

# EMORY

# physical therapy

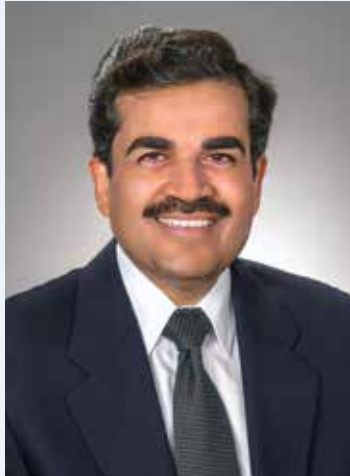
FALL 2016



## *New help for HIV*

A PT Pioneer, an AIDS Clinic,  
and a way out of chronic pain

# from the director



ON BEHALF OF OUR FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS, I WELCOME YOU TO *EMORY PHYSICAL THERAPY*. We are off to a great start with our class of 2019, which includes 75 students from 24 states coming to us from 57 universities and 20 undergraduate majors.

In March, we received news that our program

is now ranked No. 5 in the country (moving up from No. 7), according to *U.S. News and World Report*. This high ranking is a testament to the stellar work of our faculty, staff, students, and alums who represent the program so well locally, nationally, and internationally.

In early May, we graduated the Doctor of Physical Therapy Class of 2016, which included two DPT/MBA students and one DPT/MPH student. Dr. Gail Jensen of Creighton University gave the commencement address. Jensen's inspirational talk focused on our graduates' strong professional identities, solid educational foundation, and impressive evolution into caring, mindful leaders.

My colleagues and I continue to be grateful for the tangible and intangible gifts of this amazing field of work, study, and research. In this magazine, you'll read about Sara Pullen's work to bring much-needed physical therapy clinical care and chronic pain research to patients living with HIV. We also feature Whitney Gray 15DPT, who recently completed the prestigious NIH StrokeNet fellowship—the first DPT without an additional advanced degree to do so.

We also recognize the tangible gifts that keep our program running and growing. Philanthropists like alum Brian Tovin, former clinical instructor and alum Norma Fraser, and our own colleague Steve Wolf ensure a strong future for our program and for the profession of physical therapy as a whole.

Last, we recently had the pleasure of hosting the Fifth Annual Symposium on Regenerative Rehabilitation. We love learning from colleagues while showcasing the growing and important impact our own faculty are making in this field.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Emory Physical Therapy*. My sincere thanks to all who support the Division of Physical Therapy in so many ways.

Best Wishes,

**Zoher Kapasi**, PT, PhD, MBA  
Associate Professor and Director

Visit us online at [emorydpt.org](http://emorydpt.org)



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# EMORY | physical therapy



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*"Because the field of physical therapy isn't well represented in the StrokeNet, one of my responsibilities is to help people think well of physical therapists in the research community."* —Whitney Gray 15DPT



Physician Frank Blanton, namesake of the Frank S. Blanton, Jr., MD Humanities in Rehabilitation Scholarship

