Collaborating on complex human movement issues
Collaboration is Key

The key to unlocking the Quadruple Aim of Health Care is collaboration. Should we aspire to provide excellent care, efficiently, and with quality outcomes, all while thriving in our work, we must commit to collaboration. Luckily, collaboration is a core piece of our physical therapy DNA.

It is not surprising to me that we continue to thrive as a department during these tumultuous times because we know that collaboration is a potent antidote to siloed work environments, social isolation and division – all of which are very real byproducts of living through a global pandemic and more.

It is with great pleasure that every day I observe our staff, students and faculty coming together on complex patientcare issues, health care delivery operational issues, scientific discoveries and education initiatives, in order to improve the lives of our patients, to solve the most perplexing scientific questions and to educate the next generation of holistic health care providers.

We hope that you enjoy learning about the many collaborative initiatives occurring over the last year in the UCSF Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science (DPTRS). We could not have continued to be so successful without the dedication and hard work of our entire community and colleagues throughout our department, UCSF and beyond.

Amber Fitzsimmons, PT, MS, DPTSc
Chair, UCSF Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science
PEOPLE
- 16 new staff and 5 new faculty members hired
- Board certification specialties represented: Pelvic, Geriatric, Neurology, Orthopedics, Sports, Cardiopulmonary, Oncology
- 100% of new staff and faculty completed diversity, equity and inclusion training
- 3 faculty participated in the Interprofessional Humanistic Teaching Fellowship

RESEARCH
- #9 in NIH Funding
- $23 million awarded research funds
- 22 active research grants

CLINICAL CARE
- 50,071 patient visits in faculty practice sites (up from 44,170 visits in 2020)
- 3 faculty practice sites: Lakeshore, Mount Zion, and Mission Bay
- 10 interprofessional clinical sites
- 35% of clinical visits used Telehealth

EDUCATION
- 149 DPT learners, 5 PhD learners, 5 residents
- $51,500 distributed to DPT students in scholarships
- Completion of CAPTE self-study re-accreditation site visit
- Development of innovative residency dashboard
People

Disability as Diversity

According to the World Health Organization, people with disabilities are three times less likely to access the health care they need and are five times more likely to have a catastrophic health expenditure.

“If we have aspirations for health equity for all, we have a lot of work to do to achieve this goal,” said Elise Armstrong, PT, DPT, OCS, who co-chairs UCSF’s Committee on Disability Inclusion and has a visual impairment. “The charge of our committee is increasing inclusion and accessibility for staff, faculty, learners, patients and the community,” said Armstrong, who also serves on the UCSF Council for Campus, Climate, Culture and Inclusion. “It’s a huge, overarching task and we see it as chipping away at an iceberg.”

Armstrong’s committee is in the preliminary stages of developing a UCSF-wide ability goal. “We’re hoping to have a systematic route at UCSF for staff, clinicians and providers to know a patient’s disability status in order to provide improved access to quality care.” There is not currently a systematized way to access this information at many institutions.

Physical therapists work with patients who have disabilities of all kinds, including physical, sensory, cognitive, temporary and invisible disabilities. “Physical therapists and physical therapy students who have disabilities themselves can add a unique perspective and alliance with their patient,” stated Armstrong. The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) recently added disability to its definition of Underrepresented Minority Populations in Physical Therapy Education.

“One challenge with disability is the stigma. Not everyone wants to admit that they have one for fear of discrimination,” Armstrong said. Discrimination in favor of able-bodied individuals and against those with disabilities is known as ableism.

Another challenge is the idea that a health care provider can “fix” a person, said Kai Kennedy, PT, DPT, vice-chair of Equity for DPTRS. “It underscores this notion that every individual is individual – you have to meet them where they are, and it forces you to have a holistic approach to care and education.”

Dr. Armstrong said she feels supported in her advocacy work and hopes to inspire prospective students with disabilities to enter the field of physical therapy. “In my department I feel comfortable being open about my disability without any fear of missing out on any advantages or opportunities.”

