

OREGON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY / OREGON HEALTH & SCIENCE UNIVERSITY DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Connecting OIT / OHSU Physical Therapy alumni, students, faculty, clinicians, and community

OIT.EDU/ACADEMICS/DEGREES/DOCTOR-OF-PHYSICAL-THERAPY



1st Quarter
2025



Left to Right: Department Chair, Jacki Brechter; Faculty, Anne Davenport; 2nd Year Student, Grace Bruschi; Faculty, Holly Copenhagen; Program Director, Marybeth GrantBeuttler



What's New

OIT / OHSU DPT attend
APTA's 50th Annual Combined
Sections Meeting in Houston, TX

New Faculty Member -
Welcome Ashley Illiff!

Students build skills in the
Simulation Lab & out in the
Community

Faculty presentations &
research projects



Students & Participants during
Integrated Clinical Experience

Program Director Message

Welcome to the **first** OIT/OHSU Doctor of Physical Therapy newsletter! Our program has grown in leaps and bounds over the last 2 years. Since receiving our initial accreditation in early 2023, the program has admitted **2 cohorts and is in the process of admitting the 3rd cohort** who will start their first term in June of 2025. In addition, to building our student cohorts, we have also built our faculty. We now have **5 core faculty** and more than **20 associated faculty** who teach the large variety of specialty topics in our curriculum. Along with outstanding teaching, our faculty contribute to the profession and our community through research and the development of projects that connect our students to our community from the start of their learning experience. The Better Bones and Balance Boot Camp highlighted in this issue (page 4) is only one of our local clinic opportunities, our students were also involved in **Social Gaming Club at Tater Tots, a local non-profit pediatric clinic with owners and clinicians Kayla Taylor, PT, DPT and Kylan Taylor, SLP** last term. Every term, we develop new and exciting community opportunities for our students to apply their newly learned skills and provide pro-bono care for our community.

Thank you for taking the time to review our amazing growth, please keep your eyes open for our future newsletters as this is just the beginning! We have a lot more exciting things on the horizon for our program, our faculty, and our talented students.

Marybeth Grant-Beuttler, PT, PhD, PCS
Program Director, Doctor of Physical Therapy Program

Student Highlight – Grace Bruschi

“Attending CSM was an absolutely incredible experience! The enthusiasm for physical therapy was infectious, leaving me inspired for my future in the profession. One of the most exciting revelations was discovering the many resources available to students, including free admission to APTA Academies like the Cardiovascular and Home Health Academies. Exploring the exhibit hall allowed me to connect with travel PT companies, ask important questions, and gain clarity about the field. Sessions on geriatrics, residency programs, and advocacy were particularly enlightening.

One of the most impactful moments came during a session on advocacy, where we crafted our own elevator speeches. I was nervous—it felt like such a vulnerable activity—but by the end, I had a great conversation with a DPT from Arizona who was knowledgeable about the Indian Health Service (IHS) and supportive of my passion for advocating for PT departments within IHS. That moment solidified how important it is to connect with like-minded professionals and exchange ideas. I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the **Karuk TERO Commission** for their generous sponsorship, which made this unforgettable experience possible.”



Faculty News

Upcoming Presentations

Core faculty member, **Anne Davenport, PT, DPT, GCS** (top right) and community partner, **Ellen Radcliffe, MPH, CHES** (bottom right) will present at the Oregon Office of Rural Health Forum on Rural Population Health & Health Equity in May 2025. Their session, *Building Community Partnerships for Health Equity: Integrated Clinical Experiences in Rural Settings*, will showcase how Integrated Clinical Experiences can reduce health disparities in rural communities. They will highlight the Better Bones & Balance Boot Camp, a collaboration between Oregon State University Extension Services, OIT/OHSU DPT, and the Klamath Basin Senior Citizens’ Center.

[Click here to learn more and attend.](#)



Adjunct faculty member, **Katie Cusack, PT, DPT, MHS, OCS, SCS, CSCS, CMP** is currently researching young female athlete injury rate and prevention with a specific warm-up prior to practice and games with participants from Charlotte Catholic High School in North Carolina. She will be collecting data over the next three years.

Hot Off the Press!

Jacki Brechter, PT, DPT

Department Chair, Core Faculty



Fu W, Baldwin TF, **Brechtner JH**, Erickson MR, Kobal K, LaFay V, Miller TM, Morales J. Effects of Educational Interventions Designed to Develop Physical Therapist Learners' Clinical Reasoning: A Systematic Review. *Phys Ther.* 2024 Dec 24:pzae182. doi: 10.1093/ptj/pzae182. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39718199.

"The objective of this systematic review was to investigate the effects of educational interventions designed to develop physical therapist learners' clinical reasoning across the full continuum of professional development."

[Click to read the full article with PTJ Access.](#)

Presentation on the article will be on Thursday, March 6, 4 pm PST

[ZOOM LINK TO ATTEND](#)

Marybeth GrantBeuttler, PT, DPT, PCS

Program Director, Core Faculty

Soangra R, **Grant-Beuttler M**, Chang H, Wang RY. Two-year follow-up of gait and postural control following initiation of recombinant human tripeptidyl intracerebroventricular enzyme replacement therapy in two atypical CLM2 patients. *Sci Rep.* In Press.