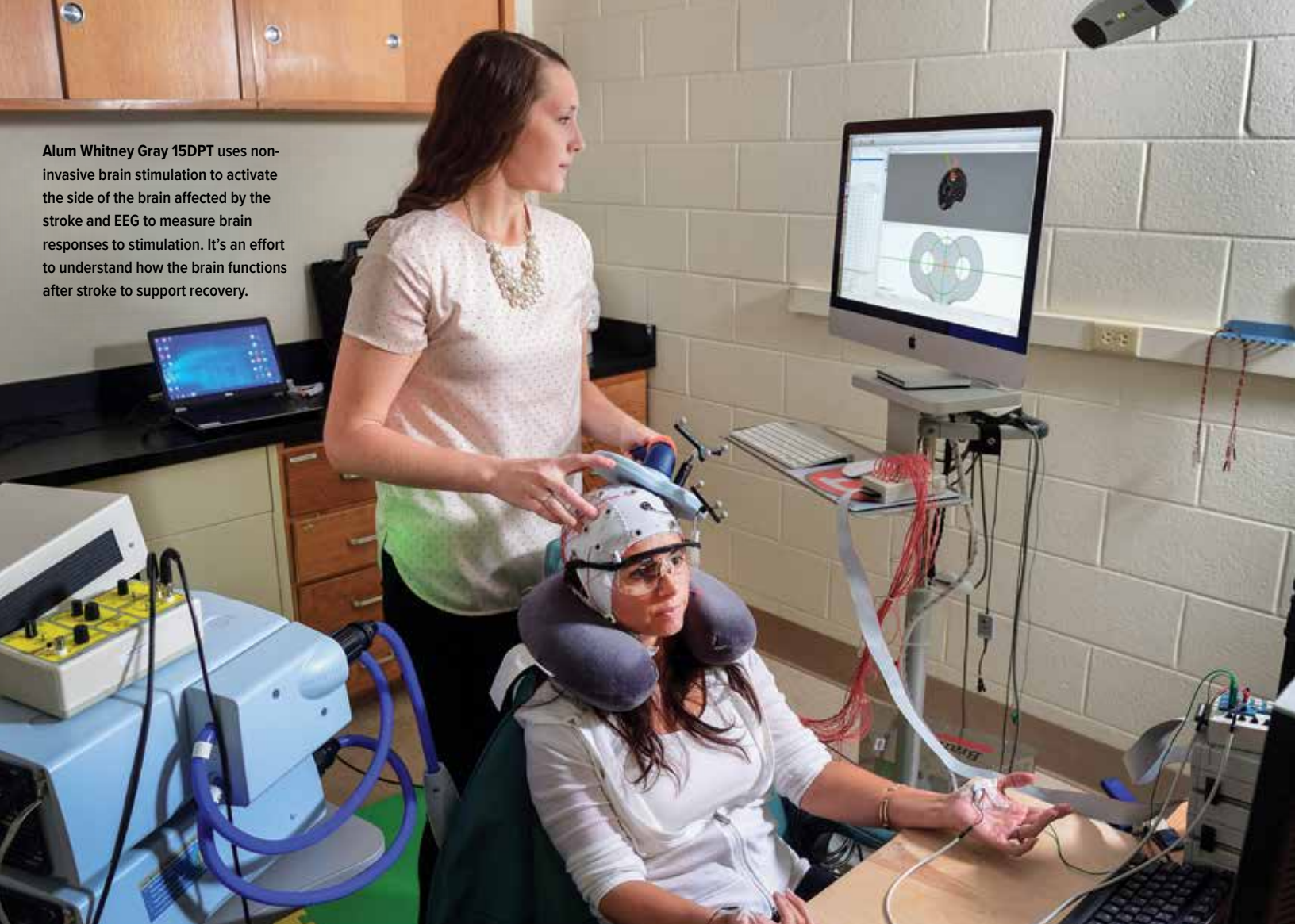
## A Scholarship for Future Interdisciplinary Digital Scholars

When Associate Professor Sarah Blanton DPT, NCS, began dreaming up the *Journal of Humanities in Rehabilitation*, her vision was largely informed by her father, Frank Blanton. "He was a well-loved and respected small-town Appalachian physician, admired for his humanistic approach to patient care and deep compassion towards others," says Sarah Blanton. "His deep knowledge of the humanities—literature, poetry, religion, music—infused his work and his relationship with his patients."

To honor Frank Blanton's influence and life, Sarah Blanton and colleagues at the *Journal of Humanities in Rehabilitation* have created the Frank S. Blanton, Jr., MD Humanities in Rehabilitation Scholarship. The annual award provides financial support for a graduate student to work at the online publication, gaining experience in digital scholarship and the humanities while learning more about interdisciplinary liberal arts collaborations across campus.

To find out more go to [emory.link/ptscholarship](http://emory.link/ptscholarship).

Alum Whitney Gray 15DPT uses non-invasive brain stimulation to activate the side of the brain affected by the stroke and EEG to measure brain responses to stimulation. It's an effort to understand how the brain functions after stroke to support recovery.



# A Fellowship First

## Whitney Gray 15DPT and Emory mentors take on StrokeNet

It was the summer after graduation, and Whitney Gray 15DPT was at a crossroads. In between studying for boards, she'd stop in to Assistant Professor Michael Borich's lab to continue the work she'd started as part of his research group. She wasn't sure what was next for her professionally.

Gray remembers what happened next. "One day Dr. Borich came in and said, 'There's an opportunity to do this fellowship with StrokeNet. Are you interested?'"

No matter that all previous StrokeNet fellows had a PhD or medical degree. Gray applied to the program and was accepted for the 2015-2016 cohort. StrokeNet assigned her two mentors: Michael Borich, DPT, PhD, and another of her former professors, Steve Wolf, PhD, PT, FAPTA, FAHA. With their help, she has spent the past year conducting research likely to have a lasting impact on stroke rehab.

The National Institutes of Health started StrokeNet in 2013 as a national effort to propel research and clinical trials forward in three specific areas: stroke prevention, treatment, and recovery. Twenty-five sites across the United States signed up to participate in StrokeNet, with Emory serving as the coordinating center for all StrokeNet efforts in Georgia. StrokeNet included provisions and funding for one research fellowship at each of the 25 sites.

Steve Wolf, Emory professor of medicine and one of the principal investigators for Georgia StrokeNet, wasn't surprised to hear

colleagues suggest nominating Gray for the fellowship. "She was a stellar student who had interests that go far into the inquiry process of research," says Wolf. "She was intrigued by a lot of the work that Dr. Borich was doing related to potential measures of neuroplasticity using technologies that haven't been used that way before. All of that came to the fore and seemed to fit right for the fellowship."

