Ikoku spends his days in hospital/health system C-suites nationwide fostering partnerships that promote value-based clinical and business models geared toward creating operational and financial efficiencies in health care delivery. According to Ikoku, while his MBA degree equipped him with the business knowledge to excel in the board room, his clinical background has further enhanced his credibility.

“If you don’t know how to create relationships and can’t see the long-term goal otherwise,” Ikoku says, “I'm talking about. ”

On a day-to-day basis, I'm having conversations with people who, at first, have no idea that I have a clinical background,” Ikoku says. “They are pleasantly surprised when something in the business side of the world goes to the clinical side and they discover that I know what I'm talking about.”

While his ascent in the health care business world has been rapid, Ikoku’s goals for his future are not title or dollar related but are geared toward expanding his influence in a health care system in need of bold leadership.

“My plan is to continue using the skills that I've gained at Emory, both at the clinical and business levels, to expand my impact on where health care is going and make it better for the greater populace of the United States,” he says.

“That means enhancing my existing relationships, growing my network and influence, and being viewed as someone who is a leader in health care with the relationships that can really move the needle in the way our health system needs to go.”

MICHAEL WANG: LEADING AND EXPANDING HIS OWN PT PRACTICE
Emory DPT/MBA graduate Michael Wang is living the dream that he had envisioned for his life several years ago. As owner of the successful New Care Physical Therapy in Norcross, Ga, Wang, who graduated in 2012, credits Emory’s dual degree program for equipping him with the knowledge to start his own physical therapy practice.

“Without a doubt, the MBA definitely was well worth it for me,” Wang says. “It gave me a broad overview of how to run a team and how to work with people to get a project done. It also gave me a good overview of how business works in general — basically, just knowing what to look for. Of course, it didn’t teach me everything that I needed to know specifically applicable to physical therapy, but even as my business grows right now, I know what resources to look for.”

Wang, who started New Care about four years ago, specializes in sports rehabilitation, dry needling, spinal manipulation and the treatment of temporomandibular joint disorders. He is making plans to open another practice location in 2020.

“Without the MBA, I probably wouldn’t have had the focus or the knowledge needed to grow beyond a single clinic,” he says.

As New Care continues to expand, Wang is grateful for a business education that emphasized that being talented in your field is not nearly enough.

“In most cases, you’re always going to be working with a team and it’s so important to understand and adapt to different leadership styles,” Wang adds. “When someone comes to work in my clinic, I need them to know how to work with the assistants, how to work with technical support and how to create relationships with other doctors. If you don’t know how to create relationships and can’t see the long-term goals by even just being friendly with someone, then you’re missing out on a lot. You need to have that broader spectrum and be able to see the bigger picture.”

CRYSTAL HUBER: A LEADER IN HOSPITAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
After graduating from Emory with dual DPT/MBA degrees in 2013, native Floridian Crystal Huber moved to Northern California without a job and looking for a year-long “fun adventure.” Not only did Huber and her husband stay in the state’s Bay Area, her career transitioned from her first job as a hospital-based physical therapist to her current role as the quality improvement manager of Alta Bates Summit Medical Center in Oakland, overseeing quality for three campuses. In her position, she reviews quality-related data, initiates system-wide quality improvement projects and supports the medical staff with peer review.

“Ultimately, I ended up transitioning because I felt like in the quality role, I could impact clinicians who could impact patients,” Huber says.

“It’s a grander scope than one patient at a time.”

Huber, who leads a team of 12 people, credits the dual degree with preparing her for leadership.

“For me, the MBA allowed me to see the value of sharing knowledge, building up others and cultivating a team environment,” she says.

“Looking back, I can’t say that I expected to be in this position.”

With her business degree, she is also positioned to expand her role within the organization if she chooses.

“The leadership training at Emory creates a lot more opportunities for me, not just in management, but in a whole other world of consulting and other operations within our hospital that wouldn’t have been there otherwise,” Huber says.

Six years after leaving Atlanta, Huber still stays in touch with some of her Emory professors and credits them for equipping her with the tools to meet any challenge.

“I moved to the Bay Area without a job and as a new grad, I was overwhelmed,” she recalls. “But once I got that first job, I was like, ‘Oh yeah, I got this.’”

