

PROFICIO

Honoring Our Past, Empowering Our Future

2026



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

CELEBRATING 70
1956-2026 YEARS

PHYSICAL THERAPY AND
REHABILITATION SCIENCE

Table of
Contents



4-5

Celebrating 70 Years

6-9

Education

10-13

Research

14-15

Service

16-17

Visiting Our History

18

Stay Connected

19

Support UMSOM PTRS

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



As Chair of the University of Maryland School of Medicine Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science (UMSOM PTRS), I am deeply committed to advancing excellence in education, research, and service across the physical therapy and rehabilitation science professions. Every day, our students, faculty, and staff strive to elevate the standard of care in our field, and this year's accomplishments reflect their dedication.

This milestone year holds special meaning for us. As we celebrate our 70th Anniversary, we've had the privilege of reflecting on the rich history and legacy that shaped PTRS into what it is today. In this edition of *Proficio*, I share highlights from my recent conversation with two members of our inaugural class, who began their journey in 1956. Hearing their stories, full of determination, curiosity, and compassion, was both moving and energizing. Their experiences informed the culture we've built for seven decades, committed to improving lives through movement and rehabilitation.

Within these pages, you'll meet some of the remarkable individuals who are carrying that legacy forward. You'll hear from current students like first-year DPT student Luca Fornari, be introduced to new faculty members Dr. Timothy Faw and Dr. Julie Rekant, and get a glimpse into the innovative research underway at PTRS, which is expanding our understanding of human movement and shaping the future of rehabilitation science.

You'll also see how vibrant and active our community is beyond the classroom and laboratory. We are proud to highlight the many ways students, faculty, and staff are pursuing meaningful goals, strengthening professional skills, and serving the physical therapy and rehabilitation needs of our surrounding communities.

As we honor our past, celebrate our present, and look toward our future, I invite you to join us in recognizing the people, ideas, and achievements that make PTRS such an extraordinary place to learn, work, and grow.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Enjoy this special anniversary edition.

Sincerely,

Victoria Marchese, PT, PhD, FAPTA

Jane Kroh Satterfield Endowed Professor of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science



CELEBRATING 70 YEARS

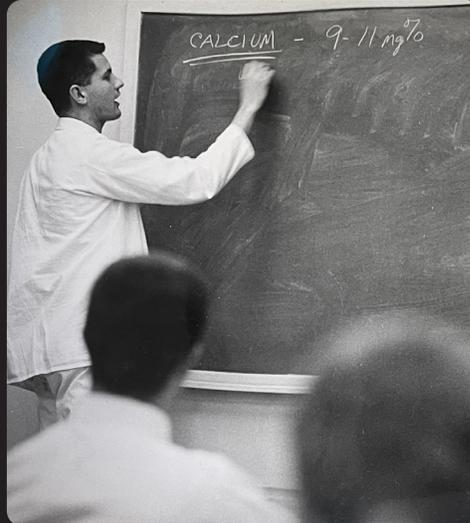
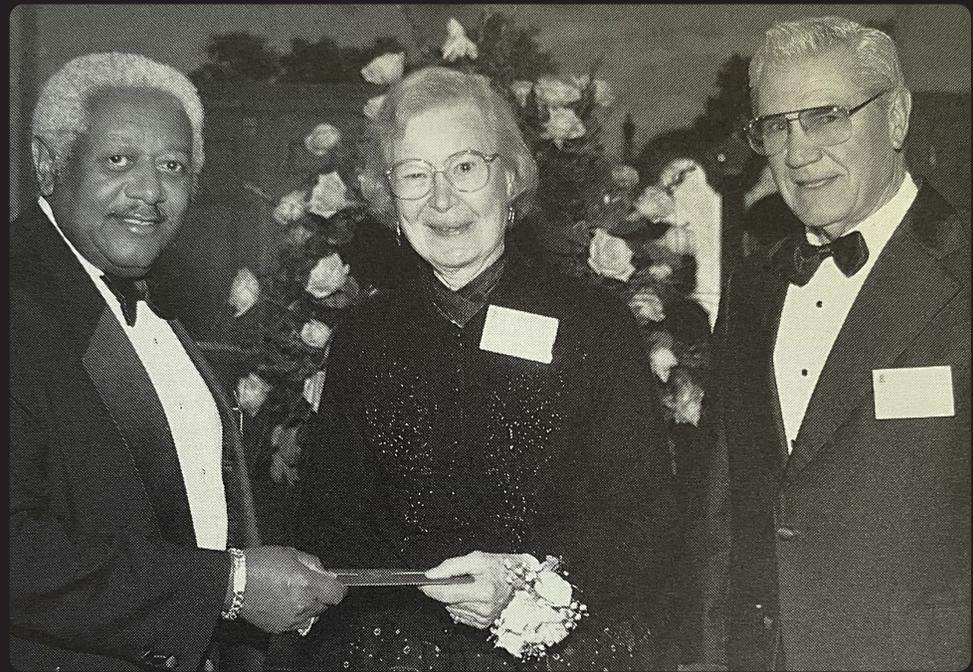
1956-2026

For the past 70 years, the University of Maryland School of Medicine Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science (UMSOM PTRS) has been nationally recognized for its positive impact in physical therapy and rehabilitation science. With a relentless pursuit of excellence, UMSOM PTRS develops students into skilled physical therapists, promotes innovative research amongst its faculty and students, and actively supports our professionals who are determined to make a difference in their communities.