StrokeNet agreed.

Gray has been interested in neurological aspects of recovery and rehabilitation since her years as an undergraduate studying neuroscience. She chose to come to Emory for physical therapy training because she knew she could participate in research through the Division of Physical Therapy. "Neurorehab is what got me here," she says.

Her particular focus on stroke recovery came as a result of personal and clinical experiences during her time at Emory. "A lot of my clinical experience was with stroke patients," Gray says. While balancing classes and research, she learned that a close friend of her family had just suffered a stroke. "Because I had familiarity with strokes and had studied them, I felt the need to understand what happens after a stroke," Gray says. "What can we do to help recovery and rehabilitation? That's what drew me specifically to stroke."

At least superficially, Gray's mentors couldn't be more different. Professors Steve Wolf and Michael Borich are a generation apart in age. In his spare time, Wolf writes poetry, while Borich is a hard-core bicyclist.

But "our personalities work," says Borich. As Gray's official mentors for the StrokeNet fellowship, Borich and Wolf met regularly with Gray throughout the year to discuss research ideas, techniques, and implications. "They discussed and rediscussed when I needed it," says Gray. "The feedback was always to make my work better. It was a great environment for me as my first foray into serious research."

That research includes use of electroencephalography (EEG) to capture real-time data about brain function after stroke. "We can see how the brain changes after stroke, and we're discovering how we can use that information to try and influence brain activity and function," says Gray.

In one particular study that's now been completed, Gray used a transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) device to deliver magnetic

pulses to the part of the brain that controls motor movement. By pairing the TMS intervention with EEG, Gray was able to see in real time how the brain responds at a cellular level to TMS. "We found certain signals that may relate to impaired functioning of a patient's hand or arm," says Gray. "It gives us an interesting idea of a potential biomarker of activity in the brain that relates to motor repair."

In an ongoing study, Gray and colleagues explored TMS to improve and accelerate hand usage after stroke. By stimulating certain parts of the brain and watching the brain's real-time response, they may be able to enhance neuroplasticity, leading to quicker physical rehabilitation for stroke patients. "Potentially, this could be paired with traditional rehab interventions and speed the rate of functional gains for the patient," says Gray. Or down the line, researchers could use a similar technique to induce spinal cord neuroplasticity during recovery from a spinal cord injury.

The research topic is unique, says Wolf. "The interest here is the immediacy of time-based processing. The challenge is to interpret what the EEG results mean and what the implications are for the changes that one sees, how those results manifest in the behavior of the patient, and the duration of that effect."

In addition to their potential therapeutic benefit, both TMS and EEG have the advantage of being noninvasive and relatively inexpensive, Wolf adds.

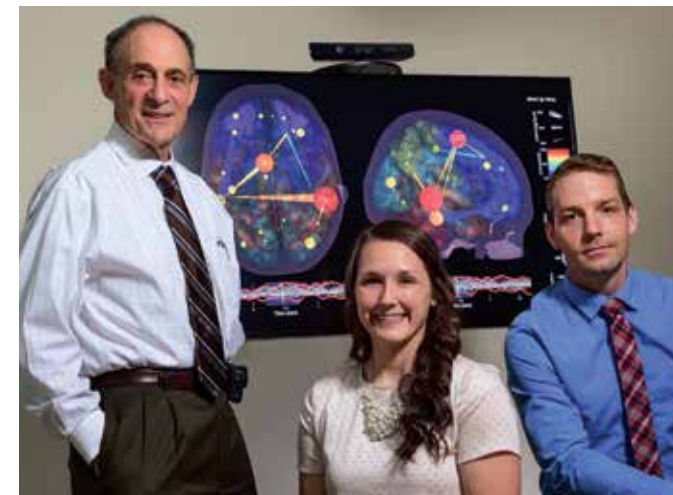
This past April, Gray spoke at the Minnesota Neuromodulation

Consortium and received two awards for her research.

Being the only non-MD, non-PhD physical therapist in the StrokeNet so far helped motivate Gray to prove the worth of her contributions. "Because physical therapy isn't well represented in StrokeNet, one of my responsibilities is to help people think well of physical therapists in the research community and to open more doors in research for physical therapists in the future," says Gray.

Gray gives much of the credit for her success to her mentors. "They always encouraged me to ask questions and share my ideas even though I was new to this field and to research in general," says Gray. "It was the epitome of collaboration. We all came with different skill sets, and we were all willing to share so that we could grow together."