Recently, Emory Physical Therapy caught up with five Emory dual degree graduates. While all began their journey at Emory with a passion for physical therapy, their dual degrees have opened a wide array of professional opportunities that would not have been available otherwise.
CLARISSA MYERS: TAKING PT TO THE PUBLIC POLICY ARENA

For 2018 Emory dual degree graduate Clariissa Myers, her current job as a physical therapist at Concentra in Hartford, Conn. is a stepping stone to something more. Myers, who earned DPT and MPH degrees, wants to use her experience as a physical therapist to ultimately transform the way the profession is viewed at the public health level. Currently, with its focus on healing injuries and ailments that have already occurred, the profession is seen as reactive. Myers wants to be part of an effort to position PT as a key spoke in the wheel of prevention of noncommunicable diseases such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes.

“As I work with patients, I see the potential for PT to prevent disease and improve the quality of life,” Myers states. “I worked pretty closely with Dr. Pullen and was impressed by how she was able to mesh her public health background with her clinical expertise to do amazing work,” she says. “I want to take a parallel path but focus on the prevention of noncommunicable diseases such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes.”

For Baxter and the other dual degree graduates, the Emory dual degree program has opened up endless possibilities.

LORI BAXTER: A GLOBAL REHABILITATION PIONEER

Lori Baxter chose Emory for its dual degree program and since graduating in 2010 with her DPT/MPH degrees, she has used her education to make an impact globally. Currently, Baxter lives in the country of Laos working at an international non-governmental organization (INGO) that supports health programs. "Just like you would see a primary care physician for an annual check-up, you would see a PT to ensure that you’re moving well and that you are maximizing your abilities at work, your daily life and in your recreation activities,” Myers explains. “If you like to play tennis, for example, how can you do that better? How can you live at a higher level of quality to keep yourself healthier longer? That’s the direction I would like to see it go. It’s moving that way, but it’s definitely not anywhere close to an across-the-board standard of care.”

Baxter, who works in what she termed as a “fast-paced environment” treating primarily workers’ compensation patients, credits her Emory public health degree with the way she views people she cares for.

“It has given me a totally different prospective of how to treat a patient,” she explains. “There is a stigma with workers’ comp patients which I’ve found to be mostly false. What I see are hard-working people who are working very physical, laborious jobs. I feel like I can identify with those patients a little bit better and incorporate that into how I care for them.”

In the future, Myers hopes to partner her career after Emory Division of Physical Therapy Associate Professor Sara Pullen, DPT, MPH, CHES, who has combined her clinical skills and public health acumen to improve the lives of HIV/AIDS patients previously living in chronic pain. Myers wants to utilize PT to reduce the incidence of chronic disease.

“She worked pretty closely with Dr. Pullen and was impressed by how she was able to mesh her public health background with her clinical expertise to do amazing work,” she says. “I want to take a parallel path but focus on the prevention of noncommunicable diseases such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes.”

As one way to overcome the language barrier, Baxter educates caregivers by showing them pictures on her phone. “The seeds for our current role were planted at Emory while getting her DPT degree. There, Baxter longed for something more than her clinical experience. That’s where the MPH degree came in.

“I’ve always loved learning about how the human body works and what can be done to help people have a better quality of life,” she explains. “But I’ve always had this nagging feeling of, ‘How do I help the people who don’t make it to the clinic? How do we help people who don’t speak the same language as the therapist they see?’ How do we help the people who can’t pay for the services?”

Baxter and her husband, who are from a small town in Southern Oregon, moved to Laos in 2016 after being impressed by the country during a homestay trip there in 2012. Today, with two small children, they are preparing for another international adventure as Baxter recently accepted an early child development position with an INGO in Cambodia. “We’re the kind of people who feel that our home will always be mobile,” she says. “We don’t own a house in the U.S., and I don’t foresee us living there for many, many years, if not decades.”

Nearly 30 years after earning his Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) degree from Emory, Michael Ellis, PT, DPT, is leading a project that could revolutionize early rehabilitation care for stroke victims and position him as one of the country’s most influential researchers in the field of physical therapy. Ellis, who is associate professor at Northwestern University’s Department of Physical Therapy and Human Movement Sciences, recently landed the prestigious National Institutes of Health Research Project Grant (RO1). The project is titled, “Progressive Abduction Loading Therapy: A Phase IIIb Stroke Rehabilitation Trial with Longitudinal Tracking.” An RO1 grant is the benchmark federal funding mechanism for clinical and basic science research and is extremely competitive.

