Physical Therapy program shines at statewide meeting

The level of respect accorded Sacramento State’s Doctor of Physical Therapy program helps explain why its professors and students made such a strong showing at the California Physical Therapy Association Annual Meeting, Oct. 24-25 in Oakland.

Professor Katrin Mattern-Baxter won the prestigious Faculty Research Publication Award for her study: “Effects of Home-Based Locomotor Treadmill Training on Gross Motor Function in Young Children With Cerebral Palsy: A Quasi-Randomized Controlled Trial,” with co-authors Stefani McNeil and Jim K. Mansoor. It was published in the Journal of Archives of Physical Medical Rehabilitation in 2013.

Mattern-Baxter’s former student Mallory Groppe captured the Student Research Presentation Award, with guidance from Mattern-Baxter and Professor Todd Davenport, for Groppe’s publication “Passive stretching and its effect on spasticity and range of motion in children with cerebral palsy: A systematic review.” It appeared in the Journal of Student Physical Therapy Research in 2012.

“The success of our faculty and students from our new doctoral program in Physical Therapy at the recent PT conference comes as no surprise,” says Dean Fred Baldini, College of Health and Human Services. “We have outstanding faculty, excellent students, and our new teaching/research facilities at Folsom Hall are state-of-the-art. This combination allows us to achieve significant things in the area of scholarship.”

The meeting drew more than 1,100 physical therapists and physical therapist assistants seeking to exchange best practices and establish new strategies to help elevate the profession. It included educational programming packed with more than 48 sessions, panels, and roundtable discussions on the latest physical therapy research and techniques taught by leading industry experts.

Sac State stood out during two of the six platform presentations. Professor Bradley W. Stockert presented “Programmable Patient Simulators and High Fidelity Simulation as an Educational Technique.” Professor Mattern-Baxter presented “Utilization and Effects of a Community-Based Treadmill Program for Pre-Ambulatory Children with Developmental Disability.” Her co-authors were student physical therapists (SPT) Autumn Huey and Christian Swanson.

Highlights of the poster presentations included “Effects of anterior versus posterior walker on walking function after chronic cerebellar stroke: A case report,” by Swanson, who was assisted by SPTs Donovan Curtis, Christina Estrem, Tri Nguyen and professors Michael McKeough and Mattern-Baxter. And Professor Stockert presented an educational session on “Improving Recognition of Adverse Events in the ICU Using Simulation.”

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