About the Department

The Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science (PTRS) at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, in Baltimore, Md., offers a comprehensive educational program for physical therapists and rehabilitation scientists. Our department, housed within the oldest public medical school in the United States, has nearly 60 years of rich history and exceptional alumni. While PTRS has one of the oldest physical therapy education programs in the United States, our cutting-edge research and innovative approaches to education make it a program of tomorrow.

Our Vision

To excel in education, research, clinical education, and service by:

• providing evidence that enhances physical therapy practice and rehabilitation science through expertise, innovation, and technological advancement.
• offering educational programs that promote critical thinking and lifelong learning through integration of theory, evidence, and practice.
• guiding and promoting the physical therapy profession through involvement in scientific and professional organizations as well as local, national, and international communities.

Degrees Offered

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY (DPT)
Three-year program with a focus on clinical preparation and physical therapy practice

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)
Interdisciplinary research program leading to the doctor of philosophy degree in physical rehabilitation science

DPT/PHD DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM
Program designated to prepare students for clinical practice and research
Department Facts
• We have been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education since 1956.
• We are ranked among the top 10 percent of physical therapy educational programs in the United States.
• Our graduates consistently have a first time pass rate of 90 percent or higher on the licensing exam which is line with the national mean of 90 percent.
• 100 percent of our core faculty have doctoral degrees.
• We have two endowed professorships to enhance our department mission.

About Our Research
Faculty research from foundation, state, and federal agencies, as well as national and local foundations, averages more than $1.5 million in annual funding.

Extensive ongoing research and evaluation at PTRS targets neuromotor control and rehabilitation. Through extensive, interdisciplinary research networks PTRS aims to develop targeted and novel methods of rehabilitation using state-of-the-art research techniques and methodologies. PTRS research focuses on a rapidly growing population living with disability as a result of age. By empowering these individuals with increased mobility through motor function PTRS is improving their quality of life and restoring and sustaining their independence.

Achievements in Research
• A postdoctoral fellowship program funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research increases research effort capacity for clinical populations with neuromotor disorders.
• We received nearly $1.5 million in ongoing funding support in Fiscal Year 2014 from sponsors such as the National Institutes of Health, Baltimore Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center, U.S. Department of Education National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, and American Heart Association.
• Ongoing research collaborations with the University of Maryland Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center, VA Maryland Exercise and Robotics Center of Excellence, and the VA Robotics Cooperative provide unprecedented opportunities to develop new lines of research.
• The Tailwind, invented by two of our core faculty members, is a patented device that applies motor learning theory to arm rehabilitation for stroke patients.
• Two core faculty members have patented “Step Trainer For Enhanced Performance Using Rhythmic Cues.” A device which aids in cueing a variety of gait parameters and has potential application to many populations.
• We have access to high-quality research collaborators, facilities, and equipment through interdisciplinary research networks across the University of Maryland, Baltimore and with surrounding institutions.
Our Commitment to Excellence

EDUCATION

• We are **ONE OF ONLY FIVE PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAMS IN THE COUNTRY** that are departments within a school of medicine. This unique benefit allows increased funding, access, and shared resources to those enrolled in our programs.

• Our core **FACULTY TO STUDENT RATIO is 1:3 PER CLASS**

• **15 OUT OF 18 CORE FACULTY MEMBERS** are licensed physical therapists representing multiple clinical specialities.

RESEARCH

• **WE COLLABORATE ON INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH** with faculty members across numerous disciplines, both at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and the University of Maryland Medical Center.

• **STATE OF THE ART RESEARCH EQUIPMENT** includes: 3D motion capture system, wireless electromyography system, transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), EEG, functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), and customized robotic devices.

SERVICE

• Our Service Learning Center provides **PRO BONO PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICE** to patients without health insurance or when physical therapy is still needed after their health insurance benefits have run out. This service is a wonderful learning opportunity for our students and a benefit to our community.

• Students partake in many **LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES**: wellness fairs, balance screening events hosted by Baltimore County Department of Aging, and events hosted by Maryland’s Special Olympics to name a few.

CLINICAL PRACTICE

• Many interprofessional **OPPORTUNITIES TO COLLABORATE WITH THE SEVEN PROFESSIONAL AND GRADUATE SCHOOLS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE:**
  - School of Dentistry
  - The Graduate School
  - School of Law
  - School of Medicine
  - School of Nursing
  - School of Pharmacy
  - School of Social Work

• **HUNDREDS OF CLINICAL SITES** across the country in all 50 states.
About Our DPT Students

- Total number of students enrolled: **172**
- Ethnicity across all three years: Caucasian (80%), Asian (6%), Hispanic/Latino (6%), African American (5%), Middle Eastern (1%), American Indian (1%)