Sudha Agrawal Memorial Endowment

The Sudha Agrawal Memorial Endowment has been established in memory of Sudha Agrawal (1956-2016) through a generous gift from her family and friends for the benefit of the Division of Physical Therapy.

Sudha received her MPT from Ohio University in 1998, but her path to physical therapy was non-traditional. She had a degree in architecture from Bhopal, India and worked as an architect in New Delhi and Syracuse, NY.

Her interest in physical therapy began in 1986 when she crushed her femur in a car accident and was in the hospital under traction for 10-weeks. As a result of a year of intensive physical therapy treatment, she chose to make a career change in order to help others in the same way that she had been helped. She began taking pre-PT courses with students half her age at OHIO in 1992 while taking care of her family. It was not easy, but she was determined. She was admitted to the physical therapy program at OHIO in 1995. There were days when she almost quit the program, but she persevered and graduated with her MPT in 1998 at the age of 42. After graduation, she worked at local clinics in Athens for 15 years. She was passionate about physical therapy and her enthusiasm as a caring therapist is acknowledged by the many patients who still remember her fondly today. She took early retirement in 2013 to be able to travel and spend time gardening. Unfortunately, ovarian cancer cut her life short and she passed away in 2016.

The Sudha Agrawal Memorial Endowment is her legacy to the students and faculty of the Division of
Physical Therapy at Ohio University. It will provide funds annually to the Division of Physical Therapy to invite one or more prominent researcher(s) or practitioner(s) in the field as guest speaker(s) to organize lectures, symposia, workshops, seminars, or colloquia for the benefit of research and professional development of faculty and students. Sudha’s family hopes that it assists in educating the next generation of therapists who are as passionate about the field as she was. The PT program faculty and students are sincerely grateful to Sudha’s family for this wonderful gift.

**Inaugural Sudha Agrawal Memorial Endowment Lecture/Symposium April 14, 2021**

We are very pleased to announce that Adriaan Louw, PT, PhD will be in the inaugural speaker. Adriaan earned his undergraduate degree, master’s degree, and PhD in physiotherapy from the University of Stellenbosch in Cape Town, South Africa. He is an adjunct faculty member at St. Ambrose University and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, teaching pain science. Adriaan has taught postgraduate, spinal manual therapy, and pain science classes throughout the US and internationally for 25 years and has presented at numerous national and international manual therapy, pain science, and medical conferences. He has authored and coauthored more than 80 peer-reviewed articles, books, and book chapters related to spinal disorders and pain science. He is the director of the Therapeutic Neuroscience Research Group—an independent collaborative initiative studying pain neuroscience. He is senior faculty, pain science director, and vice-president of faculty experience for Evidence in Motion.

The Lecture/Symposium will be held on **April 14, 2021** in a virtual format. Additional information will be sent to all alumni.

**Clinical Education**

OHIO PT Class of 2022 completed their P1 Clinical Rotations in the Fall of 2020 despite challenges with COVID-19. Students were equipped with appropriate PPE to set them up for success in their rotations and to ensure their safety in the clinic. OUDPT students were exempt from treating patients who had confirmed or suspected COVID-19 to further ensure the safety of students and patients. The Class of 2022 is now preparing to begin their P2 Clinical Rotations in the Summer and expect similar circumstances to ensure safety.
The DPT Class of 2023 will begin their Part-time Integrated Clinical Education (ICE) experience in the Spring/Summer semesters. The ICE experience usually takes place over one semester, however, with the challenges of COVID-19, the faculty and our clinical partners have decided to split their ICE into Spring and Summer semesters to provide each student with a quality experience while maintaining safety precautions.

Quad Rugby 2020

October 9-11th, 2020 the OUDPT Quad Rugby Committee organized the Walk, Run, Roll 5k in order to support the Buckeye Blitz despite the ongoing challenges with Covid-19. Alumni, faculty, students and family/friends all over the country participated in the virtual event and were able to interact through social media to show support to the Buckeye Blitz.

This year, with increased virtual participation, we were able to raise $9,000 for the Buckeye Blitz and had the most Alumni engagement ever! Congratulations Alumni on making the 2020 Quad Rugby such a success.

COVID-19 Guidelines Update

As of January 2021, Ohio University has implemented a biweekly asymptomatic testing program for students who attend in-person classes. In order to keep our students healthy and in-person, we are happy to implement these policies within our program as well. Further Department policies are also in place including daily symptom surveys, temperature and symptom monitoring, split classrooms, and designated open lab times by

Botswana

Unfortunately, the Rehab Services in Botswana program cannot take place in summer 2021 due to travel restrictions secondary to COVID. However, the Directors of the program have been working to develop a domestic program to continue serving our partners in Botswana and our students. Pending rigorous review and approval, and pending the status of the pandemic, a program may be able to run this summer.
New Faculty Spotlight

Rachel Bican is a pediatric Physical Therapist who will be joining the OU DPT Faculty in August 2021. Rachel earned her DPT from Ohio State University in 2017 and will be receiving her PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences from OSU this year. Her dissertation is investigating high intensity rehab to improve posture in children with mild to moderate cerebral palsy. Rachel will be teaching in the neurologic and pediatric tracks this Fall. We are thrilled that Rachel will be joining the faculty and look forward to her contributions in teaching and research.

Nicolas Karayannis, MPT, PhD is a graduate of the OHIO PT program (2000) and received his PhD from the University of Queensland (2013) in human neuroscience. His mission is to improve clinical practice guideline care and implement mind-body interventions for people living with spinal pain. His research focuses on elucidating the sensorimotor and psychological change processes that promote bioplasticity and well-being. We are very excited to welcome Nick back to OHIO's PT program.

Both Rachel and Nick will be starting at OHIO this summer.

CSM 2021

CSM 2021 took place virtually this year from February 1-28th, 2021. OU DPT had several faculty members and students present at CSM this year. Below are the research presentations covered by faculty/students.

PhD student Meredith Chaput, who is also a PT, had her research nominated for a reward. Her work involved looking at the neural activity and motor control in individuals with ACL Reconstruction.


Giving Back

Feel like giving back? To partner with us in continuing to provide quality education to our students, click here and follow the directions to make a donation to the Physical Therapy Program.

Select “the fund I want to support isn't listed above” and enter one of the funds shown below to donate!

- Cynthia Norkin Scholarship (Service and Leadership)
- Joy Boyd Memorial Scholarship (Academic Merit and Professionalism)
- Southpaw Enterprises Scholarship (Pediatrics)
- Carole J. Marchal Scholarship (Pediatrics)
- Po Hickenbottom Scholarship (Pediatrics)
- Trotta, Haste, Schulman Scholarship (Faculty Choice)
- Leigh Ann Frick Leadership Scholarship (Strong Leadership Skills)
- Sudha Agrawal Memorial Endowment (Annual Lectureship Series)
- Physical Therapy (Multipurpose)
- Botswana Rehabilitation Services (Yearly Student Study Abroad Trip)
Alumni Gatherings

At this time, there are no in-person Alumni Gatherings planned due to COVID-19. Keep in touch with us on social media, our website and Alumni Newsletter for information regarding upcoming events in the future!