Emerging Leader: Angela Shoga

Angela Shoga, program coordinator for DPTRS, has been named co-chair of the UCSF Administrative Management Professionals organization. She was nominated and elected for this prestigious leadership role by the organization’s members. In 2020, Angela was recognized as a Healthcare Hero and Emerging Leader by Campus Life Services. “I like working with people who are connected to the same goal – to enhance the patient experience and deliver quality work. It makes work-life easier and gives you something to look forward to when you enjoy the people you work with.” Read more about Angela at tiny.ucsf.edu/Angela.
Clinical Care

Expanding Collaboration in Neurorecovery

Bioengineering Stroke Recovery

Robert Matthew, PhD, assistant professor in DPTRS and an affiliate faculty member in the joint UC Berkeley/UCSF graduate program in Bioengineering, is working to increase collaboration between engineers and clinicians.

Matthew is currently focused on a pilot project in collaboration with the UCSF Neurorecovery Clinic to predict what recovery will look like for people who have had a first-time stroke. Despite decades of research into rehabilitation and recovery following a stroke, there are a lack of clear rehabilitation protocols that can definitively improve motor recovery, with long-term upper-limb impairment present in two-thirds of stroke survivors.” Are there measures we can take for people still in the hospital that we can use to predict outcomes and guide rehabilitation?” Matthew asked.

To answer this question Matthew is exploring two types of systems: The first will identify the motions someone can perform using motion capture systems that can be used in the hospital and home. The second assesses the strength and dexterity of the hand using a sensor Matthew has developed and is testing now. These assessments are complemented with EEG, MEG and TMS done by Neurologist Cathra Halabi, MD, the founder and director of the UCSF Neurorecovery Clinic.

“Working with Dr. Halabi has been fantastic. Getting Dr. Halabi’s expertise and guidance in neurorecovery really balances the biomechanics and technology side of my work,” said Matthew. “It would be next to impossible to do this work without this collaboration and the support from the Weill Foundation.”

“You can take these methods and deploy them to do prediction with more tailored rehabilitation programs and suggestions for where stroke survivors should be discharged,” Matthew said. “If you know someone will recover arm, but not hand function, then you can prioritize therapy in the subacute period when there’s neuroplasticity, and guide rehabilitation in a more effective way.”

Matthew’s patient assessments can be collected in the clinic, allowing for more comprehensive datasets. Typically, these measurements need a specialist lab and multiple hours for data collection. This means that research is limited to ten to fifty subjects. With our approach, we’ve been able to test hundreds of patients. Each test takes about five minutes, so we often collect our data during regular clinic visits.”

“At the end of the day there are so many advances in engineering and computer science that are only just being translated into medicine,” Matthew said. “That’s what I’m working to change.” More prevalent collaborations between engineers and clinicians will be needed to make this a reality.

Neurorecovery Clinic Launches New Program to Focus on Traumatic Brain Injury

The UCSF Neurorecovery Clinic provides evaluation and treatment for individuals recovering from, or adapting to, acquired neurologic injuries (those that are neither congenital nor genetic). These injuries include concussions and other traumatic brain injuries (TBI), strokes, spinal cord injuries, and anoxic brain injuries (resulting from a period of insufficient oxygen), as well as those resulting from nervous system infection or inflammation.

Associate Clinical Professor Alison Scheid, PT, DPT, OCS, NCS, joined the clinic in October and will be working with patients with traumatic brain injury. Often with TBI, it’s an injury not just to the brain – there is often whiplash, or a cervical spine component,” Scheid said. “Addressing both injuries is an interest of mine and can help with symptom reduction.”

DPTRS faculty member Erin Hallett, PT, DPT, NCS, has been involved with the Neurorecovery Clinic since 2019. “Patients at the clinic had rehabilitative needs and we thought: Wouldn’t it be great if there were rehabilitation specialists on site to provide a robust clinical picture?”

For many years physical therapy was considered an afterthought when it came to treating neurologic injuries, Hallett said, but the Neurorecovery Clinic has integrated it as an essential element of patient care.
Interprofessional Care for Complex Conditions

Partnering with the Radboud University Medical Center in the Netherlands to Treat and Study Brachial Neuritis

Brachial Neuritis, also known as Parsonage Turner Syndrome, is a rare neurological disorder caused by damage to the brachial plexus, a bundle of nerves that controls movement and sensation in the shoulders, arms and hands. Patients experience pain and impaired movement for weeks or months and are often left with residual problems because of compensatory movements.

