

# Joint Connections

## Fall 2024

*Highlights from UNMC's Physical Therapy Program*

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*Pictured on August 8 (l-r): Tessa Wells, PT, DPT, CEEAA, GCS; Megan Frazee, PT, DPT, OCS, MTC, FAAOMPT; Program Director Betsy J. Becker, PT, DPT, PhD; Dean Kyle Meyer, PhD, MS, PT, FASAHP; University President Jeffrey P. Gold, MD; Sara Bills, PT, DPT, GCS; Ka-Chun (Joseph) Siu, PhD; and Elizabeth Wellsandt, PT, DPT, PhD, OCS*

### Physical Therapy Program

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### PT Program awarded University-wide Department Teaching Award

On May 14, University of Nebraska Interim President Chris Kabourek announced that the physical therapy program at UNMC is the recipient of the 2024 University-wide Departmental Teaching Award (UTDA).

The UDTA, one of the President's Excellence Awards, is the University of Nebraska's most prestigious honor for departmental excellence in teaching. Since 1993, the UDTA has recognized departments or units within the university system that have made unique and significant contributions to NU's teaching efforts and demonstrated outstanding commitment to the education of students at the undergraduate, graduate or professional levels.

*Continued on page 14.*

### Dr. Hageman retires



*Patricia A. Hageman, PT, PhD, FAPTA retires, page 2*

## Celebrating Physical Therapy Month: A Reflection on Our Achievements



Betsy J. Becker, PT, DPT, PhD

As we celebrate Physical Therapy Month, I want to reflect on a few remarkable accomplishments of our program. This year, we were honored with the University-wide Department Teaching Award—the highest recognition for teaching excellence in the University of Nebraska System! This award reflects the passion, dedication, and camaraderie of our faculty, staff, and students, whose commitment to innovative, student-centered education continues to shape and inspire the future of physical therapy.

Our students continue to make us proud through their community engagement, offering their time and expertise to those in need. Whether

volunteering or participating in outreach initiatives, they are applying classroom knowledge in meaningful ways, and their compassion shines. While our graduate students excel in the research lab, our PT Orthopedic Residency program also continues to advance practice standards and patient care.

We're also celebrating both change and continuity within our faculty. As we bid farewell to esteemed colleagues Dr. Hageman and Professor Volkman, who are enjoying well-earned retirements, we welcome Dr. Dexter, who brings fresh perspectives and a shared commitment to excellence in teaching, research, service, and patient care. This year, we also hosted a TeamSTEPPS training, an evidence-based program that enhances teamwork and communication in healthcare. Additionally, we welcomed international students for a summer educational experience, enriching their understanding of physical therapy on a global scale. As we look ahead, I'm excited for all that's to come as we continue to meet our mission to advance health for all by optimizing movement through education, research, and service.

Thank you for being a part of our community!

## Dr. Hageman retires

Patricia A. Hageman, PT, PhD, FAPTA, professor of physical therapy, retired on August 31, following nearly 40 years as a faculty member at UNMC.

Dr. Hageman earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Therapy from UNMC in 1979, a Master's degree in 1985, and her PhD from the UNMC Medical Sciences Interdepartmental Area in 1994.

In October 1984, Dr. Hageman was hired as an assistant professor of physical therapy at UNMC. She went on to serve as the program director from 1989-2008. She was honored as a UNMC Distinguished Scientist in 2012 (the first from allied health). She served as the College of Allied Health Professions' inaugural Karen Linder Distinguished Professor for Women's Health.

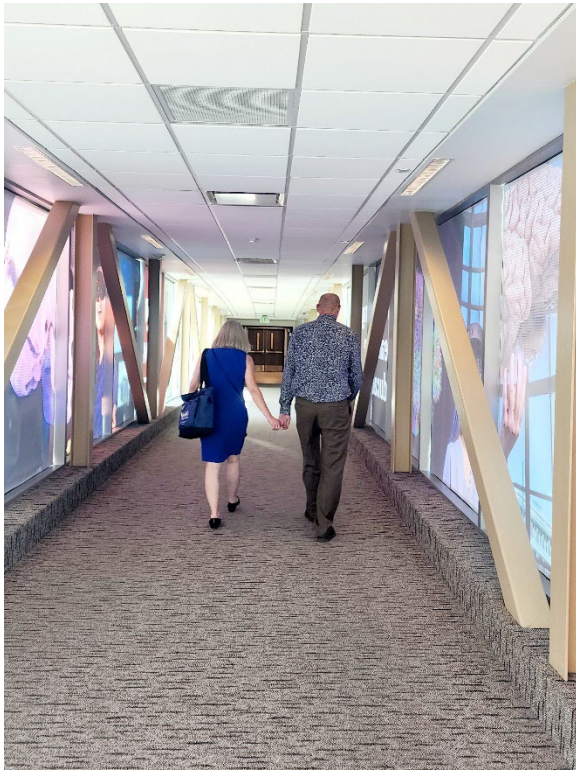
Nationally, Dr. Hageman served as the chair of the American Physical Therapy Association advisory panel on education.