Ellis, who later earned his Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Emory in 2003 while in Chicago as part of the division’s transitional program, credits Emory DPT for cultivating his passion for clinical research.

“I wouldn’t have gone down this path if it weren’t for Emory’s MPT program,” Ellis says. “I chose Emory over other schools because I came to the open house; I was asking questions like, ‘What does this curriculum do for teaching or exposing students to clinical research?’ They, by far, had the most well-developed program. I learned so much about the research inquiry process and I was pretty excited about that. I probably would have gone down an entirely different road if I would have chosen another program.”

After leaving Atlanta in 2006 with his MPT degree, Ellis, a native of the Chicago metropolitan area, returned home and landed a position as a physical therapist in an outpatient clinic. A year into the job, he contacted long-time Emory DPT Professor Steven Wolf, PT, PhD, FAAPTA to see if Wolf had any Chicago contacts who needed some part-time clinical research assistance. Wolf connected Ellis to some colleagues at the Rehab Institute of Chicago (now called Shirley Ryan AbilityLab).

“It was an impressive recommendation coming from Steve Wolf,” Ellis recalls. “They offered me a position, but we weren’t interested in a few hours a week here and there; they wanted me full time. So, I quit my outpatient job and I took the full-time position as a research physical therapist at NRC.”

Eighteen months later, Ellis’s boss, Julies Oswald, took a tenure-track teaching position at Northwestern and asked Ellis to join him. Since arriving at Northwestern 17 years ago, Ellis and Oswald have dedicated their entire professional career working on this single project. The payoff, improving the lives of individuals with stroke, is worth it, he says.

“When you think about how 10 years down the road, it may change the way clinicians are working with this population, it can get you kind of emotional,” Ellis says. “You spend so much time working with them and you see that they have so few options. It gets you fired up and you say, ‘I’m going to keep pushing through and fight to get funding to support this project and make an impact.’”

As his passion and research for improving the lives of stroke victims reaches the national stage, Ellis is proud of the fact that, for him, it all started at the Emory Division of Physical Therapy.

With New Federal Grant, Michael Ellis Aims to Improve Function of Individuals with Stroke

If the five-year study yields the results that the Northwestern team expects, the project will move into the next phase which would be a large scale, multi-site study that examines how the new treatment protocol fares in different environments and cultures and with various dosages. By the end of the process, it’s possible that Ellis will have dedicated his entire professional career working on this single project. The payoff, improving the lives of individuals with stroke, is worth it, he says.

“The most exciting part for me is that, after 17 years, we are really nearing the finish. We’re going to take our intervention idea, that, we think our new intervention has more potential to be an effective therapy.”

With RO1 funding, Ellis is excited by the opportunity to take years of research to a completely new level.

“We’re going to take our intervention idea, bring it into the inpatient rehabilitation setting and use it to augment conventional inpatient therapy,” Ellis explains. “We’ll test to see two different variations to determine the key ingredient of this therapy. The most exciting part for me is that I’m going to follow the entire cohort for one year and track how these interventions may attenuate the development of specific movement impairments.”
Recent studies show that graduate students are at greater risk for mental health issues than those in the general population. In one international study appearing in *Nature Biotechnology*, 39 percent of nearly 2,300 PhD candidates scored in the moderate-to-severe depression range compared to 6 percent of the general population measured in a previous study using the same scale. A recent survey by the American College Health Association backed those findings concluding that 66 percent of graduate and professional students experienced above-average stress in the last year. A November 2018 Harvard survey of 500 graduate students from eight prestigious universities underscored the severe implications of the problem revealing that 11 percent of the graduate students surveyed reported having suicidal thoughts over a two-week period.

While higher stress levels for graduate students is hardly a surprise, the Emory Division of Physical Therapy, in collaboration with the student-driven Sustainability Committee, is making efforts to inject a few doses of fun and healthiness into the graduate school experience. Those activities, led by division faculty members, have helped alleviate stress, build student camaraderie and strengthen faculty/student relationships.