None of the many accomplishments this department has achieved would be possible without those who helped build this program from the ground up. In 1956, Dr. Florence Kendall, a pioneer in the field, and Dr. Gladys Wadsworth, the inaugural chair of the department, came together and laid the foundation with an intensive, hands-on approach to learning. Dr. Kendall remained involved with PTRS, teaching an occasional lecture until she was 94 years old.

“You can’t say it unless you prove it.”
Dr. Gladys E. Wadsworth
Department Chair 1956-1962

Dr. Wadsworth, a staunch researcher, was known for saying, “You can’t say it unless you prove it.” She also established the Dr. Gladys E. Wadsworth



Physical Therapy Research Fund, which extensively contributes to the success of our future research funding.

Our first four students, undergraduates at the University of Maryland College Park, took a risk joining a newly established program, and, because of that risk, all of them went on to have successful careers in healthcare. In preparation for our 70th cohort of students joining us this summer, our chair, Dr. Victoria Marchese, met with members of the first class to learn about their experiences and what advice they have for our newest students (p. 16).

We reached out to alumni from throughout our history to provide some words of wisdom to our 70th class. Keep an eye out for those quotes as you look through all of our recent accomplishments.

1956	→	2026
4	Class Size	71
3	Faculty Members	23
\$0	Research Funding	\$12.6M



Celebrating a 70-year legacy of excellence, we honor the educators and graduates whose dedication to restoring movement, independence, and quality of life continues to transform lives.

Mary Rodgers PT, PhD, FAPTA, FASB
Department Chair 1998-2013

EDUCATION

We are just as committed to preparing our students to be socially responsible professionals who deliver excellent patient-centered care today as we were when the doors opened in 1956. Since then, we have been at the cutting edge of active and experiential learning. Our team of field-leading faculty members is dedicated to educating the next generation of physical therapists to be forward-thinking practitioners who advance the field of physical therapy and rehabilitation science.

No matter where our students come from, what motivates them, or what career they pursue, our Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program provides a student-centered approach to learning, instilling students with the foundational curriculum a practitioner needs to be successful. After substantial time in the classroom, our DPT students are immersed in a variety of clinical experiences and provided service opportunities in the surrounding community. Our DPT graduates go on to work in hospitals, athletics, the arts, and communities around the world. Some students choose to continue their education and pursue a PhD through our dual degree program.

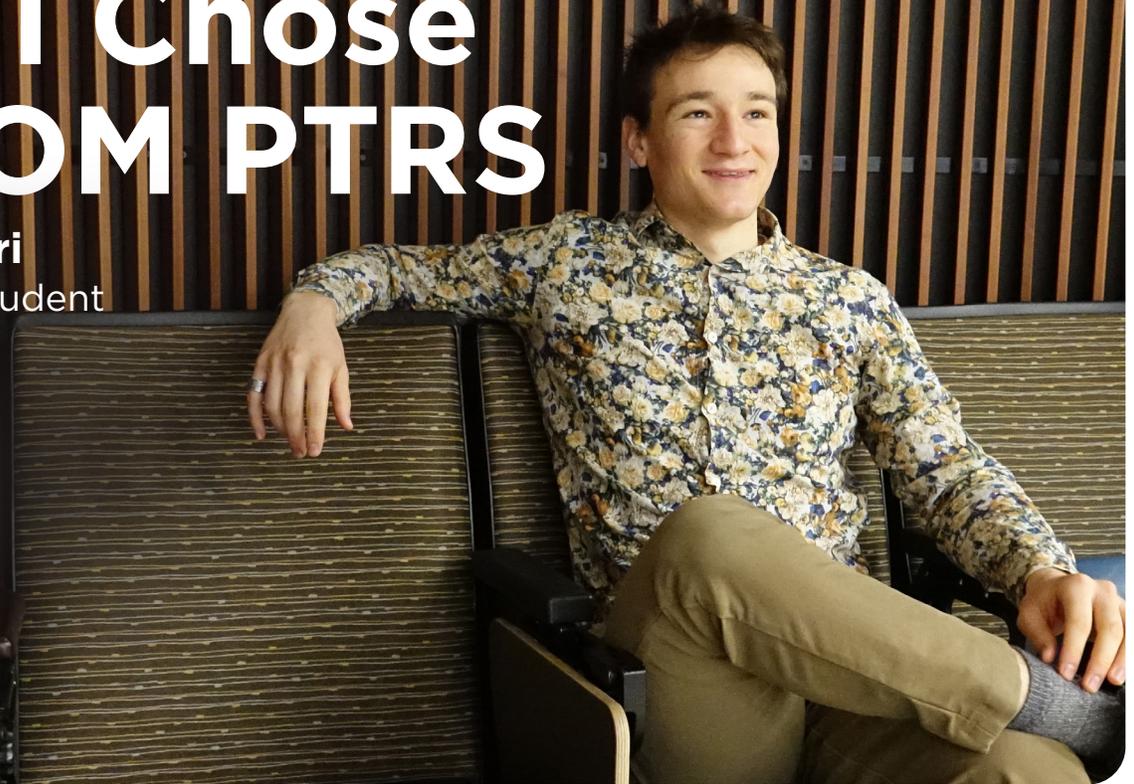
When questions arise that demand attention, our Doctor of Philosophy in Physical Rehabilitation Science (PhD) program provides our students with the tools they need to follow that curiosity and advance the field of rehabilitation science. Each PhD student has a faculty mentor who helps cultivate the comprehensive skill set necessary to pursue their research. Our PhD students build connections within UMB and globally to follow their work as far as it can take them.



