



Creighton
UNIVERSITY

School of Pharmacy
and Health Professions
Department of Physical Therapy

FALL 2024

PROGRESS NOTES

A periodic update of events, achievements and exciting developments from the Department of Physical Therapy

CLASS OF
2027



The Creighton University Department of Physical Therapy was excited to welcome **80 new students** to the program in August of 2024.

The **Class of 2027** is comprised of 80 students from:

- 23 different states
- 1 foreign country



INTERIM CHAIR UPDATE



This issue of the Fall 2024 "Progress Notes" provides a brief update of current and exciting events/honors occurring in our program. The PT Department welcomed a number of new faculty and leaders in 2024 including our incoming Department Chair, Linda Woodhouse, PT, PhD, new Director of Clinical Education Lauren Plum, PT, DPT, OCS, and faculty member Andrew Wagner, PT, DPT, PhD, NCS. Our faculty and students were honored with 2 national APTA awards. Lisa Black, PT, DPT is the latest Catherine Worthingham Fellow and Christina Thomas PT, DPT, a 2024 graduate, earned the Mary McMillian scholarship. Additionally, we have 2 experienced faculty leaders who will retire at the beginning of 2025, Robert Sandstrom, PT, PhD, and Lisa Black, PT, DPT. We are incredibly grateful to Drs. Sandstrom and Black for their teaching expertise, steadfast commitment to our program and students, and their national service to our profession.

WELCOME LINDA WOODHOUSE, PT, PHD AS THE INCOMING DEPARTMENT CHAIR



Dr. Woodhouse is an experienced international leader, researcher, and advocate for the physical therapy profession. Trained in Canada as a physiotherapist and academic scientist she is well-known for her research in musculoskeletal conditions, testosterone dosing and exercise, and health care systems publishing over 220 manuscripts and garnering over \$30 million in grant funding. As the inaugural chairholder of the Dr. David Magee Endowed Chair in Musculoskeletal Research at the University of Alberta and the Scientific Director for Alberta Health Services' Bone and Joint Health Strategic Clinical Network she was tasked to find improved methods of clinical assessment for musculoskeletal conditions that translated directly to patient care. She is an innovator, professor, and mentor with a demonstrated history of working in healthcare and the higher education sectors in Canada, Australia, and the United States. Over her 30-year career, including her presidency of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association, she has made significant contributions to the physical therapy profession and exercise science industry by forming teams of health care providers and business experts to collaboratively develop new models of care to build sustainable healthcare systems. Dr. Woodhouse holds a PhD in exercise science from the University of Toronto, a MA in exercise physiology from the University of Western Ontario and BS in physical therapy also from the University of Toronto.

WELCOME, ANDREW WAGNER, PT, DPT, PHD

Andrew Wagner received his doctorate in physical therapy from Gannon University and completed a neurologic physical therapy residency at Marquette University. After finishing his post-professional training, he became a Board Certified Neurologic Clinical Specialist and entered clinical practice in the area of vestibular rehabilitation. Dr. Wagner went on to receive his PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences from Ohio State University and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. Dr. Wagner's research activities are focused on discovering improved methods for treating vestibular dysfunction.





WELCOME, LAUREN PLUM, PT, DPT, OCS

Dr. Plum joins the Physical Therapy Department – Omaha Campus as an Assistant Professor and Director of Clinical Education. She received her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from the University of Iowa and is currently in the dissertation phase of her Ph.D. in Education from Drake University in Iowa. Her research interests include PT school admissions and ways to improve access, diversity, inclusion, and belonging in PT. Dr. Plum is a Board-Certified Orthopaedic Clinical Specialist and is certified in dry needling and trauma-informed care; she also has interest in pelvic health and performing arts rehab.

LISA BLACK RECEIVES WORTHINGHAM FELLOWSHIP

Lisa Black, PT, DPT, FAPTA was honored as a Catherine Worthingham Fellow during the APTA Leadership Congress that took place in July in Kansas City, MO. This honor is the highest among APTA membership categories and recognizes APTA members who have demonstrated unwavering efforts to advance the physical therapy profession for more than 15 years. Dr. Black is the 6th faculty member at Creighton to receive this award over the past 25+ years.



MCMILLIAN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

Christina Thomas, PT, DPT, a 2024 graduate, was also recognized at the APTA Leadership Congress as a Mary MacMillian Scholarship recipient. This scholarship is a \$5,000 scholarship for students near graduation who exhibit superior scholastic ability and potential for future professional contribution. Christina is the the 4th Creighton student to receive this prestigious national award.

Two Shining Stars are easing into Retirement but their impact on our program will never be forgotten!!