**YOGA: ENHANCING MINDFULNESS AND MOVEMENT**

Emory DPT Assistant Professor Sarah Caston, PT, DPT, has been practicing yoga for the past 10 years and knows firsthand the physical and mental benefits of the practice. That’s why when Emory’s student-led Sustainability Committee created goals for incorporating more mindfulness and movement into the DPT student experience, Caston had the perfect solution.

Caston, who joined the faculty two years ago and who is also a 2011 Emory DPT graduate, has conducted several yoga classes for Emory DPT students both inside and outside of the Emory School of Medicine. Caston says, “It is asking one to take a look inward and be aware of some of the messages that we send ourselves throughout the day. It allows us to pause and be more aware of our mindset, which is really important in graduate school. Yoga helps to bring mindfulness and movement together.”

In the fast-paced graduate school setting where there’s always a test to study for or a project to be completed, many students feel guilty about carving time out for fun and wellness activities. Caston, who has competed in triathlons, marathons and has hiked long distances, insists that students cannot afford to neglect these activities.

“Research shows that when people abandon self-care and do not practice mindfulness, their productivity and outcomes are worse across the board,” she says. “When students come to me and they are struggling in a class and they tell me, ‘I’m studying hours and hours and I’m still not getting anywhere,’ some of my first questions to them are, ‘What are you doing for self-care? What are you doing to get outside every day? Are you able to find time for exercise?’”

Caston conducted her first yoga class last December with 12 students and continued them on a monthly basis until she went on maternity leave in the spring. Since returning this summer, she’s resumed the classes, now occurring during the lunch hour on the School of Medicine lawn, with anywhere from eight to 20 students.

“Students are a little bit hesitant on the front end to give themselves that time,” she adds. “But once they do, they’re very happy that they did.”

**MORE THAN A WALK**

For a walk with Emory DPT Assistant Professor Peter Sprague, PT, DPT, and a group of Emory PT students at Saltville Park near the Emory campus is anything but a typical walk in the park. Sprague, who leads the park walks with the students, has designed the activity to challenge the students to navigate around the natural barriers of a wooded park.

“My goal is to challenge their movement systems in a manner that isn’t typical during a normal walk or activities that they engage in each day,” Sprague says. “We’re using obstacles in the immediate environment that test balance, cause us to climb over things, go under things and interact with our environment. While it’s a fairly easy activity, I encourage them to challenge themselves at the level of their ability and even a little bit beyond that to try to improve their neuromuscular coordination and balance.”

Sprague, who regularly goes on weekend hiking excursions in the North Georgia mountains, led 10 students on the first walk last fall with participation doubling to 20 for the most recent walk this year. “The walks, which are geared to not disturb anything inside the park while maximizing movement and function, will mostly likely occur at least every other month in the future.”

“The students love it,” Sprague says. “In fact, among the group that came the first time, 90 percent of them showed up the second time.”

Sprague, like most Emory DPT faculty, is fully aware of the studies showing declining mental health of graduate students and is committed to reaching out to them.

“The more we can be around our students and the more intentional we are about interacting with them outside of the classroom, it is more helpful for them,” he adds.
Two Emory DPT faculty members, in collaboration with a team of caregivers from the Emory Sports Medicine Center, are leading a series of research projects that have the potential to change the standard of care in the treatment of patients who have had ACL reconstructions.

In one project, Lyle Lyle, DPT, PhD, and Peter Sprague, PT, DPT, who both joined the Emory faculty within the past two years, hope to prove that a series of open kinetic chain exercises performed after ACL reconstruction surgery can actually strengthen the quadriceps and decrease the chances of re-injury or osteoarthritis. Currently, the standard of care within the orthopedic community discourages the exercises for fear of weakening the quadriceps tendon graft used during surgery.

Last summer, at the request of Emory Chief of Sports Medicine John Xerogeanes, M.D., Lyle and Sprague began compiling a database comparing patients who have done the quadriceps-strengthening exercises to those who haven’t. Typically, quadriceps exercises after ACL surgery suffers. Early returns on the study have been eye opening.

“Not only do patients who do these knee extension exercises have more strength after six months, there are no adverse effects on the knee joint ligament. It’s an exciting finding that is still very preliminary.”