Why I Chose UMSOM PTRS

by **Luca Fornari**

First year DPT student
President's
Entrepreneurial
Fellow



My path to physical therapy started as a biochemistry major and collegiate pole vaulter, where the intersection of physiology, movement, and the nervous system became impossible to ignore. I grew fascinated by the ways the mechanistic underpinnings of bodily function can be leveraged through physical therapy. Drawn to the field's emphasis on prevention and non-invasive approaches, I chose UMSOM for its interdisciplinary philosophy and rich history of addressing disparities.

Since starting the program in Summer 2025, I have built connections across the university, establishing an internship with UMSOM's Luana Colloca, MD, PhD, MS. While working with Dr. Colloca's placebo and pain research laboratory, I have contributed to projects on expectation-based pain modulation, opioid use disorder prevention, and a VR-based intervention for patients with acute rib fracture at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center. My experience with the lab shifted my focus toward translational research with direct clinical impact.

Beyond research, UMSOM has encouraged my entrepreneurial interests through structured support and mentorship. Building on prior pitch competition experience at Grinnell College, I became the first UMSOM PTRS student selected for

the President's Entrepreneurial Fellowship. With this incredible opportunity, I partnered with NextStep Robotics to conduct market, regulatory, and technical analyses for a post-stroke rehabilitation device derivative product.

Looking ahead, I plan to pursue the dual-degree DPT/PhD program to integrate rehabilitation, translational research, and entrepreneurship to honor the full spectrum of human wellbeing.



Throughout your careers, continue to seek guidance and perspectives from the mentors you'll find in your time at UMSOM PTRS. As both a PT graduate and PhD alum, my time in the programs truly set the course for my clinical and academic research career. The mentorship, the rigor, and the push to think deeply shaped how I approach questions, design studies, and contribute to the field. The support of my mentors has been a constant throughout my career and has carried me through every success I've had to date."

Margaret A. Finley, PT, PhD

Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy and
Rehabilitation Science at Drexel University
Class of 2003

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

The Right Program For Me



DPT
by Hope Keller

I joined the DPT program at UMSOM PTRS because I knew they would set me up for a successful career. I have had the opportunity to explore the different avenues open to me as a physical therapist through our faculty, who are experts in a variety of specialties. Our program has a great reputation with a variety of clinical spaces, giving every student the opportunity to fully explore the possibilities as a physical therapist.

Overall, the DPT program does a great job supporting students both in and out of the classroom. I am currently in my first clinical experience, getting ready to graduate in December, and I am confident that the DPT program has prepared me for my career as a physical therapist.



DPT/PhD
by Ben Friedman

The DPT/PhD program was the right fit for me because it allows me to integrate clinical training with rigorous research preparation focused on improving mobility and independence in older adults. My clinical training and experiences in the DPT program sharpened my interest in understanding the physiological mechanisms underlying functional decline, while the PhD program is providing the tools to investigate these questions.

Strong departmental support for research development has resulted in successful applications for national awards through the Foundation for Physical Therapy Research's PODS I and PODS II programs. This dual training environment is shaping my development as a clinician-scientist, preparing me to design clinically meaningful studies and advance evidence-based physical therapy research.



PhD
by Mohand Altemani

I chose the PhD in Physical Rehabilitation Science because it aligns closely with how I want to be trained as a researcher and clinician scientist. I was seeking a rigorous academic environment that values clinically meaningful research, strong methodology, and critical thinking.

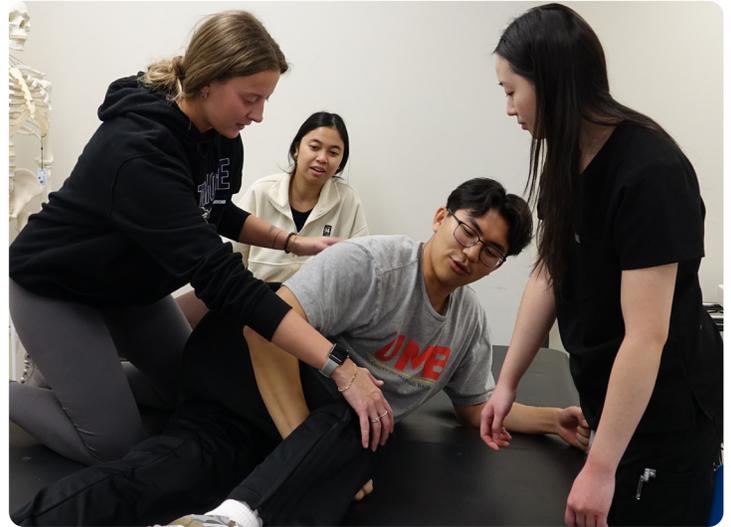
The program's emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration and research rigor matched my goal of developing as an independent researcher. Equally important, the faculty's active engagement in research and supportive mentorship provided the guidance and intellectual support I was looking for. Within this collaborative academic culture, I found an environment where my interests could grow into impactful rehabilitation research.

