



University of Findlay

Doctor of Physical Therapy

***Traditional DPT Program
Weekend PTA to DPT Bridge Program***

January 31, 2025

Dear Site Coordinator of Clinical Education and Clinical Instructors,

Happy New Year! As we welcome 2025, the faculty, staff, and students of The University of Findlay's Physical Therapy programs wish you and your team a year filled with health and success.

As we reflect on 2024, we experienced a few changes within our Physical Therapy department. Dr. Sharon Walsh and Dr. Debbie George retired after more than 25 years of dedicated service to our programs. Additionally, Dr. Joyce Lammers, our Program Chair, also retired. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to these esteemed faculty members for their contributions and wish them a fulfilling retirement.

We are excited to introduce Dr. Angie Huber as our new Program Chair. Dr. Huber, who has been part of our DPT faculty for seven years, brings valuable experience to her new role. She has served as Associate Chair for the Weekend PTA to DPT Bridge Program and was just recently recognized with the Founders' Academic Excellence Award for Faculty at our 2024 University Awards presentation. 2024 also marked the welcoming of the following new faculty members.

Dr. Andrea Richards, PT, DPT- Dr. Richards earned her DPT degree from the University of Nevada in 2012. Andrea has a variety of practice experiences in outpatient and acute care PT. She is an ABPTS Board Certified Clinical Specialist in Neurologic Physical Therapy and LSVT Big Certified clinician.

Dr. Paul Colbert, PT, DPT- Dr. Colbert earned his DPT degree from Clarkston University in 2017. Following, he successfully completed a neurologic residency at Nova Southeastern University. Paul is an ABPTS Board Certified Clinical Specialist in Neurologic Physical Therapy and LSVT Big Certified clinician.

Dr. Alex Rospert, PT, DPT- Dr. Rospert is a 2017 graduate of the University of Findlay traditional DPT Program. Alex completed the orthopedic PT residency at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, OH, and he has continued to work with NCH in the sports and orthopedic therapies department for the past seven years. Dr Rospert also served as a faculty member and coordinator for the orthopedic PT residency for two years.

Dr. Ben Cooksey, PT, DPT- Dr. Cooksey earned his DPT degree from Cleveland State University in 2014. Prior to joining the UF faculty team, Ben worked for several years in a hospital-based outpatient orthopedic practice. Within the practice, he contributed to an orthopedic manual PT residency and worked with patients with persistent pain, concussions, headaches and post operative recovery needs.

Dr. Melanie Thurmond, PT, DPT- Dr. Thurmond is a 2015 graduate of the University of Findlay Weekend PTA to DPT Bridge Program. Before joining the faculty team at UF, Melanie served as the Rehab Director and a treating clinician in a hospital that also offered outpatient physical therapy services. Dr. Thurmond also came with teaching experience in PTA and DPT education.

Looking ahead, the traditional DPT program will continue to use the Exxat system for clinical education onboarding and assignment processes in 2025, except for those clinical partners using their own onboarding systems. The Exxat program will also be used for March mailings and clinical requests for 2026. If you prefer to receive clinical requests via email for the upcoming year, please reach out to our DCE, Stefanie Anderson, at andersons4@findlay.edu.

An exciting update for the PTA to DPT Bridge program is the adoption of the Exxat system, which will help streamline the process of requests, assignments, and onboarding. Starting in 2025, Exxat will be used for clinical education onboarding and assignment processes, except for clinical partners that have their own onboarding systems. The Exxat system will also be utilized for March mailings and clinical requests for 2026. Any new clinical sites will be contacted before March to assess their interest in hosting and to initiate contracts. If you would prefer to receive clinical requests by email for the upcoming year, please contact our DCE, Robyn Wilhelm, at wilhelmr2@findlay.edu

The DPT program **2024 accomplishments** have included the following:

- The Integrated Clinical Experience (ICE) course series continued with a local clinical site where 2nd year Bridge Program DPT students participated in wheelchair evaluations. First year Bridge Program DPT students utilized their clinical sites of employment to conduct examination and evaluation observations and participation.
- Second year Traditional Program DPT students hosted a six-week Orthopedic Pro Bono Clinic held in Fall 2024 for adults with orthopedic dysfunctions under the guidance of Dr. Dave Verhoff, Dr. Josiah Parkhurst, and Dr. Heather Swain.
- Third year Traditional Program DPT students hosted a six-week Neurological Pro Bono clinic which focused on adults and children with neurological issues under the guidance of Dr. S. Fleming Walsh.

Multiple **publications** including the following:

Baker M, Buckley J, Peterson S, Scott P Performance-based outcome measures used by physical therapists and their measurement properties following a total knee Arthroplasty: A systematic review. Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. April 2024;105 (4): e151-e152.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmr.2024.02.696>. Journal Impact Factor: 3.6

Drnach M. The Business of Physical Therapy. 1st Edition. Philadelphia, PA. Wolters Kluwer. 2024

Huber A, Verhoff D. A One Session Gait Retraining Protocol with Metronome Augmentation Increases Cadence in Novice and Recreational Runners. IJSPT. 2024;19(1):1494-1502. doi:10.26603/001c.90909

Huber A, Schroeder N, Verhoff D, Parsons A. Exploring the Opportunities and Barriers of Implementing the Health-Focused Physical Therapy Model. *OBM Integrative and Complementary Medicine*. Sept 19, 2024; 9(3): 052; doi:10.21926/obm.icm.2403052.