RETIREMENT OF LISA, PT, DPT, FAPTA

Lisa Black, PT, DPT, Professor, will retire after 20 years of exemplary teaching, scholarship, and service to Creighton University and the profession as a whole. She served as the steadfast Director of Clinical Education for 13 years building upon and expanding our national reputation as a leader in clinical education. In the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy, she served as Academic Director of the National Consortium of Clinical Educators and Secretary of the Clinical Reasoning Curricula and Assessment Research Consortium. As the inaugural chair of the APTA Academy of Education Residency and Fellowship Special Interest Group, Dr. Black set the stage for residency education as we now know it. APTA has recognized her as a Lucy Blair and Catherine Worthingham Fellow for her distinguished service and impact on changing clinical practice. Additionally, the Nebraska chapter of the APTA honored her with the Mary Ellen Sacksteder and the Wayne Purdue Fellow award. She is adored by students and faculty alike and her presence is always felt. Congratulations on your retirement – you deserve it!



RETIREMENT OF ROBERT SANDSTROM, PT, PHD



Robert Sandstrom, PT, PhD, Professor, served Creighton University and the department of Physical Therapy for 28 years as the cornerstone of our Anatomy and Health Services curriculum. His expertise and passion for teaching and learning at the foundational level has shaped our graduates to optimally serve patients and earned him numerous teaching awards. He is an expert teacher, health systems researcher and advocate for our profession. As one of the founding members of ACAPT (American Council of Academic Physical Therapy), he was recognized at the Education Leadership Conference recently in Oakland, CA. As a leader, he advanced our program as the Department Chair from 2002 to 2010 and carried out his health systems research by serving on the Nebraska State Board of Physical Therapy and was appointed to the Nebraska State Board of Health by the governor of Nebraska. He will be greatly missed by students and faculty alike and we wish him all the best during his well-deserved retirement.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



The Class of 2014 celebrated their 10-year reunion in the newly opened CL Werner Health Sciences building. These 14 alumni enjoyed the expansive and updated classrooms, teaching laboratory, and rehabilitation research space.



A new Council of Regents, a select group of 33 University ambassadors and benefactors, toured the CL Werner building to see health science students' involvement in simulation and research. The council allows Creighton to bring together some of our best minds to see where the university is today and imagine where it could be headed tomorrow.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

School of Pharmacy & Health Professions Awards



Dr. Kimberley Scott earned the 2024 SPAHP Rookie Award presented to a new faculty member who demonstrates achievement in teaching, scholarship, and service.

Dr. Abbis Jaffri earned the 2024 SPAHP Scholarly Achievement Award for accomplishments in grant funding, number of manuscripts published in peer-reviewed journals, and mentorship of students in research.

Creighton University Award



Julie Peterson, PT, DPT, EdD, WCS earned the University Distinguished Educator in Teaching as Scholarship Award for her educational research focused on clinical reasoning in entry-level and residency education.



Drs. Heather Knight and Gail Jensen are part of the Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education – workshop on Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Health Professions being held October 23, 24 in Washington DC. Dr. Knight authored one of the evidence-based research author publications –

Implementation of a clinical reasoning blueprint: Knowledge translation resources and Dr. Jensen is a member of the planning committee and is leading the evidence-based component of the workshop.

Annual Scholarly Activity



ELC 2024



Creighton was well represented at the APTA Education Leadership Conference hosted in Oakland, CA with 14 combined Omaha & Phoenix faculty (academic and clinical) attending and presentations from Gail Jensen, Lisa Black, Kim Somers, Stefany Shabi, Linda Woodhouse, Melanie Clendenen, Melissa Starr, & Rob Willmes.

The Geneva R Johnson (GRF) Forum delivered by Dr. Susan Skochelak was focused on Health Systems Science with facilitation by Gail and alumni Merrill Landers and Ignite speaker Danny Young. Competency-based education was emphasized as a component of Health Systems Science in medicine and the continued work by APTA in competency-based education with identified 8 Domains of Competence, 54 competencies, and 19 entrustable professional activities. The profession is moving forward to implementation of CBE to improve patient outcomes and provide a more standardized process of education to reduce variability.

Kimberly-Beran Shepler serves as chair of the Interprofessional Education & Practice SIG in the Academy of Education and engaged in networking throughout the conference.

ACAPT – Celebrated their 10 year anniversary as a council and thanked the founding members including Bob Sandstrom for their vision. Jim Lynskey received a commendation for his service on the ACAPT Center for Excellence Data Advisory Committee.

Take aways: The keynote around Health Systems Science, the study of how health care is delivered and how professionals can work more closely to improve patient care, includes competencies around population health, value-based care, IPE, and systems thinking. The 3 pillars of medical science includes: 1) clinical sciences, 2) foundational sciences, and 3) health system science.

With Creighton's continued development of research in clinical and educational research, we can serve as a model and leader for collaborative development of research and health care delivery teams.

Other themes that were threaded throughout the conference were student mental health and the challenges of meeting their needs, student debt, and DEI in the current political environment.