Emerging Professionals

Classroom Learning

On any given day, you will find students hard at work in our classrooms and labs. Whether they are learning how to properly assess balance, studying for an anatomy exam, or helping a professor with research, something exciting is always happening.

In this particular lab, second-year students Taylor Patrick, Arine Davis, and James Fong worked on how they would help move a patient with a spinal cord injury with the help of University of Maryland Neurologic Resident Elizabeth Cheung, DPT. Our students dedicate themselves to becoming knowledgeable practitioners, ready for any situation.



Clinical Practice

After the first year, DPT students begin clinical rotations. Throughout the clinical experiences, UMSOM PTRS ensures that students spend time in different practice settings while finding sites that align with the students' interests and career goals.

As a result of our strong network, our department is well-connected to many local and national clinical sites. Roman Johnsonbaugh and Audrey Rudy, both graduating this May, are two students who gained full-time clinical experience at a community-based outpatient practice.

Building Careers

Over 85% of DPT students go on to obtain a license to practice in the state of Maryland, meeting the physical therapy needs of our local citizens. Our PhD students are often already out in the workforce, building their careers as they further develop their expertise.

For recent PhD graduate Derrick Larkins, DPT, he has followed his passion for athletic performance to a role with the Washington Mystics. Dr. Larkins worked his way from a Team Sports Physical Therapist at Towson University to his current role in the WNBA while pursuing his PhD with UMSOM PTRS.

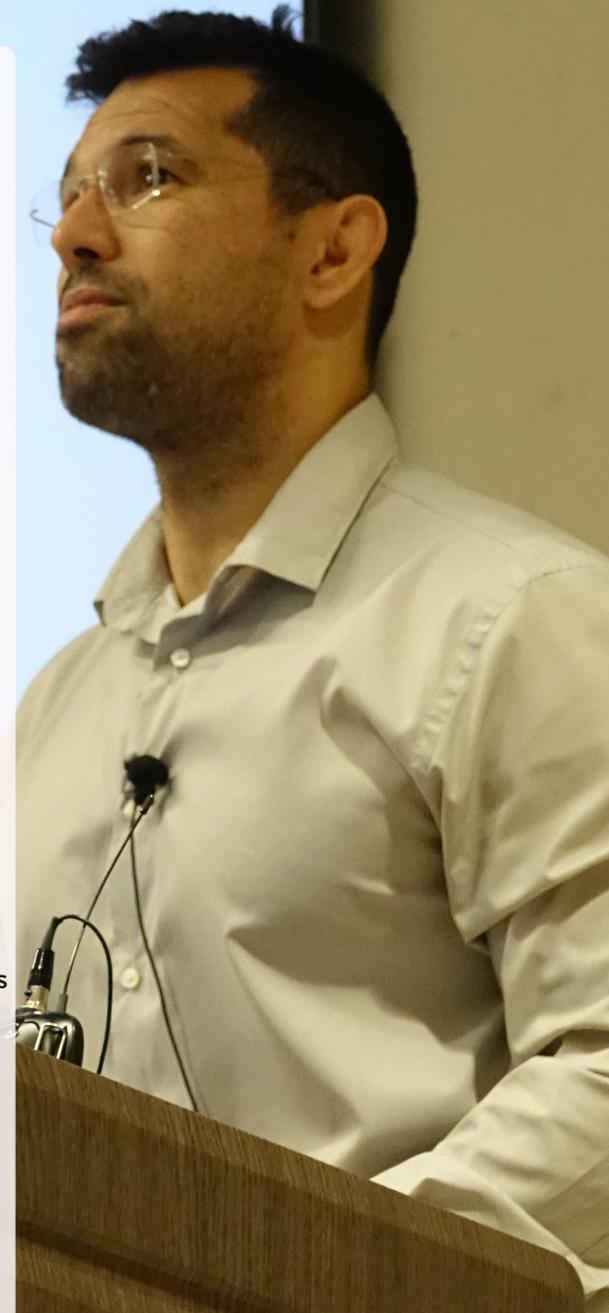


RESEARCH

Research at the University of Maryland School of Medicine Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science focuses on human movement. Our extensive portfolio encompasses health equity and population health, education training and outreach, rehabilitation engineering and robotics, and rehabilitation in neuromotor, musculoskeletal, and cardiovascular performance. Our dynamic, collaborative, and supportive environment is home to 8 active research labs and 1 research center.