Now that the fellowship is over, Gray has moved to Oregon with her husband and is looking for work in clinical neurorehabilitation. "Eventually, I think I'd like to find a way to combine clinical practice and research in the neuro setting," says Gray. With her whole career ahead of her, she looks forward to making that happen. **EPT**



Professor Steve Wolf, Whitney Gray 15DPT, and Assistant Professor Michael Borich spent the past year collaborating on research.

Assistant Professor Sara Pullen works with a patient at the Ponce de Leon Center.



# New Help for HIV

A PT pioneer, an HIV clinic, and a way out of chronic pain

**T**he first moment that would define Sara Pullen's career came before she had even graduated from her physical therapy program. "I always knew that I wanted to combine my love of medicine with working with disenfranchised populations," explains Pullen, now an assistant professor of physical therapy at Emory.

Pullen had no idea how to pull together her different passions. But then she started her first clinical rotation and met a patient living with AIDS. The patient told her that hospital social workers had referred him to Meals on Wheels and other community resources. "But I don't want that," the man said. "I want to get stronger."

It was the mid 1990s, and few people with AIDS had received

physical therapy as part of their treatment. Yet Pullen was determined to put her new skills to use with the patient. "At the end of his time in PT, he was completely independent and didn't need any assistance," she recalls.

A few years later, Pullen found herself working with another patient, a person living with end-stage AIDS. "He just wanted to be able to wheel his wheelchair outside to sit in the sun before he died," Pullen recalls. "That was his physical therapy goal."

The two experiences gave Pullen a preview into the importance of physical therapy in treating HIV. "These were two different patients with different needs, but they both really needed physical therapy," says Pullen, DPT, MPH, CHES, who now directs the service-learning program at Emory's Division of Physical Therapy and also coordinates Emory's dual-degree DPT/MPH program.

And so it started: a career focused on bringing clinical care and the benefits of academic scholarship to patients living with HIV. As such, it's been a career of firsts. Pullen is the first and only physical therapist affiliated with Emory's NIH-funded Center for AIDS Research (CFAR). She's the first and only physi-

others to experience chronic pain.

Kimbi Hagen, EdD, an associate director at CFAR, explains: "HIV itself and the antiretrovirals that are prescribed to control it can independently and synergistically cause bone loss, which leads to musculoskeletal problems and lots of pain—think of the 'foot bone connected to the ankle bone connected to the leg bone' song we all heard as children. HIV-associated neurologic issues can also lead to gait changes, which decrease mobility and lead to or exacerbate chronic pain as well."

While research until now has been limited, physical therapy has become a widely accepted treatment for patients with HIV. "What physical therapy can do is decrease HIV-related impairments and thereby reduce pain and improve quality of life," says Pullen.

About five years ago, early in her time on faculty at Emory, Pullen met with leaders at the Ponce de Leon Center, which is known for providing integrated care to thousands of mostly low-income patients, offering access to mental health counselors, addiction treatment, a dental clinic, and primary care—all in-

*"The work I'm doing isn't really part of the canon of HIV or PT research," says Pullen.*

cal therapist at the Ponce de Leon Center in Atlanta, one of the country's largest AIDS clinics and a core facility for CFAR. And she's one of the first people researching physical therapy as a treatment for the chronic, debilitating pain often associated with HIV/AIDS. "The work I'm doing isn't really part of the canon of HIV or PT research," says Pullen. "I'm meeting in the middle and saying let's make this work part of both."

Pullen's work is possible only because of how far HIV/AIDS treatment has come. From the 1980s until the mid 1990s physical therapy was, in most respects, irrelevant. Regardless of interventions, Pullen says, "the end point was that you'd die of AIDS-related complications."

Today a diagnosis of HIV is no longer a death sentence, thanks to antiretroviral therapy and careful medical management. In fact, a 2013 study published in PLOS ONE found that people with HIV who start antiretroviral therapy at age 20 may now live into their 70s.

As a result, people living with HIV now need medical treatment that goes far beyond palliative care. Yet many health care providers are unaware of how to best help people with HIV. "It's not just take a pill and you'll be fine," says Pullen. "There are medication and disease-related complications as well as musculoskeletal and neuromuscular issues that come with HIV."

In addition, those living with HIV are more likely than

house to make access easier for patients. "But the center did not have physical therapy, and there was a need for it," Pullen says. She conducted a needs assessment, talking to providers and patients, and soon began seeing patients there one day a week.

"I call it clinical utopia," says Pullen. "The center is doing innovative interdisciplinary work with patients." When a patient comes in for physical therapy but clearly has a mental health issue that needs to be triaged, Pullen can quickly find a psychotherapist on site to help stabilize the patient. "Or if I have a patient with a medical issue that's beyond my scope of practice, I can literally walk down the hall, find a physician, and say, 'Can I run something by you?' and we'll talk right then." As a result, says Pullen, "The patients do really well there."

