



MPTA School News

Summer 2009 *Shorelines*

Wayne State University

Submitted by Allon Goldberg, PT, PhD

The students and faculty at the Wayne State University DPT program have been hard at work on a variety of community and academic projects.

The first year students are determined individuals inside the classroom; however they do not forget that they need to be determined outside of the classroom, as well. They have organized a team for the 2009 *Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure* in Detroit called the **Wayne Cares - PT Cruisers**. They are reaching out, along with the Physical Therapy Program at WSU, family, and friends, to make a difference in the community and fight for the cure of breast cancer.

Second year students, **Megan Komraus**, **Andi Redmond**, and **Sarah Souva**, partnered with Covenant House of Michigan (CHM) Life Skills Center in Detroit to complete their service-learning project for their *Diversity in Health Care* course. CHM provides at risk students 16-19 with an alternative high school as well as other support services (<http://www.covenanthousemi.org/>). **Megan**, **Andi** and **Sarah** designed an eight week mentorship program called "Healthy Choices." This fitness and wellness program stressed the importance of making healthy choices through movement, exercise and good nutrition. Our students made an effort to be responsive to participants' interests and backgrounds. Local community children ages 6-18 years were invited to participate on a volunteer basis each week after school. For the final session our students conducted a health and wellness screen for the high school students. Other members of the second year class, who had already done their own service learning projects, joined in to help screen 70 high school age students and 12 teachers at the high school for strength, balance, endurance, and vital signs. Several teenagers who had high blood pressure were referred to the teen clinic through CHM. This experience exposed the students to the challenges and joys of working with underprivileged, inner-city youth. The students found their service learning project to be a very rewarding and enriching experience. Kudos to all of the second year students as they engage with their urban community.

The third year students conducted the final two pre-sports health appraisal clinics with Physician Assistants and Occupational therapy students for Detroit Public Schools

Special Olympians during the Winter Term. This is the fifth year that the third year students have participated in this multidisciplinary health promotion activity in cooperation with Special Olympics and the Detroit Public Schools

Faculty member **Kim Dunleavy** was a member of the Gallery at the APTA *Physical Therapy and Society Summit*, Feb 27-28, 2009 in Washington DC. The mission of the summit was to empower PTs to be leaders in 1) integrating innovative technologies and practice models and 2) establishing collaborative, multidisciplinary partnerships that address current, evolving and future societal health care needs. Kim also received the *Golden Apple Health Volunteers Overseas Award* for: “extraordinary commitment to Health Volunteers Overseas’ ideals of teaching and knowledge transfer in order to develop local capacity and ultimately to strengthen the health care sector’s ability to deliver care”. Kim has also been very busy presenting her research locally and overseas in places afar a field as Cairo, Egypt. Some of her recent presentations have been:

Dunleavy, K, Emmanuel JC, Fordham, J. “The Emmanuel and Fordham Model for Globalized Healthcare Interventions.” Achieving Global Goals through Innovation. Unite for Sight 6th Annual Global Health Conference. Yale University, New Haven, April 18-19, 2009.

Dunleavy K, Emmanuel J. “Adoption and Perceived Outcomes of the WHO Blood Safety Distance Learning Materials.” XIXth Regional Congress of the International Society of Blood Transfusion – Eastern Mediterranean and Europe. Cairo, Egypt 21-25 March, 2009.

Dunleavy K. “Physical Therapy Overseas: International Volunteering – Opportunities and Preparation.” MPTA Student Conclave, Lansing, MI March 2009.

WSU co-sponsored the *APTA Credentialed Clinical Instructor Program* with the *DMC Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan (RIM)* on March 7-8, 2009. The course was taught by **Martha Schiller** (WSU) and **Kristine Thompson** (OU) and was well received by the 41 participants that attended the course. All participants became Credentialed Clinical Instructors. WSU sponsored 24 of the 41 participants, getting us closer to our 2009 goal of having over 50% of all CIs working with WSU students to be credentialed. DMC RIM will also host the next *APTA Advanced Clinical Instructor Program* on September 17-18, 2009. This will be the second time this course is offered in Michigan. Anyone wanting additional information should contact Martha Schiller directly at [313-577-1724](tel:313-577-1724).

Stacey Schepens, a pre-doc fellow and coordinator of the *Physical Therapy Mobility Research*, was selected as one of 6 Wayne State University campus-wide students to present their research to legislators and the Governor in Lansing. Stacey will present the work she has been conducting in collaboration with **Allon Goldberg** on balance confidence and falls, highlighting the relationships between balance confidence and performance on clinical balance tests in older adults.

Faculty members **Tina Reid** and **Allon Goldberg** were invited presenters at the *Michigan Health and Rehabilitation Conference* in Sterling Heights in March. They presented on “Balance and Falls in Older Adults”, focusing on prevalence and impact of falls, risk factors, screening tests and interventions to avoid falls in older adults.

Tom Birk received the prestigious Richard E. Darnell Research Award, named after long-time University of Michigan-Flint PT faculty member Dick Darnell, PT PhD FAPTA. For many years Dr Darnell served as a “clinical research resource” to many faculty members, students and clinicians, consulting and advising on topics related to statistics, research methodology and design of clinical studies. The award honors an individual who has made significant research contributions: conducting, disseminating and mentoring others. **Tom Birk** has an established record of clinical research, as well as a record of publishing his research in peer-reviewed journals. He is also a willing mentor of more junior colleagues in research methods and design of studies. Congratulations Tom, this award is well-deserved.

By the time you read this we will likely have completed our on-site accreditation visit. Thank you to all who contributed to the visit, and to those of you who support our program as guest lecturers, associated faculty, clinical educators, and in many more ways – too numerous to count. Thank you!