UCSF’s Brachial Neuritis Center, which opened in July, is the first program in the United States to provide comprehensive care for patients with this condition.

The Radboud University Medical Center in Nijmegen, Netherlands, a well-recognized treatment center for Brachial Neuritis, has trained and partnered with UCSF. Based on the Radboud Center’s standards of care, UCSF assembled a team of neurologists, neuromuscular fellows, physical therapists, occupational therapists and respiratory therapists. According to Andrew Lui, PT, DPT, vice chair of Clinical Services for DPTRS, having a space for team members to collaborate in real time helps optimize their care.

“This is part of a wider trend of expanding our capability of working in an interprofessional fashion on diseases, including traumatic brain injury, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and multiple sclerosis,” Lui said. Throughout the health care system, physical therapists will increasingly serve as onsite consultants who can help triage patient care needs. “We want to make sure that patients with complex diseases get care as easily as possible and at the times they most need it.”

Physical and occupational therapy are currently the best treatments for Brachial Neuritis, said Noriko Tei Boyd Anderson, MD, MPH, a neurologist at the Center. “Physical therapy and occupational therapy are the hallmarks for treatment and can help make the patient more functional going forward.”

The Brachial Neuritis Center is also furthering scientific knowledge about this condition. Most patients at the Center have opted to participate in a study run by Michael Wilson, MD, who is conducting research to better understand the causes of Brachial Neuritis and potential treatment options.

“Physical therapy and occupational therapy are the hallmarks for [Brachial Neuritis] treatment and can help make the patient more functional going forward.” – Dr. Noriko Tei Boyd Anderson

From left: Alison Scheid, DPTRS associate clinical professor; Dejon Sanders, RCP; Neha Madugala, clinical research coordinator; Ann Poncelet, MD; Joelle Gabet, neuromuscular medicine fellowship; Noriko Tei Boyd Anderson, MD, MPH; Sierra Peace, medical student; and Jessica Mok, occupational therapist

DPTRS Year in Review 2021
New Clinic Launches to Provide Free Services for Underserved Populations

The Community Clinic at UCSF’s PhysFit Health and Wellness Center opened its doors September 2021. Second- and third-year DPT students, along with faculty clinicians, provide free physical therapy services to uninsured and underinsured patients with the goal of improving the health and quality of life of underserved populations in the Bay Area.

The students hope that one day, anyone, regardless of their socioeconomic status, will have access to high-quality physical therapy services. “The development of this clinic has been in the works for a very long time,” said Salma Hassan, a third-year DPT student. “I decided to get involved because I’m interested in helping out the community, especially underrepresented populations.”

Many patients are immigrants or refugees and may not have access to health insurance. “Getting health care services is very difficult for them, so this is a great opportunity for those patients to get care that’s desperately needed,” Hassan said.

“This clinic is a great example of collaboration between the faculty and students to provide excellent care to underinsured and uninsured patients,” said Assistant Professor and Clinical Supervisor Heather Bhide, PT, DPT, NCS. “I have been amazed at the professionalism of the students and the comprehensive, empathetic care that they are providing to these patients.”

This clinic is a great example of collaboration between the faculty and students to provide excellent care to patients who are underinsured and uninsured.” – Dr. Heather Bhide

The DPTRS Community Clinic is currently operating two Saturdays a month, with hopes to expand in the future. If you would like to support the clinic, please consider making a tax-deductible donation at tiny.ucsf.edu/DPTRSclinic. The clinic is completely volunteer run, and donations help keep it open by paying for operational supplies, as well as buying equipment for patient home use (such as walkers, canes and exercise equipment).

Education and Community Partnerships

From left: Kurt van der Schalie, PT, DPT, OCS; Ashley Omwanghe, student physical therapist; patient Robert Ramirez; Philip Evangelista, student physical therapist

Ongoing Community Partnerships

DPT students and faculty are working to create, develop, and support long-term, sustainable relationships with community organizations to improve health outcomes among marginalized communities in the Bay Area.