When Pullen first started working with patients at the Ponce Center, she found she could significantly decrease their pain and their dependence on highly addictive prescription painkillers by teaching them physical therapy exercises.

"It's transformation," says Melody Palmore, MD, director of women's programs at the Ponce Center. Many of Palmore's patients work on their feet all day and have struggled with arthritic knee pain. After physical therapy with Pullen, Palmore's patients began telling her their pain had decreased or was gone all together. "They're radiant. What was debilitating to them has been lifted, and they can concentrate now on other things."



# Faces of Giving

## Four Questions with... Norma Fraser Devine 82MMwSc

**I**t's a good thing that Norma Fraser Devine likes a challenge. When she began working at Emory University Hospital Midtown (then Crawford Long) in 1971, she was the hospital's first and only physical therapist. By then, she had already earned an undergraduate degree in physical therapy in her native England and had spent four years practicing and teaching physical therapy in Turkey. These days, Norma Fraser is a major benefactor to the Emory Physical Therapy scholarship program.

### Why become a physical therapist?

Girls were usually teachers or nurses or secretaries, and I didn't want to be any of those. I was my high school swimming champion and played first-string on my tennis team. I knew that physical therapy dealt with movement. I'm not sure I really knew what I was getting into.

**Can you describe your early days at Emory Midtown, then Crawford Long Hospital?** I started in 1971 and left in 1988 as the chief physical therapist of the hospital. I was the only PT when I first got there. They put me in an office right under the roof. It was two little rooms. I'd watch for tornadoes when there was a tornado warning. I could see them coming. After the first year I was allowed to employ another physical therapist and an aide—so it increased our office threefold. But it took time for the doctors



An archival photo of Norma Fraser Devine, 82MMwSc, with John Henry, former CEO of Emory Hospitals.

to recognize that physical therapists dealt not with just orthopaedics, but cardiology, neurology, pulmonary conditions, amputations, and many other aspects of a person's health.

**After working full-time at Emory Midtown for almost 10 years, you came to Emory to get a master's degree in physical therapy. It was the early 1980s, and you were already a respected physical therapist. What propelled you back to school?** My husband had been diagnosed with terminal cancer, and I knew I would have to be the main provider for my family. Also, my physical therapy

department was growing quickly, and I needed some extra skills. If I was going to keep taking students at Emory Midtown, I had to be up with the latest in what was going on. And I've always been a lifelong student. So I worked full-time and went to school.

**You donate generously to Emory's Physical Therapy scholarship program. Why?** When I worked in Turkey I saw so many people who wanted to become physical therapists and just couldn't afford it. Physical therapy is such a wonderful line of work and I want as many people who aspire to go to be able to enter the profession. **EPT**



## New Support for DPT/PhD Students

**R**enowned professor Steve Wolf 72MS 73PhD is anything but anonymous in the world of physical therapy, but when he decided to start an endowment at Emory, he was hoping to stay under the radar. "I tend to be very shy about these matters," Wolf says. "I don't like to talk about these things. I don't need the accolades." Now in his 41st year on faculty at Emory, Wolf, PhD, PT, FAPTA, FAHA, would rather discuss physical therapy than his own philanthropy.

Still, after some arm-twisting by division chair Zoher Kapasi, Wolf has come forward as the philanthropist behind a new endowment. The Steven L. Wolf Scholars Fund will fund Emory students who've completed their doctorate in physical therapy and are beginning their PhD in Applied Physiology through the joint Emory-Georgia Tech program.

For Wolf, creating the endowment was a no-brainer. He had too often worked with students whose future ambitions were being hijacked by student loans. "I just want to provide opportunities for people to pursue their inquiry interests with as little debt as possible," explains Wolf. "If we can encourage students to go beyond the DPT and learn more so they can contribute to our knowledge base, then why not? Quite frankly, I have a vested interest in helping to create the next generation of research scholars in physical therapy."

And while Wolf does plan to decrease his workload next year, he isn't ready to completely hand over the baton altogether. He continues to be excited about research, including a new Veterans Affairs grant to explore robot-led interventions for veterans in remote locations. "As long as I can do those kinds of things and no one seems to stop me, I'll continue to do some work," says Wolf.

Wolf says he doesn't love the attention he's receiving because of the endowment, but he does hope the spotlight will lead others to add to the endowment. "If friends and family or colleagues are wishing to do something for me—whether for anniversaries or birthdays or whatever—I hope they give a tax-free donation to the scholarship program," he says. "If people want to be thankful or appreciative to me, they can contribute something. I'd rather that than talk about it." **EPT**

## A Gift in Memoriam

**B**rian Tovin 92MMSc 02DPT had a nagging feeling that he could be doing more. He'd made a name for himself treating professional athletes and as the head athletic trainer for the men's aquatics program during the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. Last year marked the 20th year of business for his network of clinics, The Sports Rehab Center. He remembered his time at Emory fondly and happily hosted Emory students for clinical rotations. Sometimes he mentored them; sometimes he hired them after graduation.