According to Sprague, the research will continue to track patients through various stages of post-op measuring strength and movement 30 days after surgery, six months and one, two and three years. If they are successful in proving that the quadriceps exercises are safe and effective, a revised standard of care, which Sprague calls "a career's worth of work," could contribute to stronger quadriceps after surgery which could go a long way in preventing future ACL injuries. Currently, 25 percent of athletes who get ACL reconstruction remain the same ligament or damage the other one.

"There are so many factors that involve the ability for human function, but we're hoping that we can change practice a little bit, improve quadriceps function and help a lot of people out," Sprague says. While data collection and analysis continue, Lyle says the next key steps in the process will be sharing the findings within the rehabilitation community, writing a support paper and pursuing grants that allow them to more closely examine muscle contraction during the open kinetic chain exercises versus traditional ones.

The second project that Lyle and Sprague are collaborating on is one that closely tracks the movement ability and strength of high-performing athletes after ACL surgery to better determine when these athletes are able to return to competition or their previous activity levels. According to Lyle, there is little criteria that suggests when an athlete can safely return to play. Motion capture data should provide quantitative-based evidence that will assist teams in making those important decisions. Sprague says they are tracking 60 athletes at all different stages of post-op recovery.

"We actually had them walk on a special mat that can identify whether they are walking symmetrically on each leg before Dr. X performed the surgery," he explains. "We're doing some data collection at the four-week mark on the gait map and will continue that through the six- and nine-month mark. We're looking at weight-bearing restrictions. Are they able to walk normally? We look at how their feet hit the ground. We'll also analyze movements like jumping and landing, cutting, lateral movement, forward/backward movement, deceleration – just higher functioning athletic-type activities. We'll see if there's anything in their movement that correlates with an increase in injury risk. We can't predict injury, but we can probably identify risk.

"I definitely felt so much more prepared and confident during the interview process, asking some of those critical questions and making sure that my interests were met," Kellogg says. "It's not just trial-by-fire because I was able to learn from somebody who had been there and was willing to give me some sound advice and critique."

For Loneson, regional vice president for BenckMark Physical Therapy Clinic in the Metro Atlanta area, his contributions to Kellogg's life and career completes a community service-minded vision that he and his company have had to create a mentorship program for current Emory DPT students. He was so committed to the vision, he crafted a detailed 12-page plan complete with template letters and talking points for mentees at different stages of their graduate studies. He then pitched it to Emory DPT faculty members Patricia Bridges, PT, EdD, MMSc, Sarah Caston, PT, DPT, and Tam Phillips, PT, DPT, MBA, who loved the proposal and told him that the DPT Alumni Committee, chaired by Emory DPT Associate Professor Beth Davis, PT, DPT, MBA, FNAP, had recently casted a similar vision for a mentorship program for the students. Loneson and Davis partnered with Alumni Committee Member Jonathan Erickson, currently a second-year student in the DPT program, and the initiative took flight at the beginning of this year. Today: it's just a few months, about 110 mentees and 135 mentors nationwide have registered to participate.

"The beauty of the program is that all of our mentors are Emory DPT graduates and they know most of the faculty that students work with every day," Loneson says. "They also know the facility, the classes that are required and the rigor that it is and how it prepares students for their careers. "It allows students to get some counsel and advice on how to handle the next semester of neuroscience, kinesiology or the service project. It'll address questions such as: How do I study for that type of test? When do I start studying for boards? Who should I look into as far as a company that has great values, a great mission, a great vision? What have you heard about this company? The idea was to create the kind of relationships that allow students to be comfortable enough to ask questions with some depth."

While some students may not feel comfortable forging relationships with people they don’t know, Loneson designed the program to ensure that mentees dictat the terms of the relationship. Mentors are assigned to mentees based on the preferences of the students and from there, the mentees determine the number of meetings and the method of communication whether it be in person, telephone conversations or email/texto conversations.

"I don’t want it to be busy work for the mentee and I don’t want the mentor to have to go too far out of their way unnecessarily," Loneson adds. "I want it to be a win-win for both. And fortunately, the mentors around the country are excited to be part of this. They haven’t viewed it as more work on their plates. Their attitudes are, ‘I would love to give back to the institution that did so much for me.’"
New Emory DPT/Johns Hopkins Internship Creates Invaluable Experience for Students

When she started her graduate school journey at the Emory Division of Physical Therapy more than three years ago, Heather Baeta could have never imagined that, as part of her Emory course work, she would be participating in executive meetings at the world-renowned Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. But thanks to a new internship program that began last summer between Emory DPT and the academic medical center, Baeta and fellow Emory DPT student, Emily Bushman, became the first students to complete the new internship.