“We aspire to break down the barriers to health equity by promoting access to care, health literacy and meeting other social needs that are the root causes of health disparities,” said Theresa Jaramillo, PT, DPT, MS, vice chair of education. Twelve students, including, first-, second-, and third-year DPT students are involved in electives to help meet these goals.

One example is the DPT program’s relationship with the Mabuhay Health Center in San Francisco, which primarily serves the Filipino-American community, many of whom work in the service industry. Working with an interdisciplinary team of medical, pharmacy and dental students, DPT students provide monthly consultative services, complete community needs assessments and develop health education materials.

This year, DPTRS has developed a partnership with Clínica Martín-Baró in the Mission Neighborhood of San Francisco. The students completed a community needs assessment, which led to the development of a support group for patients with diabetes. As part of a newly emerging relationship with the San Francisco Free Clinic, which provides free, accessible medical treatment to the uninsured, students are completing a needs assessment and exploring a relationship with medical and nursing students.
Congratulations DPT Class of 2021

Lena Alazzeh
Keanu Andico
Emmanuel Boquiren
Sean Bristol-Lee
Sophia Burchuladze

Daniel Chen
Amy Chyan
Caitlin Colladay
Guillermo Cuevas
Pilar Dizon

Jamie Flanagan
Jacob Flathers
Daniel Fok
Lupe Gamez-Amaya
Halie Gordon

Gabrielle Grady
Laura Greene
Julia-Anne Herbert
Edward Hernandez
Sara Jan

Tim Jannisse
Isabel Juang
Kayla Katzman
Phuong Le
Matthew Lee
Research Expansion

DPTRS is ranked #9 in the nation in NIH funding among Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Departments.

Together they brought in over $23,000,000 in extramural support for their work in 2021. Notable awards from the National Institutes of Health included six R01s, an R21, an R33, an R66, an RF1, and two Career Development Awards (I K awards). Faculty also secured awards from NASA, the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and several private foundations and internal awards.

The department has continued to support the development of new ideas through its Departmental Seed Grant Initiative. In 2021, seed funding was provided to:

- **Ivan Arriaga-Martinez, PT, DPT, OCS, CSCS**, for his study “Implementation of Blood Flow Restriction Training into a Multimodal Telehealth Rehabilitation Program Following Arthroscopic Meniscus Repair.”

- **Koren Roach, PhD**, for her study “Detection of Physical Activity Type and Duration in Individuals with Hip Osteoarthritis.”

Student Profile:

**Arpita Gopal, DPT**

PhD Student Explores Innovative Therapies to Improve Hand Function in MS Patients

Arpita Gopal, DPT, is pursuing a PhD in Rehabilitation Science with a focus on Clinically Informed Neurosciences. She is working in the lab of Riley Bove, MD, to identify new strategies and technology to treat hand function in people with multiple sclerosis (MS).

A large proportion of the research on people with MS focuses on walking, balance and falls, Gopal said, but hand use is just as important to patients’ sense of self.

Gopal developed a smartphone-based survey to assess various aspects of hand function. Patients rate their abilities to perform routine tasks such as buttoning their shirt, brushing their teeth and eating, and then perform and record videos of themselves doing these tasks. The videos can be analyzed through an algorithm, and ideally used by physical therapists, neurologists and other clinicians to specialize their therapy to address problem areas.

Gopal said she appreciates the PhD program because of faculty members’ support for her interests. “I have a lot of freedom and independence to explore, pursue what I’m curious about, and just run with it.”

Educational Research Growth

1. Amber Fitzsimmons, PT, MS, DPTSc, Belonging in Health Professions Education
2. V. Kai Kennedy, PT, DPT, Health Equity and Curricula Design

Clinical Research Growth

1. Erica Pitsch, DPT, NCS, Gait Retraining, Deep Brain Stimulation
2. EJ Gann, DPT, NCS, Neurorehabilitation, Technology Development
3. Sam Pak, PT, DPT, Quality of Life Outcomes, Informatics
4. Alejandra Hernandez, DPT, OCS, Functional Assessment, Low Back Pain
5. Danny Keller, DPT, OCS, Orthopedic and Sports Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation Science PhD Program Growth