How does exercise improve physical function for children with cancer? What effect does a home environment have on older adults recovering from injury? How can AI make ultrasound imaging easier for clinicians? Our researchers are asking questions, being awarded competitive grants, and gaining the attention of local and national media outlets. PTRS hosts weekly seminars to hear the latest in colleagues' research and support the forward-thinking work of our faculty and PhD students.

Our team is dedicated to nurturing the future of rehabilitation science research. Li-Qun Zhang, PhD, Professor, and Kelly Westlake, PT, MSc, PhD, Professor, lead the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training (ARRT) program. This program trains 7 post-doctoral fellows for high-level research careers and fosters the development of new and effective interdisciplinary rehabilitation approaches. Additionally, the Research and Mentoring Program (RAMP) led by Elizabeth Dennis, PhD, Associate Professor, aims to prepare 11th and 12th-grade students in Baltimore City schools for careers in biomedical research. RAMP students learn about faculty research, observe real-time experiments, and see what a career in research would look like.



To stay at the forefront of rehabilitation research, our department utilizes and creates technologically advanced equipment that will push the field towards innovations previously considered impossible.

Robotics

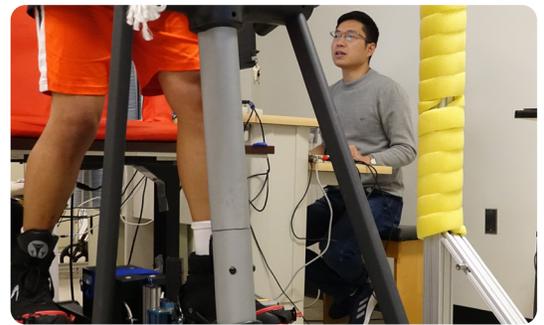
Led by **Li-Qun Zhang**, PhD, Professor, robotics research in the Neuromechanics Laboratory focuses on creating accessible devices that can objectively test patients' functionality and provide reliable rehabilitation assistance. The lab focuses on a variety of patients with orthopaedic and neurologic injuries, such as individuals who have experienced a stroke. The portable machines our team works on can study whether there is cognitive impairment, collect objective quantitative measures for a patient's condition, and create the motion patients need to heal.

Neuromechanisms of Movement

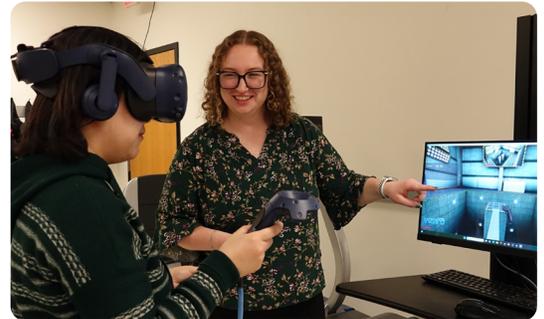
Led by **Kelly Westlake**, PT, MSc, PhD, Professor, the Neuromechanisms of Movement and Learning Laboratory (NeuMo) focuses on understanding the neuromotor and cognitive-emotional mechanisms that underlie impaired movement and motor learning deficits in healthy aging and age-related conditions such as stroke, Parkinson's disease, and mild cognitive impairment. The research involves an integrative approach, consisting of the study of brain function (fMRI, EEG), biomechanics (kinematics, kinetics), and psychophysiological responses (HRV, GSC) with respect to motor control and learning/neuroplasticity.

Applied Respiratory Physiology

Led by **Simon Ho**, DPT, PhD, Assistant Professor, the Applied Respiratory Physiology Laboratory is centered around the study of how breathing affects the many integrated functions that form the foundation for rehabilitation. The focus of this lab is to better understand the mechanisms underlying the control of breathing and blood flow distribution in health and disease across the lifespan.



Post Doc Fellow Zongpan Li, PhD helps a test subject use the robot assisted elliptical training.



PhD student Katherine Dudek guides her test subject through a VR-based research study.



PhD graduate Katie Dondero and Simon Ho look at the results from their test subject.



PhD student Peiwen Fu looks through the results from a test with their Hand of Hope device.



You have chosen a rewarding and life-altering profession for your clients and for YOU. Treat it respectfully, with integrity, and appreciatively!"

Leslie B. Glickman, PT, PhD
Assistant Professor 2001 - 2015
Class of 1964

NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS

Timothy Faw

Timothy Faw, DPT, PT, PhD, never expected to be where he is today when he stepped into academia. He was a first-generation college student studying exercise science at Pfeiffer University and was happy to be in a clinical space as a graduate. Dr. Faw found a passion for helping people recover from injury or neurological damage, which led him to pursue his DPT degree at Duke University and residency training at the University of Southern California.

As he spent more time with patients, Dr. Faw's frustration grew seeing individuals recover differently from similar conditions. Ultimately, that frustration led Dr. Faw to The Ohio State University for a PhD in neuroscience. When he started his PhD program, he went from the clinical work he loved to a small room with a curtain and a microscope, wondering if he made the right decision. But then the questions came and never stopped. "You get comfortable knowing what you don't know going through the PhD process. Even the mundane tasks on the path towards discovery become incredibly exciting," he says.