While being the partnership’s first-ever interns created unique challenges that go with blazing a new trail, Baeta called it “valuable experience” that enhanced her leadership capabilities as a clinician and helped her in keys areas such as patient rounding, enhancing physician involvement and time management.

According to Emory DPT Intern Program Director Marie Johanson, PT, PhD, the partnership, which sent another Emory DPT student to Baltimore this summer, combines the clinical strengths of Johns Hopkins with the research expertise of Emory DPT to create an alliance that benefits everyone — especially the students.

“Our students, with some faculty involvement, are doing in-depth work for Johns Hopkins in terms of improving patient care and investigating treatments and services,” Johanson says. “They’re giving them a good foundation for being able to treat the oncology population.

“With Johns Hopkins’s strong service line for oncology patients, we appreciate the fact that Emory values that as well when they’re teaching their students about oncology diagnoses,” Wilkins says. “They’re giving them a good foundation for being able to treat the oncology population.”

Emory DPT Associate Professor & Director of Clinical Education

Bushman, became the first students to complete the new internship. When...
FACULTY NOTES
Kathy Lee Bishoff, PT, DPT, served as the program chair of the Georgia Association of Cardiopulmonary and Rehabilitation Annual Meeting in March 2019. She was also part of a team that won the Best Poster Award at a spring conference of the Association of American Colleges.

Edelle [Edes] Field-Feto, PT, Ph.D., FAAPA, was elected to serve as chair of the National Institutes of Health National Advisory Board on Medical Rehabilitation Research. She has served on the board since 2018 and will begin her term as chair in December 2019.

Bruce Greenfield, PT, MA, PhD, FNAP has been selected as a Catherine Worthington Fellow of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). He is now chair of the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties (ABPTS) and is the ABPTS representative for the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). He is now chair of the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties (ABPTS) and is the ABPTS representative for the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA).

Shilpa Krishnan, PT, PhD was recently accepted as a Fellow in the inaugural Georgia Clinical & Translational Science Alliance TEAMS (Translational Education and Mentoring for Science) Program. Earlier this year, she was interviewed for an NBC News report detailing how caregivers of those with Alzheimer’s disease can better care for themselves.

Melanie Razia, 18 DPT recently started her own private practice called Movement is Life working with women and families in the Metro Atlanta area, with an emphasis on maternal wellness and rehab.

Director’s Award for Academic Excellence | This award was given to James Brooks and Phillip Kellogg in recognition of exceptional academic work.

Director’s Award for Excellence in Growth Mindset | This award acknowledged Erin Wright for modeling perseverance and courage in meeting challenges and who, through hard work and dedication, demonstrated resilience and a love of learning.

Excellence in Service Award | This award recognizes Nikki Baily, Sarah Smith Hollingsworth and Payton Sims for outstanding service contributions to the program and/or physical therapy’s professional association.

Frances A. Curtis Award for Excellence in Community Service | This award recognized the outstanding service contributions of Jordan Marks and Alex Schilcher to the community at the local, national or international level.

Ian H. Tovin Scholarship Award | This award was given to Heather Baets and Abby Miesenheimer in recognition of outstanding performance throughout the program and an intention to focus on orthopedics after graduation.

Johannie Morgan Award for Excellence in Clinical Science | This award was given to Sophia Artusa, Emily Bushman and Shantha Nithiananda for going above and beyond and beyond what is expected of students during their clinical affiliations.

Pamela A. Catlin Award for Excellence in Critical Inquiry | This award was given to Patrick Mason and Erika Rigol who were deemed by the faculty and their research advisers to have shown leadership, mastery of content knowledge, problem-solving ability, enthusiasm, and value to overall research projects.

Susan J. Herdt Award for Excellence in Clinical Practice | This award was given to Sophia Artusa, Liz Stremme and Catleen Vasquez for exemplifying the drive to advance the profession and who demonstrated knowledge and skills in a specialized area of patient care.

Kaelen Arnold, 07DPT is currently working in Aspen, Colo., as a full-time traveling physical therapist. She is the owner-founder of Concierge Physical Therapy of the Rockies which is a mobile physical therapy practice.