1. Megan McCune, PhDc (1st year), Brain and Spinal Cord Injury
2. Jessica Bath, DPT, PhDc (1st year), Deep Brain Stimulation, Stem Cells
3. Cayce Shaw, PhDc (3rd year), Brain Resilience in Aging
4. Arpita Gopal, DPT, PhDc (3rd year), Multiple Sclerosis, Digital Health
5. Alyssa Bird, Phd (5th year), Muscle Quality and Osteoarthritis

Faculty Research Interests:

Research Faculty Growth

1. Myriam Chaumeil, PhD, Neurodegeneration, MR Metabolic Imaging
2. Victor Cheuv, PhD, Lower Extremity Biomechanics, Diabetes, Medical Imaging
3. Robert Matthew, PhD, Robotics, Sensors, Functional Recovery
4. Matthew Miller, PT, PhD, Quality of Life in Older Adults, Rehabilitation Outcomes
5. Richard Souza, PT, PhD, Biomechanics, Quantitative MRI
6. Susanna Rosi, PhD, Neuroinflammation, Cognitive Dysfunction
Partial List of Active Grants

Victor Cheuy, PhD
- COVID-19 Relief Fund, funded by UCSF Academic Senate Chancellor’s Fund
- Electromechanical Dynamometer for Clinical Research of Skeletal Muscle Function, funded by UCSF Academic Senate Shared Technology Award
- RAP Diversity, funded by UCSF Research Development Office

Myriam Chaumeil, PhD
- Imaging innate and adaptive immune response in MS using [18F]-F-AraG PET and hyperpolarized 13C MRSI, funded by NIH
- Development and validation of novel models for cerebral small vessel disease and vascular cognitive impairment, funded by NIH National Institute on Neurological Disorders and Stroke
- MR metabolic Imaging of Multiple Sclerosis, funded by NIH
- Metabolic neuroimaging of immune response in neurological disorders using hyperpolarized 13C MR, funded by the Dana Foundation
- Mechanisms of Functional Vascular Impairment in Genetic Models of Cerebral Small Vessel Disease, funded by NIH
- Application of Hyperpolarized 13C Magnetic Resonance Imaging to

Robert Matthew, PhD
- UCSF Core Center for Patient-centric Mechanistic Phenotyping in Chronic Low Back Pain, funded by NIH
- Assessing Biomechanical Function and Hip-Stabilizing Muscle Quality Associated with Transfemoral Osseointegration, funded by the Department of Defense
- Adaptive Deep Brain Stimulation for Gait Retraining in Parkinson’s Disease, funded by the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research

Susanna Rosi, PhD
- Myeloid cells and radiation-induced memory deficits in rodent glioma model: sex and age effects, funded by NIH
- Therapeutic Irradiation and Brain Functions, funded by NIH/R01
- Aging exacerbates trauma-induced immune pathways and neuronal dysfunction, funded by NIH/R01
- MR metabolic Imaging of Multiple Sclerosis, funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Richard Souza, PhD
- Structural, Biochemical and Functional Connectivity in Osteoarthritis using Quantitative Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Skeletal Biomechanics, funded by National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases
- Movement pattern biofeedback training after total knee arthroplasty, funded by National Institute on Aging
- Mentoring Biomechanics Research in Osteoarthritis, funded by National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases
- Digital care program for chronic shoulder tendinopathy versus conventional physical therapy: a prospective, randomized controlled study, funded by SWORD Health

DPTRS Launches First Clinical Trial

With funding from SWORD Health, Sam Pak, PT, DPT, has launched the ASPECT Project, a one-year clinical trial which will compare outcomes between digital and in-person physical therapy in the population with chronic shoulder dysfunction.

Read more at aspect.ucsf.edu.
Belongingness in Health Professions Education

What does it mean to feel a sense of belonging and how does that impact students’ wellbeing and success? DPTRS Chair Amber Fitzsimmons, PT, MS, DPTSc, is exploring this question, along with DPT students, in a concept analysis examining belonging in health professions education.

In this Q&A, third-year DPT student Mari Hercher discusses the impact of belonging.

