



Honoring the Graduates:
**Program Awards
Class of 2015**



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

Discover. Educate. Care. Lead.

Program in Physical Therapy

Faculty Award for Academic Excellence

Recognizes a student who has:

- Attained the highest cumulative average
- Ranked first in the class



Hillary Keating

Scholastic Excellence

- Merit Scholarship
- George W. Ellis Fellowship
- TA for Kinesiology & Biomechanics I and Gross Anatomy Lab



Clinical Affiliations

- Shift Physical Therapy - New York, NY
- Recovery Physical Therapy-Upper West Side New York, NY
- The Rehab Gym Colchester, VT
- New York Presbyterian Hospital New York, NY

Extracurricular

- Student Faculty Committee Representative
- Columbia Student Medical Outreach (CoSMO)
- Crutches for Kids-Columbia University Committee



Mary E. Callahan Award

In Recognition of an Outstanding Educator and Former Director of the Program in PT

Recognizes a student who has shown:

- Academic achievement
- Outstanding clinical skills
- Sensitivity
- Leadership ability



Michelle Akazawa



Scholastic Excellence

- Merit Scholarship, 2013-2015
- Teaching Assistant: Anatomy Lab, Examination & Evaluation, PT Management of the Adult with Neurological Conditions I
- Poster Presentation at 2015 Combined Sections Meeting

Service

- Columbia Student Medical Outreach, New York, NY
- Guatemala Service Learning Trip, Guatemala
- 5P Minus Conference Volunteer, Melville, NY

Clinical Affiliations

- New York Presbyterian Hospital Weill Cornell Medical Center, New York, NY
- Mill Valley Physical Therapy, Mill Valley, CA
- Stanford University Medical Center, Stanford, CA



Joan E. Edelstein Award

In honor of a former Director of the Program in PT

Recognizes a student who has shown:

- Strong commitment to the aims and ideals of the profession through service
- Shows promise of becoming a distinguished representative of the Program and Columbia University



Paul M. Cooley



Service

- President, DPT Class of 2015
- Councilmember, Columbia Graduate Council

Scholastic Excellence

- Teaching Practicum in Anatomy
- 2014 Samuel Rudin Foundation Scholarship Recipient
- 2013 Kodiak Auxiliary Hospital Scholarship Recipient

Research

- The Effect of Treadmill Training on Gait and Energy Expenditure in Huntington's Disease: a Systematic Review
Advisor: Dr. Ashwini Rao



Marcia Ebert Award for Clinical Excellence

In memory of a faculty member, a dedicated academician
and clinician

Recognizes a student who has shown:

- Outstanding clinical performance throughout the program
- Pursuit of challenging affiliations
- A level of performance that exceeds clinical education program expectations
- Developing teaching skills to become a clinical preceptor in the education of future students



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Jennifer A. Crespo



Clinical Excellence:

- Valley Hospital for Child Development
- Sentara Healthcare- Adult Day Rehabilitation
- Five Dock Physiotherapy & Sports Injury Centre
- Hackensack University Medical Center

Scholastic Excellence:

- Academic Honors (3.94 cumulative GPA)
- Teaching Assistant: Anatomy laboratory and Examination & Evaluation

Service:

- Columbia Student Medical Outreach (CoSMO) Board
- Guatemala Service Learning Trip
- 5P- Society Annual Conference
- Rheumatoid Society Family Day
- Cornerstone Christian Church Children's Ministry



Faculty Award for Excellence in Neurorehabilitation

Recognizes a student who has shown:

- Commitment to a career in adult neurorehabilitation
- Academic excellence in the required neurorehabilitation course work
- Academic excellence in the neurorehabilitation specialization track
- Clinical excellence in the neurorehabilitation internship
- Affinity for clinical teaching



Ruta P. Patel



Scholastic Excellence:

- University of California at Berkeley, Dean's List
- Merit Scholarship, 2012-2015
- Research: Motor and Pulmonary Function in children with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy
- Capstone: Rehabilitation Interventions for Attention Deficits in Adults who have Experienced TBI (2013)