But Tovin kept thinking about his father, Ian Tovin, who passed away a decade ago. "He was a really giving person," says Tovin. "He always

put others before himself." The elder Tovin had owned a dry cleaning business and was known for his friendliness, generosity, and curiosity. When Ian Tovin wanted to perfect a tennis swing, he'd read a book on the topic. When he wanted to help his three athletic, active sons find the right career



Ian Tovin (L) with son Brian Tovin 92MMSc 02DPT at the younger Tovin's wedding.

paths, he'd done research that eventually led all three sons straight to physical therapy.

"He did more research than our guidance counselors did," says Brian Tovin. "This was in the early 80s, and he had the foresight to know that physical therapy was going to become a leading profession."

Now Brian Tovin is honoring his father's memory by establishing the Ian H. Tovin Award at Emory's Division of Physical Therapy. The endowment will support future Emory DPT students, relieving part of the cost of tuition.

For Brian Tovin, his philanthropy is a way of ensuring a strong future for the profession he loves. "My parents raised me on the concept of giving back," says Tovin. "And there are great minds that contribute to our profession who might be handcuffed in making ends meet. I'm hoping this endowment will grow enough and lead more of these individuals to come to Emory."

Tovin also hopes the endowment leads to more alumni gifts to the DPT program. "Even though this fund has my father's name on it, this is bigger than me or my dad," he says. "I hope that my gift inspires others to contribute to the endowment at whatever level they can. It is about giving back to a program that gave so much to us. Any little bit counts." **EPT**

**Share in Emory PT's Future** | If you've been inspired by Emory faculty members or alums, consider turning your enthusiasm into action. To support student scholarships, contact Andrew Christopherson, director of development, at 404.727.8253 or [andrew.christopherson@emory.edu](mailto:andrew.christopherson@emory.edu).

## A Winning Clinical Instructor

About once a year for the past 39 years, Toni Olliff has welcomed a new physical therapy student into her work home at Emory. It's no small commitment. Olliff then spends the next eight to 12 weeks mentoring each student individually, providing the same level of attention to the intern's training as she does to the outpatient neurology patients they then treat together. "It's a lot of responsibility," says Olliff. "I like to discuss clinical issues with the student each day.



Olliff is an ideal clinical instructor, says Tami Phillips, PT, DPT, MBA, NCS, assistant professor and assistant director of clinical education. "Toni is exceptional," says Phillips. "She is able and willing to tailor a clinical experience for all types and levels of learners."

Toni Olliff began supervising physical therapy students in 1977, when she was just a year out of her own physical therapy program. She has spent her career at Emory, working with patients

If my student is treating a patient, then I want to be right there with them."

Now, Emory's Division of Physical Therapy is honoring Olliff's mentoring with its first annual Outstanding Clinical Instructor Award. The award has been created to recognize clinical instructors like Olliff who show an extraordinary dedication to mentoring students in a way that cultivates critical thinking skills, fosters patient-centered care, and builds enthusiasm for lifelong learning.

who've experienced strokes and head injuries. The patients are often catastrophically impaired, but Olliff relishes the challenge. "Neuro is hard to treat in physical therapy," she says. "There is no cookie-cutter treatment because no one is the same. It takes critical thinking to work with these patients."

As for the reward for all her work with Emory physical students? Says Olliff, "It feels good to let go and see students work successfully with what they've learned." **EPT**



Baylor physical therapist D'Andrea Gadberry (L) with Emory Assistant Professor Donna Smith.

## A PT Partnership in Texas

When Emory's Division of Physical Therapy established an Outstanding Clinical Partner Award this year, Baylor Scott & White Health in Texas immediately became the shoo-in for the honor.

During the past five years, more than 50 Emory students have completed clinical rotations at the health care system's inpatient or outpatient facilities. And while Emory students rave about their experiences at Baylor, Baylor's physical therapists also rave about Emory students.

"Emory students have historically come prepared, energetic, and eager

to learn," says D'Andrea Gadberry, PT, coordinator of outpatient clinics for Baylor. Her colleague Craig Vanderlaan, PT, the coordinator of clinical education at Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation, agrees. "I have not yet met an Emory student who isn't fully committed to soaking up all that they can during their time with us," says Vanderlaan. "The arrangement between Emory and Baylor works because both entities strive to—and do—offer comprehensive and meaningful educational opportunities, advancing the development of each student of physical therapy." **EPT**

## Class of 2016 Student Awards

Each year the Division of Physical Therapy presents awards to graduating students.

**EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AWARD** | This award was given to **Haley Shore McDonald**, who showed considerable initiative and organizational skills related to class and program activities.

**EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE AWARD** | This award recognized **Vanessa Doyley** and **Sarah Sharbaugh** for outstanding service contributions to the program and/or physical therapy's professional association.

**FRANCES A. CURTISS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE** | This award recognized the outstanding service contributions of **Vanessa Doyley**, **Allison Nogi**, and **Rie Tomida** to the community at the local, national, or international level.

**JOHNNIE MORGAN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL SCIENCE** | Based on the recommendations of the clinical instructors and the director of clinical education, this award was given to **Maggie Griebert** and **Timothy Stark** for going above and beyond what is expected of students during their clinical affiliations.

**SUSAN J. HERDMAN AWARD FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE** | This award was given to students **Elaine Ervin**, **Steven Griffin**, **Allison Nogi**, **Jenny Webeler**, and **Emily Wozobski**, who exemplify the drive to advance the profession and who demonstrated knowledge and skills in a specialized area of patient care.

**GROWTH MINDSET AWARD** | This award acknowledged **Gale McCall**, who models behaviors of perseverance and courage in



Frances Curtiss (second from left) with this year's recipients of the Frances A. Curtiss Award for Excellence in Community Service: Vanessa Doyley (l), Allison Nogi, and Rie Tomida.

meeting challenges and who, through hard work and dedication, creates a love of learning and resilience.

**PAMELA A. CATLIN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CRITICAL INQUIRY** | This award was given to **Kayleigh Kalamar**, **Kristen Thomas**, **Colby Wallace**, and **Emily Wozobski** who were deemed by the faculty in consultation with their research advisers to have shown leadership, mastery of content knowledge, problem-solving ability, enthusiasm, and value to overall research projects.

**DIRECTOR'S AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE** | This award was given to **Kari Dieffenderfer**, **Haley Shore McDonald**, and **Eric Otter** in recognition of exceptional academic work.

## Emory Students Win Scholarships

When **Emilly Marshall 17DPT** and **Maggie Carson Griebert 16DPT** found out they had won Emory's Doctor of Physical Therapy merit scholarships earlier this year, both women were thrilled. "There are so many intelligent and hard-working students in our program," says Griebert. "I was excited and humbled to be the recipient of that award."

The \$1,500 scholarship was meaningful, says Marshall. "My student loans are pretty hefty. But the scholarship is symbolic and significant, a reminder that I'm working really hard and have a little wiggle room financially."

Marshall serves as president of the Doctor of Physical Therapy's class of 2017, as well as conducting research, serving as an editorial associate with the *Journal of the Humanities in Rehabilitation*, and participating in

the Physical Therapy Association of Georgia. "If I can be in a position in which I can contribute, that's rewarding," says Marshall.

Prior to graduating this past spring, Griebert participated in research activities at Emory. She also organized classmates to provide weekly volunteer care for a child in the community living with a rare genetic disorder. In recognition of outstanding work during clinical rotations, Griebert also received the Johnnie Morgan Award for Excellence in Clinical Science.

While Marshall is now in her last year at Emory, Griebert has begun putting her education to work at an inpatient facility in Washington, D.C. "Overall I'm very grateful for my time at Emory," says Griebert. "Being an Emory grad has opened up a lot of doors for me already." **EPT**

## Faculty notes

**Michael Borich, DPT, PhD**, received a faculty appointment to the Parker H. Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience at Georgia Tech.

**Kathleen Geist, DPT, OCS, COMT, FAAOMPT, Marie Johanson, PT, PhD, OCS**, and **Benjamin Rogozinski, DPT**, presented a preconference course on gait analysis at the APTA Combined Sections Meeting.

**Patricia H. Bridges, PT, EdD**, and Emory colleagues including **Vince Carter, PhD, Bruce Greenfield, PT, MA, PhD, Marie Johanson, PT, PhD, OCS**, and **Tami Phillips, DPT, MBA**, presented research at the APTA Combined Sections Meeting and at the Education Leadership Conference this year. The research focused on assessing the validity and reliability of the component behaviors of the competencies of the Emory DPT program.

**Zoher Kapasi, PT, PhD, MBA**, was elected as Secretary of the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy's Board of Directors.

**Suzanne Penna, PhD, ABPP**, has been promoted to Training Director for Neuropsychology. She spoke at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association's Division of Rehabilitation Psychology.

**Manning Sabatier, PhD, CSCS**, shared findings on gait rehabilitation at the American College of Sports Medicine meeting earlier this year. He will be speaking about his research on gait rehabilitation at the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine and at the Society for Neuroscience this November.

**Lena Ting, PhD**, taught neuroscience to Tibetan monks as part of the Emory-Tibet Science Initiative. Along with **Trisha Kesar, PT, PhD**, and **Michael Borich, DPT, PhD**, Ting also received a pilot grant from the Center for Advanced Brain Imaging at Georgia State University/Georgia Institute of Technology for a research project, "Neuro-imaging to predict gait rehabilitation outcomes post-stroke."