Q: Why did you decide to become a physical therapist?
A: My grandmother passed away from breast cancer a couple of years before I started school. I watched her transition through inpatient care and home health care, and the person who made the biggest difference seemed to be the physical therapist. It taught me some important lessons about giving people dedicated time to motivate them. You can’t make a lot of changes in the moments you work with a patient, but you can give people a lot of power to work on it themselves.

Q: Why did you choose UCSF?
A: Something that really mattered to me was that the place I selected cared about diversity. During the interview process I interacted with Dr. Kai Kennedy. She was the first black physical therapist I had ever met, and she was doing important work to advance diversity, equity and inclusion at the school. It feels very validating to have someone who looks like you doing the thing you want to do.

Q: Tell me about your research on belonging?
A: With Dr. Fitzsimmons and fellow students Alex Hansen and Jules Evans-Anfom, I am working on the concept analysis which explores belonging in the space of health care education, including nursing, medicine, physical therapy, dentistry and pharmacy. When people feel a sense of belonging, they tend to work better, faster, and are happier, so we want to better understand how clinical environments are created to help make students feel like they belong.

Announcing New Neurologic Physical Therapy Residency

The Neurologic Residency Program will start September 1, 2022. We are seeking our first candidate to start in the residency program.

If you are a current third year DPT student or practicing clinician and are interested in expanding your knowledge in neurologic physical therapy, enhancing your clinical expertise treating neurologic patients in multiple settings with mentors who are board certified neurologic clinical specialists, and grow your teaching skills in the UCSF/SFSU DPT program, we would like to hear from you! To apply online or for more information about the program, please visit our website at tiny.ucsf.edu/NPTR. Application deadline is April 1, 2022.
Alumni and Donor Support

Student Highlight:
Fernando Cazares

In this Q&A, the Irene Gilbert Endowed Scholar describes how he plans to lead change in the community.

Q: Why did you decide to become a physical therapist?
A: I love people and I love the vulnerability that comes with patient care and the trust that’s involved. It’s very fulfilling to bring a smile to someone’s face and to be a guide to someone to help themselves.

Q: How has the DPT program been for you during the pandemic?
A: I struggled very early on – it was isolating at first since all of our curriculum was virtual, but it forced me to create connections. I found safety in community.

Q: Tell me about your extracurricular and leadership activities.
A: I am co-president of the student government. It’s been a great opportunity to represent people and I enjoy the challenge. I also do outreach and am working to build relationships with established community clinics, such as Clínica Martín-Baró in San Francisco’s Mission District. It’s about getting on the ground level and listening to the communities. Our presence as physical therapists in community health centers is still not as integrated and involved as other fields and specialties, so we’re trying to step in and fill that gap.

Q: How did it feel to learn that you received the Irene Gilbert Scholarship?
A: Honestly, I was moved to tears. It was a difficult time for me in the midst of remote learning and sometimes the challenges would weigh me down. Receiving the award felt like a kind of a pep talk and made me feel part of the community. It reminded me that I’m on the right path.

Q: How do you see yourself as a leader in the field of physical therapy?
A: A lot of leadership is being an active listener and a conduit for peoples’ concerns – making everyone feel heard and validated. I want to be a voice to empower people to create social change and to uplift people.

Irene Gilbert Endowed Scholarship
The Irene Gilbert Endowed Scholarship was established by alumnus Michael P. Go, Class of 1974, in honor of Dr. Irene Gilbert, former director of UCSF’s program in physical therapy. Gilbert’s leadership instilled in faculty and students a strong sense of ethics and responsibility to patients, colleagues, and the community – values that Michael embodied throughout his long career. The scholarship supports students with passion for a career in physical therapy, a record of success in initial coursework, and an exceptional commitment to ethics and professionalism.

Academic Year 2020-21 Awardee: Fernando Cazares

Alumni Leaders in Physical Therapy Scholarship
The Alumni Leaders in Physical Therapy scholarship was established to support students who have demonstrated academic excellence and who show promise of leadership and potential to serve the profession of physical therapy.

Academic Year 2020-21 Awardee: Marisa Serra

JoAnn Baldwin Peters Memorial Scholarship
The JoAnn Baldwin Peters Memorial Scholarship was established to support students enrolled in the UCSF/SFSU Graduate Program in Physical Therapy who demonstrate promise of leadership and potential to serve the profession of physical therapy.