Service:

- Teaching Practicum in Anatomy
- Gross Anatomy Lab Teaching Assistant
- PT Management Adult Neuro I Mentor
- Brooklyn High School for Global Citizenship Lecturer
- CosMo

Clinical Affiliations:

- Kaiser Permanente San Jose Medical Center
- Tri-City Physical Therapy
- California Children's Services



Ryan W. Smith



Scholastic Excellence:

- Magna cum laude from SUNY Plattsburgh
- Merit Scholarship (2012-2015)
- Research: Patient and physical therapist perspective of participation in spinal cord injury rehabilitation

Service:

- Gross Anatomy Lab Teaching Assistant
- PT Management Adult Neuro I Mentor
- CosMo

Clinical Affiliations:

- Kessler Rehabilitation
- Champlain Valley Physician's Hospital



Faculty Award for Excellence in Orthopedics

Recognizes a student who has shown:

- Commitment to a career in orthopedics
- Academic excellence in required course work
- Academic excellence in specialization track
- Clinical excellence in the orthopedic internship
- Affinity for clinical teaching



Gina Panarese



Scholastic Excellence:

- Academic Distinction
- Merit Scholarship Award 2012-2015
- Teaching Assistant for Kinesiology & Biomechanics I
- Advanced Orthopedics: Mobilization with Movement for the spine

Research:

- Interventions for Hypermobility Syndrome-Systematic Review

Clinical Affiliations:

- New York Presbyterian Weill-Cornell, inpatient
- Kessler Rehabilitation, outpatient
- New York Presbyterian CUMC, outpatient
- Sports Training Physical Therapy



Alfred DiMarino Award for Excellence in Pediatrics

Established in memory of Alfred DiMarino, husband of program alumna Jean van Haaften, distinguished pediatric physical therapist

Recognizes a student who has shown:

- Commitment to a career in pediatrics
- Academic excellence in the required pediatric course work
- Academic excellence in the pediatric specialization track course
- Clinical excellence in the pediatric internship
- An affinity for clinical teaching



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Heather E. Miller

Scholastic Excellence

- Program Merit Scholarship
- Donna Lynn Mushkin Scholarship

Pediatric Master Class

- Horseback Riding in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Teaching and Service:

- Teaching Assistant in Gross Anatomy
- Project Happy
- CoSMO

Clinical Affiliations

- Centurion Physical Therapy
- Montefiore Medical Center
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Internship



Alma S. Merians, PT, PhD Award for Excellence in Research

- Established by program alumna Dr. Alma S. Merians, a distinguished scholar and researcher
- Recognizes a student or student group who has shown potential for future productivity in PT scholarship as judged by the faculty





Fiona L. McMahon



Ruta P. Patel



Justine R. Payne

- Title: Relationship between cognitive pulmonary and motor function in muscular dystrophy
- Advisors: Dr. Ashwini Rao, Dr. Jackie Montes



Risa Granick, PT, MPA, EdD

Scholarship

Former director, Columbia University Program in Physical Therapy

Presented to a student who:

- Embodies Dr. Granick's passion, enthusiasm and work ethic
- Shows promise of continuing her legacy in teaching and service to the physical therapy profession



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Catharine E. Stevenson



Scholastic Excellence:

- Program Merit Scholarship, 2013-2015
- Teaching Assistant: Gross Anatomy

Research:

- Wong CK, Ehrlich JE, Ersing JC, Maroldi NJ, Stevenson CE, Varca MJ. Exercise programs to improve gait performance in people with lower limb amputation: a systematic review. *Prosthet Orthot Int*, 2014;38.

Service:

- Columbia Student Medical Outreach (CoSMO)
- Crutches for Kids

Leadership:

- Student-Faculty Representative



*Congratulations to all of the
2015 Award Recipients
as you embark on a career that
holds great promise for you*



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