After joining UMSOM PTRS earlier this year, Dr. Faw teaches our DPT students about neuroscience and neuroanatomy while pursuing groundbreaking research into the neurobiology of motor learning in the context of a damaged nervous system. With funding from the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation, his work seeks to improve rehabilitation approaches for patients who have experienced a spinal cord injury, stroke, or

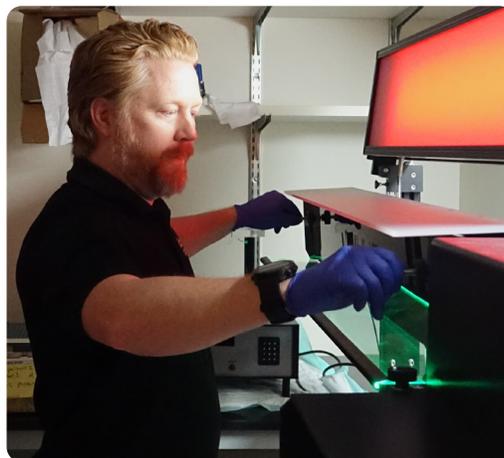
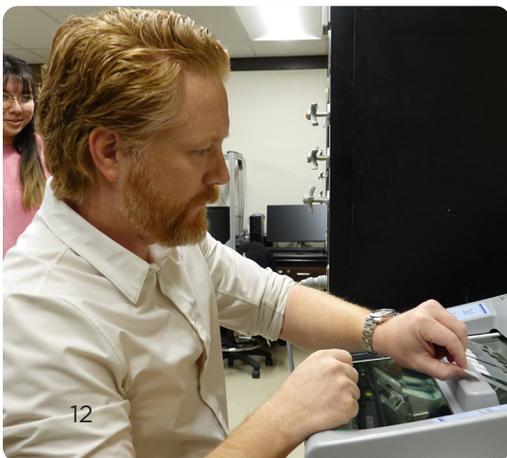


traumatic brain injury. Dr. Faw is also studying the effects of chemotherapy on children's nervous system and how exercise affects their recovery. "We hope to develop interventions that improve recovery for individuals across a wide range of conditions and ultimately restore their ability to participate in the life roles they find most important."

With the experience, kindness, and determination he brings to everything he does, we are lucky to have Dr. Faw on our faculty.

"Even the mundane tasks on the path towards discovery become incredibly exciting."

Timothy Faw, DPT, PT, PhD





Julie Rekant

and clinical practice. One way she leverages her engineering training is by integrating wearable sensors into clinics. “Wearable sensors are so accessible and affordable these days, quickly capturing a wealth of information about how people are moving in their natural environments. When paired with clinical assessments, these devices provide a more comprehensive picture of a patient’s function,” she says.

“I want to support individuals in living healthier, longer lives by enabling them to maintain their independence with mobility.”

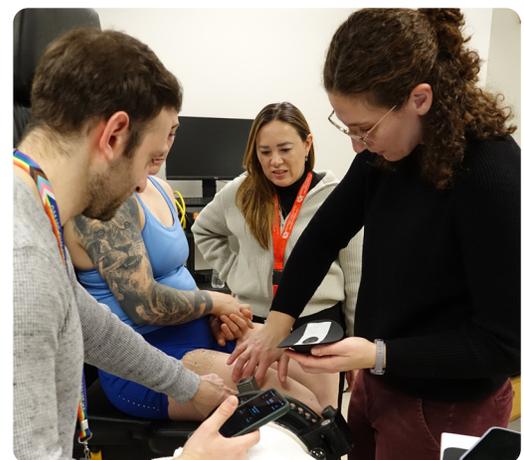
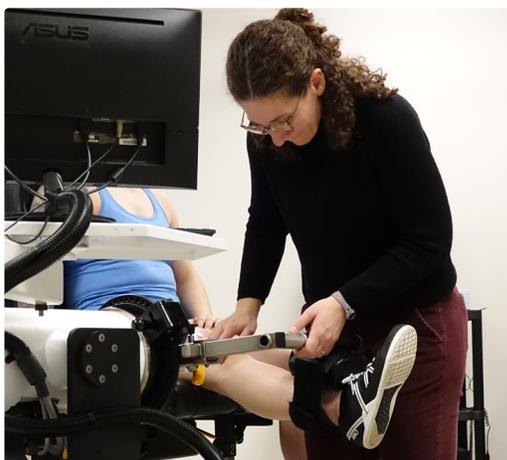
Julie Rekant, DPT, PhD

Like many others in the field, our newest assistant professor found her way to physical therapy through athletics. A collegiate soccer player, Julie Rekant, DPT, PhD, earned her PhD in bioengineering and DPT degree from the University of Pittsburgh’s DPT-PhD in Bioengineering Dual-Degree program. Before joining UMSOM, she accumulated a decade’s worth of experience in translational research that she is now bringing to the University and the Baltimore VA Medical Center.

For her work with the VA, Dr. Rekant earned a Career Development Award to research an activity-focused approach to address fall risk, inactivity, and muscle quality for older Veterans showing signs of sarcopenic obesity. With UMSOM PTRS, Dr. Rekant bridges the gap between engineering research

As Dr. Rekant explores how bioengineering can influence physical therapy, she has also gained support from the American College of Sports Medicine to investigate the role of physical activity on disability development and the accelerated functional decline of aging adults. She hopes that by introducing advanced technology to the clinical setting, the proper interventions can be brought to patients before their condition worsens.