Peterson DC & Mayes DA. (2019). *Neuroanatomy, Mammillary Bodies*. Copyright © 2018, StatPearls Publishing LLC. Bookshelf ID: NBK537192 PMID: 30725877 Re-Published as a book chapter in 41 books in 2024.

Selhorst M, Degenhart T, Jackowski M, Meyer S, Rospert A. The Oswestry Disability Index is not a good measure for low back pain in adolescents: A Rasch analysis of data from 200 people. *Clinical Rehabilitation*. Nov. 2024; 0(0):02692155241296802.

Multiple **presentations** at the National and State levels by our faculty and students:

Anderson S, Decker A, Garlock T, Hammonds C, Morris H, Sowers B. Prevalence of Impostor Phenomenon in Graduate Healthcare Students. Accepted for a poster presentation at the APTA Education Leadership Conference. October 2024.

Anderson S, Durham A. Unmasking the Student Impostor: A How-To-Guide for Leading Students Towards Success in the Clinic. OPTA Fall Conference, September 2024.

Baker M, McBride S, Cuatt B, Nielson D, Grant R, Kim A, Khattar C, Walling S. Accuracy of Blood Pressure Measurements by Physical Therapist Assistants Using a Simulated Mannequin. Ohio Physical Therapy Association (OPTA) Fall Conference 2024. Abstract Accepted: 07/2/2024. Presentation Date: September 2024.

Baker M, Gardner M, Machock M, Arft C, Schubert C. Four-square step test with and without dual tasks among older adults with and without a fall history. American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Combined Sections Meeting (CSM). Abstract Accepted: 10/04/2023. Presentation Date: February 2024

Baker M, George D, Hughes L, Smith J, Ellis A. Clinical and Academic Faculty Perceptions of Students in Two PTA to DPT Bridge Programs. Poster. American Council of Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT) Educational Leadership Conference (ELC) 2024, Oakland, CA. Abstract Accepted: 06/05/2024. Presentation Date: October 2024.

Baker M and Woolf R. The Power of Self Reflection for Building Resilient Students, Clinical Instructors, and Faculty: The Healthy Practice Resource. Education Session at The American Council of Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT) Education Leadership Conference (ELC) Fall 2024 Meeting. Abstract Accepted: 06/05/2024. Presentation Date: October 2024

Drnach M, Ruby C, Pilsner, A. et al. Cultivating Change: A 20-Year Journey in Global Partnerships. The 9th International Symposium on Service Learning in Higher Education. University of Indianapolis. Indianapolis, Indiana. May 30, 2024.

Dr. Stefanie Anderson, Dr. Robyn Wilhelm and Dr. Amy Both (DCE from University of Toledo) presented the Ohio Physical Therapy Association Lunch and Learn on May 14, 2024. Presentation: Student Perfectionism: Managing Mental Health and Promoting Master Adaptive Learners.

Maxey H, Baker M. PT Cross Profession Minimum Data Set (PT CPMDs). 2024 Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) Leadership Issues Forum (LIF). July 2024.

Schroeder, N. Core and Pelvic Floor Strengthening and Female Collegiate Athlete Performance, Low Back Pain, and Pelvic Floor Dysfunction. American Academy of Sports Physical Therapy Annual Meeting; June 13, 2024: Las Vegas, Nevada.

Schroeder, N. A Four-Week Home Yoga Program and the Core Strength and Endurance of Healthy Adults. American Academy of Sports Physical Therapy Annual Meeting; June 13, 2024: Las Vegas, Nevada.

Schroeder N, Bertke D, Jacobs A, Smith K, Stillberger A, Titchener A. Low Back Pain and Hip Rotation Strength in Females. Poster. Ohio Physical Therapy Association Fall Conference; September 2024: Columbus Ohio.

Please mark your calendars for the **upcoming continuing education opportunities:**

1. **University of Findlay Physical Therapy Program Research Forum** will be held on **February 6, 2025** from 4:00-6:30pm; the forum showcases platform and poster presentations by the DPT students of the Class of 2025. Pending 1.0 CEU, free! Registration: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=r55iR8txCkC7uWQD55A6yljdeBc2Y19Bg99-YiUh_41UMIRFWFpPSUJESDkwOFNNTVRZQU5KUIdHMy4u
2. Upcoming **APTA Lunch & Learn** presentation, titled Empowering Clinical Learning: Key Strategies for Student Success is planned for **May 13th from 12:00-1:00pm**. **The speakers for this event are Stefanie Anderson, PT, DPT, OMT-C, DCE; Amy Both, PT, DPT, MHS, DCE; and Robyn Wilhelm, PT, DPT, DCE. This presentation is supported by the Northwest Ohio Clinical Education Consortium.**
3. Alex Rospert, faculty member, will be presenting at the **OPTA Spring Conference**.

Thank you again for your unwavering support and guidance toward our students. If there are any ways we can further assist you as a valued clinical partner, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Sincerely,

Stefanie Anderson, PT, DPT, OMT-C, DCE; Traditional Program Stefanie Anderson

Robyn Wilhelm, PT, DPT, DCE; Weekend PTA to DPT Bridge Program Robyn Wilhelm

Amy Persson, BA, Experiential Educator Amy Persson