Academic Year 2020-21 Awardees: Gabrielle Grady, Marisa Serra, Sarah Weir

Kean Award
Recipients of the Kean Scholarship are selected by faculty based on a range of criteria, including academic performance, financial need, participation in the academic program, contributions to the physical therapy profession, and the potential to be an exceptional colleague.

Academic Year 2020-21 Awardees: Emmanuel Boquiren, Pilar Dizon, Savannah Estes, Jacob Flathers, Salma Hassan, Kayla Katzman, Lillie Mansfield, Maria Solis-Lopez, Haidee Sui, Jane Voseen, Noe Waing

Keller Family Scholarship
The Keller Family Scholarship was established to support students enrolled in the UCSF/SFSU Graduate Program in Physical Therapy. Recipients are selected for this award based on their passion for a career in physical therapy, a record of success in clinical rotations, and exceptional “bedside manner.”

Academic Year 2020-21 Awardees: Zulema Gamez-Amaya, Halie Gordon, Cuevas Guillermo, Tara Jani, Isabel Juang, Roni Owyang
DPTRS Receives $500,000 Gift from Ron Conway

After working with venture capitalist and philanthropist Ron Conway, DPTRS Assistant Clinical Professor Danny Keller, PT, DPT, OCS, was surprised and humbled to learn that Conway had decided to donate $500,000 to Dr. Keller and DPTRS in honor of the excellent care he had received.

“I’m still a bit speechless about the gift,” said Keller. The funds will be used to advance clinical care and support the new DPTRS Community Rehabilitation Clinic.

“I just try to do my job as best as possible for everyone, and don’t expect anything in return,” Keller said. “Our department is full of rock stars – from the PTs, to the administrative staff, to the faculty, to the supervisors, everyone is passionate and works really hard. We all make each other better, and I learn something new every day. I think this gift is just a reflection of how much dedication our group puts into patient care.”

Keller said patients are often surprised by the profound impact physical therapy can have on their lives. “There’s nothing better than helping a patient to regain their function and quality of life, and when you can show them how much power they have over it, how much control they have in the process, it’s amazing.”

Alumni Leaders in Physical Therapy

Andrew Lui, MPT ’95, DPT ’06, Wins UCSF Alumni Practitioner Award

DPTRS vice chair of Clinical Practice Andrew Lui, MPT, DPT, won the 2021 UCSF Alumni Practitioner Award, which honors an alumnus whose work is marked by boundless clinical empathy, understanding and caring within health care.

“The great thing about Andrew is he’s one of those unassuming leaders,” said Assistant Professor and Clinical Supervisor Heather Bhide. “I remember when he was training me at the ALS clinic and I realized the empathy that he exudes when he’s working with us as health care practitioners he also extends to his patients.”

Robert Niklewicz, PT ’76, Named 2021 DPTRS Alumnus of the Year

From taking care of Vietnam vets to writing two novels about his family’s history during World War II, Robert Niklewicz, PT, DHSc, is passionate about his profession and his external pursuits. He has made a lasting impact on his community, family and patients and was named the 2021 DPTRS Alumnus of the Year. Learn more about his story and background at tiny.ucsf.edu/alum.
Join us

Care. Teach. Discover.

That’s what YOUR GIVING empowers our physical therapists to do.

To build on our success and continue to offer innovative care and education for optimal health, wellness and general fitness, please consider joining us by making a gift in support of DPTRS.

GIVE TODAY at tiny.ucsf.edu/GivingTogether.

If you have questions or would like to learn about additional giving options with significant tax benefits – such as a gift of securities or IRS rollover gift – please contact Rosie Dillon, associate director of development, at (415) 933-7295 or by email at rosie.dillon@ucsf.edu.

We are grateful for your partnership.
New Specialty Services Clinic to Open in 2024

A new DPTRS specialty services clinic is slated to open on the Mission Bay Campus in 2024 as part of the Block 34 development. As a specialty care clinic, it is designed to have private treatment rooms with additional open gym space. Plans are in place to expand services such as pelvic care, oncology rehabilitation, and neurologic services. Occupational and speech therapy will complement physical therapy care at this clinic.