“I want to support individuals in living healthier, longer lives by enabling them to maintain their independence with mobility. My research is centered around increasing health span for aging adults, preserving their quality of life and well-being as they age. This allows them to stay active with friends, family, and their communities while continuing to do the things that matter most to them.” We are excited to support Dr. Rekant throughout her research journey.



SERVICE

Community engagement is a cornerstone of our mission here at UMSOM PTRS. Our students and faculty are committed to providing quality care and meaningful service through partnerships that support our surrounding community. We love that our campus is in the heart of Baltimore, allowing us to build strong relationships with local organizations and integrate community-based experiences into our physical therapy education.

Through these efforts, we collaborate with organizations such as the American Amputee Soccer Association, Thread, engAGE with Heart, the Maryland Special Olympics, and many more. One such partner, the Mid-Atlantic Burn Camp, was founded in 1989 by adjunct faculty members Dr. Tonas Kalil and Ms. Linda French to provide an annual residential summer camp that supports children who have experienced burns and their families as they navigate recovery. At these places, our students gain experience working with individuals from a wide range of backgrounds while developing valuable clinical and interpersonal skills.

Our goal is for students to graduate not only as highly skilled physical therapists, but also as compassionate professionals who understand the broader context of health, wellness, and community. Engaging directly with local organizations provides students with firsthand insight into how physical therapy can positively impact individuals and communities alike.

“

Never confuse activity with impact. Focus on the one or two things that move you, or your patient, forward today. Be relentlessly curious, and let excellence in the basics become your differentiator.”

Josh Funk, DPT

Founder/CEO Rehab 2 Perform

Class of 2011

Students in the Community



First and second-year students at the American Amputee Soccer Association learning about the importance of adaptive sports. From left to right: Samantha Turpen, Claire Henige, Abby Huber, Eugene Lee, Jana Tumaneng, and Darrian Nixon. Photo Credit: Nigel Degraff



First-year students Oluwarimike Daramola, Annabella Baran, and Sarah Khan at the Thread Field Day, prepping arts and crafts activities for Baltimore community members.



Dr. Tonas Kalil and Ms. Linda French smile for a picture with Reese Burdette, a regular speaker with students at Dr. Kalil's burn rehab lab.

Center for Disability Justice

The Center for Disability Justice (CDJ) is entering its second year with a strong foundation of community engagement, education, and a robust body of published research. The CDJ's mission is to co-develop new treatment pathways that enable individuals with disabilities, across the lifespan, to meaningfully access home and community spaces. From the start, the CDJ has been built on the belief that the best research is created with communities, not just for them.

The Center's Community Advisory Board (CAB) — made up of individuals with lived disability experience, clinicians, and community partners — plays a central role in this work. CAB members collaborate with researchers to shape ideas, guide study design, and ensure that projects reflect



Community Advisory Board members pose for a picture at a recent meeting.

real-world priorities. Work supported by the CDJ has been featured in high-impact publications, as well as local and national news outlets. These partnerships are also driving a growing research impact, including more than \$2 million in extramural grant applications in 2025 — positioning the CDJ to lead at the intersection of disability, rehabilitation, and engagement science.

Visiting Our History



Dr. Victoria Marchese looking through a book on the history of the department with Dixie Miliner, UMSOM '58.

This past fall, Dr. Victoria Marchese took the time to meet with two members of the department's very first class. Ellen (Adams) Gutow and Dixie (Smith) Miliner were two of four students recruited to our program by Dr. Gladys Wadsworth in 1956.

Ellen and Dixie were part of a 15-person Pre-Physical Therapy program at the University of Maryland, College Park, and they chose to attend UMSOM even though we had not yet been fully accredited. "There wasn't a school before we went there. We took a chance," Dixie told Dr. Marchese. Yet, neither Dixie nor Ellen regretted that decision, in large part due to Gladys Wadsworth.

“Don't ever forget what you offer your team as a physical therapist.”
Dixie Miliner *Class of 1958*

"She was my idol," Ellen said about Dr. Wadsworth. "A charming person, very down to Earth, but all business." Ellen and Dixie both raved about the education they received from UMSOM PTRS with Dr. Wadsworth at the helm. It was a rigorous course load, with a heavy emphasis on anatomy, that both achieved accreditation and prepared Ellen and Dixie for the challenges they would face throughout their careers.

"If we didn't have you, Dixie, Pat (Wright),

and Bradley (Nelson) taking a chance, we wouldn't have a program today," Dr. Marchese said at lunch with Ellen in her home. Throughout that lunch, Ellen recounted stories about carrying their bones in paper bags for anatomy class, dealing with heckling from the dentistry students, and the three women playing pranks on Bradley. "We did have a special bond," Ellen said about the four members of the inaugural class.