This article is part of a longitudinal study on children with a rare genetic disorder, Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis Type 2 (CLN2) done in collaboration with Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) and Chapman University. CLN2 is a rapidly progressive neurodegenerative disorder leading to premature mortality. We have been documenting the progression of gait and balance in a group of children who began receiving biweekly intracerebroventricular (ICV) enzyme replacement therapy. This article is the first to track functional outcomes in children receiving this therapy.

[Click here to read the full article via PMC Free Full Text Access.](#)



Welcome, Ashley Iliff!



Ashley Iliff PT, DPT, FAAOMPT, originally from the scenic central coast of California, brings a wealth of experience to her role as the newest core faculty member and Director of Clinical Education at the OIT / OHSU DPT Program. Before establishing her prior residence in Austin, Texas, Ashley worked as a traveling physical therapist across six states, gaining invaluable insights into diverse clinical practices.

She holds a B.A. in Psychology from UC Santa Barbara and pursued her graduate studies abroad at the University of Melbourne, Australia. In 2020, she earned her Doctorate in Physical Therapy from the University of Saint Augustine for Health Sciences in San Marcos, CA. Additionally, Ashley completed fellowship training in orthopedic manual therapy from the American Academy of Manual Therapy (AAMT), further enhancing her clinical expertise. With a robust background in managing chronic health conditions, post-operative care, sports injuries, vestibular disorders, and neurological conditions, Ashley is dedicated to enhancing clinical education for future healthcare professionals.

Outside of her professional commitments, Ashley is passionate about travel and exploration. She enjoys hiking, cycling, surfing, and singing, often seeking new adventures that inspire her both personally and professionally. Her diverse experiences and enthusiasm for teaching empower her to cultivate a dynamic learning environment for students in the field of physical therapy.

Community Outreach

This Winter Term, students are participating in the *Better Bones and Balance Boot Camp*, an Integrated Clinical Experience (ICE). This ICE brings Doctor of Physical Therapy students together with the OSU Extension Service and the Klamath Basin Senior Citizens' Center to promote fall prevention and wellness for community-dwelling older adults. Students facilitate balance and strength exercises, gaining hands-on experience in assessment, intervention, and patient education. Students also develop professionalism, communication skills, and emotional intelligence by engaging with older adults, adapting their approach to individual needs, and fostering meaningful connections in a clinical setting. This collaboration enhances student learning while supporting the health and mobility of the local community.



Above Left to Right standing: Anne Davenport, Program Manager of Health Promotion Services at KBSCC & Oregon Tech DPT Faculty; Billy Redd, Director of Development, Pacific Crest FCU; Ellen Radcliffe, Better Bones & Balance Instructor, OSU Extension Service; Marc Kane, Participant; Cooper Brown, Student Physical Therapist. Kneeling in front: Grace Bruschi, Student Physical Therapist
Thank you to Pacific Crest Federal Union for sponsoring the equipment.



"I have personally benefitted and always look forward to going. I want to thank Logan for his encouragement and ensuring I am doing the exercises correctly."

Sharon Obedowski, Participant

Above: 1st and 2nd Year DPT Students, Faculty, and Better Bones and Balance Instructor (center and seated) starting Week 3 of the ICE program.

Pictured Right, Left to Right: Kathleen Brown, Participant; Claire Strong, Student



Students and participants working on "drawing the horizon" balance challenge. Pictured left to right Jackson Buresh, Student; Jennifer Patterson, Participant; Connor Cary, Student; Ardie McDermott, Participant; Lan Le, Student.

Program News

In late January, associate faculty member, **Holly Copenhagen PT, DPT**, participated in a Simulation Facilitator Course with 12 other healthcare providers from across the state led by OHSU Simulation Training. She is co-teaching Acute Care Physical Therapy course which has included simulation exposure using mannikins, support and equipment at the Paul Stewart Collaborative Health Center (CHC). Long-term, we plan to lead simulations across the DPT curriculum and include Standardized Patients. The CHC houses a large skills lab, simulation theatre room, classrooms and OSCE exam rooms.

For more information on OHSU Simulation Facilitator Training contact: miehl@ohsu.edu



Left to right: Holly Copenhagen DPT, participant; Calvin Miller MN, RN, CHSE, trainer; Nick Miehl PhD, RN, CHSE, trainer; Annie Stange MSN, RN, RNC-NIC, participant; Kathy Pauly RN, participant and Melissa Gomez RNC-MNN, participant, at OHSU Robertson Life Sciences Building Simulation Center.

Students in the CHC Simulation Lab



Left to Right, Students: Reilly Combs, Alex Lindsey, Logan Maly, Mackenzie Peterson

Upcoming Events

- June 2025 – Cohort 3 Orientation
- August 14, 2025 (via zoom) – Program Information Session
- September 4, 2025 (via zoom) – Program Information Session
- September 20, 2025 – Open House

September 20, 2025
White Coat Ceremony