Rob Bell, 12DPT, after seven years in the Pacific Northwest, recently accepted a position at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn. He is charged with developing a physical therapy treatment program specific to those with hemophilia, with an emphasis on joint health and orthopedic dysfunctions. Bell is pictured with his wife, Scharlee, and sons, Hudson and Walker.

Mandy Blackmon, 05DPT and Emma Faukner, 15DPT, dance medicine specialists, are now the primary physical therapists for Atlanta Ballet. They both started their own private practices, MandyDanOPT and Trineclk Ph, and are partnering in Atlanta Dance Medicine, which provides injury prevention, performance enhancement and continuing education services.

Kristen Cogenson, 07DPT has served as a Neuro-Certified Clinical Specialist through the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties (ABPTS) since 2015. She recently completed Six Sigma Green Belt Certification.

Dr. Greenfield’s nomination included supportive documentation from many nationally and internationally recognized leaders in the physical therapy profession who spoke of his prominent leadership, influence and achievements within the profession.

Shilpa Krishnan, PT, PhD was recently accepted as a Fellow in the inaugural Georgia Clinical & Translational Science Alliance TEAMS (Translational Education and Mentoring for Science) Program. Earlier this year, she was interviewed for an NBC News report detailing how caregivers of those with Alzheimer’s disease can better care for themselves.

Melanie Razia, 18 DPT recently started her own private practice called Movement is Life working with women and families in the Metro Atlanta area, with an emphasis on maternal wellness and rehab.

FACULTY NOTES
Kathy Lee Bishoff, PT, DPT, served as the program chair of the Georgia Association of Cardiopulmonary and Rehabilitation Annual Meeting in March 2019. She was also part of a team that won the Best Poster Award at a spring conference of the Association of American Colleges.

Edelle [Edes] Field-Feto, PT, Ph.D., FAAPA, was elected to serve as chair of the National Institutes of Health National Advisory Board on Medical Rehabilitation Research. She has served on the board since 2018 and will begin her term as chair in December 2019.

Bruce Greenfield, PT, MA, PhD, FNAP has been selected as a Catherine Worthington Fellow of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). He is now chair of the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties (ABPTS) and is the ABPTS representative for the Leadership Education Partnership. Both are part of the American Physical Therapy Association.

Trisha Kase, PT, PhD, who was recently promoted to associate professor, was awarded a five-year R01 research grant from the National Institutes of Health. She is the principal investigator of a project titled, “Biomechanical and Neural Mechanisms of Post-Stroke Gait Training.” The co-investigative team includes Emory DPT’s Michael Borich, PT, DPT, PhD, Joe Nosera, PhD and Steven Wolf, PT, PhD, FAAPA.

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Melanie Razia, 18 DPT recently started her own private practice called Movement is Life working with women and families in the Metro Atlanta area, with an emphasis on maternal wellness and rehab.

Director’s Award for Academic Excellence | This award was given to James Brooks and Phillip Kellogg in recognition of exceptional academic work.

Director’s Award for Excellence in Growth Mindset | This award acknowledged Erin Wright for modeling perseverance and courage in meeting challenges and who, through hard work and dedication, demonstrated resilience and a love of learning.

Excellence in Service Award | This award recognizes Nikki Baily, Sarah Smith Hollingsworth and Payton Sims for outstanding service contributions to the program and/or physical therapy’s professional association.

Frances A. Curtis Award for Excellence in Community Service | This award recognized the outstanding service contributions of Jordan Marks and Alex Schilcher to the community at the local, national or international level.

Ian H. Tovin Scholarship Award | This award was given to Heather Baets and Abby Miesenheimer in recognition of outstanding performance throughout the program and an intention to focus on orthopedics after graduation.

Johannie Morgan Award for Excellence in Clinical Science | This award was given to Sophia Artusa, Emily Bushman and Shantha Nithiananda for going above and beyond and beyond what is expected of students during their clinical affiliations.

Pamela A. Catlin Award for Excellence in Critical Inquiry | This award was given to Patrick Mason and Erika Rigol who were deemed by the faculty and their research advisers to have shown leadership, mastery of content knowledge, problem-solving ability, enthusiasm, and value to overall research projects.

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Congratulations Class of 2019