## BRINGING EMORY PT ACROSS THE WORLD

Not long after students began arriving at Emory earlier this fall, Assistant Professor Marie Johanson, PT, PhD, OCS, and Division of Physical Therapy Director Zoher Kapasi, PT, PhD, MBA, found themselves departing. The two are consulting with colleagues in the former Soviet republic of Georgia to assess the country's physical therapy curriculum and rehabilitative care efforts for wounded warriors and the general population. The effort mirrors an ongoing similar partnership between the Emory School of Medicine and medical colleagues in Georgia.

After an initial in-country assessment earlier this year, Johanson and Kapasi have identified strengths and weaknesses of physical therapy education and practice in Georgia. "There's a fairly robust curriculum," says Johanson, "but there is a cultural bias against students treating patients, so there is no clinical education component to health care curricula. Physical therapists graduate with a lot of 'book knowledge' but no experience in patient care."

This most recent trip to Georgia will not be the last. Kapasi



has recently signed an agreement outlining what will be an ongoing relationship between the Division of Physical Therapy and Georgia's Tbilisi State Medical University. The agreement means Emory will provide ongoing in-country training and support to physical therapy educators for the foreseeable future. Says Kapasi, "I'm so pleased we can bridge gaps in physical therapy education and practice for those halfway around the world." **EPT**

## Alumni notes



ELISE TOWNSEND 97MPT



BRENDAN TANNER 00MPT 03DPT



KATE MIHEVC EDWARDS 09DPT WITH MEGAN HUNTER 13DPT AND DUSTIN LEE 16DPT



MICHAEL ROBINSON 13DPT

**Angelo Rizzo 78MMS** is founder of Therapeutic Solutions, Inc. a physical therapy practice specializing in cancer rehabilitation.

**Kathy Mallozzi Hastings 86MPT** works at North Florida Regional Medical Center and is the Center Coordinator for Clinical Education.

**Sonya Mueller Kibbee 94MPT** works with adult and geriatric patients at Capital Region Medical Center in Jefferson City, Missouri.

**Elise Townsend 97MPT** is an Associate Professor in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at the MGH Institute of Health Professions in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Jessica Santucci 00MPT 03DPT** is the founder and owner of Neighborhood Physical Therapy in Decatur, Georgia.

**Brendan Tanner 00MPT 03DPT** is Director of Therapy Operations at The Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis in St. Louis, Missouri.

**Connie Bigwood 03DPT** recently became a registered yoga teacher.

**Corey Snyder 04DPT** is Physical Therapy Manager at the University of Michigan Sports Medicine Program.

**Leigh Evans Whitton 08DPT** is Center Coordinator of Clinical Education and Stroke Program Champion at Healthsouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Newnan in Newnan, Georgia.

**Kate Mihevc Edwards 09DPT** is founder of Precision Performance & Physical Therapy. She's hired on **Megan Hunter 13DPT** and **Dustin Lee 16DPT** to work with her.

**Amy DeArment 12DPT** just completed a biking adventure raising money for the International Justice Mission.

**Lena Ebron 13DPT** is working in an outpatient clinic in Decatur, Georgia.

**Ellie Toutant Hoover 13DPT** has completed a pediatric residency program and is working at

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta in acute care.

**Kelly Hunt 13DPT** gave birth to a daughter, Kathryn Serene, on May 18th and is continuing to work at the University of Colorado Hospital.

**Maurice Middleton 13DPT** has been promoted to Inpatient Rehab Supervisor at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Atlanta.

**Michael Robinson 13DPT** is a physical therapist at White Oak Physical Therapy and Pain Management in Maryland and recently had a case report published in the *Journal of Physiotherapy Theory and Practice*.

**Elizabeth Eldridge 14DPT** is clinic director at PT Solutions in Roswell, Georgia, working with dancers, adolescent athletes, and active adults.

**Annie Keener 14DPT** is in Washington, D.C. working in a sports medicine outpatient private practice and has become certified as a Pilates instructor

and as a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist.

**Mackenzie Olson 14DPT** is clinic director for PT Solutions in Dunwoody, Georgia.

**Tessa Cook Powell 14DPT** works at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

**Anjali Shah 14DPT** works in acute care at a trauma hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**Ryan Summitt 14DPT** is working at an outpatient physical therapy clinic in Zionsville, Indiana and just had a paper accepted for publication in *Sports Health* about research regarding shoulder injuries in CrossFit.

**Zachary Walston 14DPT** recently had a case series published in the *Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy*.

**Wesley J. Wedewer 14DPT** is a staff physical therapist and fellow at the University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences Center.





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