Ellen decided to be a physical therapist after spending a lot of time traveling with her godmother, who was a physical therapist. After graduating, Ellen had a career spanning many different settings. While raising a family of four kids with her husband, she worked for DC General, in public health with foster families, and with the Baltimore Colts, where she treated Johnny Unitas. Ellen spent a major part of her career working with children. She reconnected with one of her patients, who struggled with balance after a head injury, at a ski lodge years after treating her. The young lady's amazing recovery allowed her to join Ellen on the slopes that very day.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my whole career, and I did a little bit of everything," Ellen said. When Dr. Marchese asked what advice she would have for our incoming 70th class, she echoed the importance

of being open to different areas of physical therapy. “You gotta hit everything,” Ellen said.

At a local restaurant in Columbia, Maryland, Dixie Miliner shared her

advice to the incoming class. “Don’t ever forget what you offer your team as a physical therapist,” she said. Dixie found her passion as a physical therapist in the school system. Her husband always asked her why she never went back to get her doctorate, but she said that she wanted to work with people.

Dr. Marchese bonded with Dixie about her own passion for working with children recovering from cancer. This connected deeply with Dixie, who lost her son to cancer. Along with details about her research, Dr. Marchese shared a story about a young girl with leukemia whom she worked with before her time at UMSOM PTRS. Years later, that young girl chose to study physical therapy at the University where Dr. Marchese was a professor. Dr. Marchese was her advisor and she is now a practicing physical therapist.



The Class of 1958: Ellen Gutow, Dixie Miliner, Bradley Nelson, and Pat Wright

Dixie was clearly touched to hear that the place where she started her career was now so deeply connected to the mission she cares for the most. “That is beautiful,” Dixie said. “You’d be surprised why some of your students are students. You never know their inspiration to be a physical therapist.”

“I thoroughly enjoyed my whole career, and I did a little bit of everything.”
Ellen Gutow *Class of 1958*

At these lunches, Dr. Marchese spoke with both Dixie and Ellen about how much the program has grown in the past 70 years. There are now 71 students in a class, 23 faculty members, top-of-the-line equipment for the students, and a continued dedication to hands-on learning. But what hasn’t changed is the department’s commitment to student-centered education. “I’m totally impressed that you’ve gotten where you are and are doing what you’re doing,” Ellen said. “Just being with people helped me as a physical therapist and helped mold me as a person.”



Ellen Gutow, UMSOM '58, jokes with Dr. Marchese about how things have changed in physical therapy.

STAY CONNECTED

Department Highlights

- With our 70th class, we welcome the first cohort of students from the BS/DPT program partnership with the University of Maryland, College Park. The program allows kinesiology majors to complete their degree requirements during their first semester of the DPT program, shortening their undergraduate time by a year. The inaugural cohort of 5 students will join UMSOM PTRS in May.
- UMSOM PTRS continues partnerships to support invaluable residency programs, including neurologic, orthopaedic, pediatric, and geriatric physical therapy, as well as the outstanding Fellowship in Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy.
- After successfully defending her PhD dissertation, **Lindsey Mathis, DPT**, became the first student to complete the DPT/PhD pathway.
- **Jason Falvey, PT, DPT, PhD**, Associate Professor, was awarded the Dean's Faculty Award for Humanism in Medicine. The award honors a faculty member who has made exceptional contributions to advance excellence in medicine and strengthen the health of the community.



Upcoming Events

- **April 24** - Class of 2027 White Coat Ceremony
- **May 5** - Research Day
- **May 12** - Class of 2026 Graduation
- **May 26** - New Student Orientation
- **May 27** - 70th Anniversary Event
- **June** - Summer Open House
- **September** - Fall Open House
- **October** - Continuing Education Course

Follow Us on Social

 Instagram: [@umsomptrs](https://www.instagram.com/umsomptrs)

 Facebook: [@Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science](https://www.facebook.com/DepartmentofPhysicalTherapyandRehabilitationScience)



Without a doubt, there are two defining days in your life — the day you were born and the day that you discover why. Therefore, pursue your life's purpose with white-hot intensity, going all in with the understanding that within the struggle lies beauty, undeniable growth, and life-changing victories — not just for you, but also for the many lives you touch along the way."

Margaret L. Alston, PT, PhD

Associate Professor, Morgan State University

Class of 1983

SUPPORT UMSOM PTRS!

Your generosity helps transform the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science every day.

If you are interested in supporting our mission, please scan the QR code to the right or contact **Alex Ganzermiller**, Associate Director of Development, at 410-706-0563 or aganzermiller1@som.umaryland.edu.

Thank you for supporting the advancement of physical therapy education, research, and scholarly discovery.

<https://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/29257/donations/new>



Ways to give

Support the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science in the ways that work best for you:

- Annual gifts — by mail, phone, or online
- Recurring gifts
- Multi-year pledges
- Gifts of stocks or securities
- Donor-advised funds
- Event sponsorship
- Planned and legacy gifts
- Corporate and foundation support





UNIVERSITY *of* MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
AND REHABILITATION SCIENCE

Allied Health Research Building
100 Penn Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-1082

To learn more visit pt.umaryland.edu or contact:

Joseph Massa
Senior Specialist, Communications & Marketing
410-706-0856
joseph.massa@som.umaryland.edu