She was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) advisory committee. In this role, she served as the sole physical therapist on five committee reports to congress on interprofessional health care workforce development. In 2016, she was named a Fellow of the American Physical Therapy Association.

Prior to her retirement, Dr. Hageman was interviewed about her career, her legacy and her retirement. Her joy, good humor and dedication to her beloved physical therapy program, even up to her very last day, were evident as she stated, "I underestimated how many details need to be completed before retiring after being at UNMC 40 years," she said. "My friends are having fun teasing me . . . I'm not sure what I was thinking when I volunteered to teach on my last week and even on my last day."

*Continued on page 3.*

## Dr. Hageman retires *continued*



*Pictured: Dr. Pat Hageman and Mr. Bruce Hageman. "Taking a final walk across the bridge, closing one chapter and beginning another - celebrating a career of dedication and excellence." Photo and caption by Dr. Sara Bills*

Officially, she served about a month short of 40 years. She was physical therapy's program director for 19 years, from 1989-2008. In both cases, it was never about hitting some round number. In both cases, although it was a big step to take, it just felt like the right time. "But I actually have done everything I set out to do, and more," she stated, "Things I didn't know I had the ability to do."

"Her exemplary contributions have impacted every mission of the college," said Kyle Meyer, PhD, dean of the UNMC College of Allied Health Professions. "Teaching, research, administration and community and professional service."

With Dr. Hageman at the helm of physical therapy for two decades, "The program catapulted to the national stage," Dr. Meyer said. During this time, UNMC "was one of the first public institutions to adopt the DPT (Doctor of Physical Therapy) degree and graduated more than 650 physical therapists to serve Nebraska and the nation."

The program also earned the NU University-wide Departmental Teaching Award in 2006

under Dr. Hageman's leadership. And earlier this year she helped contribute to physical therapy winning the honor a second time.

She spent more than 20 years in research, as a National Institutes of Health-funded co-investigator. Dr. Hageman and others traveled the state, studying behavior-change interventions to promote physical activity and reduce cardiovascular disease risk among midlife and older men and women from rural communities. She collaborated with colleagues in UNMC's College of Nursing, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Nebraska Extension and other colleges. Dr. Hageman was named allied health's top researcher three times and contributed to 47 peer-reviewed publications.

She had joy in what she did every day, she said, and loved "that camaraderie that is inherent in our field."

That joy in connecting with others made her an impactful teacher, mentor and presence in the profession and on campus.

"Dr. Hageman's impact at UNMC will extend to future students through the legacy she leaves behind," said Betsy Becker, PhD, DPT, physical therapy program director. "This legacy is clearly reflected in the 10 existing faculty members who transitioned from being students to alumni during her career."

Dr. Becker pointed out that Dr. Hageman also had an integral role in hiring several other faculty members, including one who would go on to become the college's dean, Dr. Meyer.

When asked what she will do next, she revealed that she doesn't have a grand plan. She will do her best to be retired and go from there. "I don't know that I have always had balance in my life," she said. "So, it will be an adventure." She plans to spend more time with her husband, family and friends.

She will have time to devote to her interest in art. And one more thing for sure. "I have to practice what I preach," she said. "I've done all that research on women and aging and healthy activity." She's already started high-intensity strength training and vows to hit the gym often.

A retirement celebration was held on Tuesday, August 27, in the Sorrell Center's Linder Reading Room."

## Students



*The entering Class of 2027 pictured at their Professionalism ceremony on August 23.*

### 2024 Professionalism Ceremony

On Friday, August 23, family members and friends came to support the entering Doctor of Physical Therapy Class of 2027 as they received their white coats in the College of Allied Health Professions Professionalism Ceremony held at the Baxter Arena. The Professionalism Ceremony is a rite of passage for students as they begin their journeys in the Physical Therapy Program.

Less formal orientation activities for the new PT students included a game of “Password” directed by several PT3 class officers. Words

pertaining to physical therapy were used as the passwords. The game served to encourage communication between the Omaha and Kearney campuses, engage the class, and introduce them to the classroom technology.

The UNMC PT Class of 2027 is the fifty-fifth entering class in the PT program. It consists of 66 students, 50 students based on the Omaha campus and 16 students based on the Kearney campus. The class is composed of 56 students from Nebraska and 8 students from 3 other states and 2 other countries.



UNMC PT students, via the Students of the University of Nebraska American Physical Therapy Association (SUN-APTA) organization, contributed \$300.00 to the Foundation for Physical Therapy Research for its 2023-2024 VCU-Marquette Challenge!



*Pictured (l-r): front row: Naveen Mallipudi, SPT; Ryuma Mukai, SPT; Nicole Cann, SPT; Campbell Mooney, SPT; Lina Al Azzawi, SOT; Addison Weber, SPT; Halle Clary, SPT and back row: assistant professor Grace Johnson, PT, DPT, MS, OCS; Griffin Hendricks, SPT; Zachary Pandorf, SPT; Mason Sadler, SPT; Andrew Lindemeier, SPT; Hayden Wolf, SPT; Melissa Bevins, SPT and Eric Mustard, SPT*

## **Inaugural Community Engagement Day: Connecting Students with Community Partners**

On Tuesday, August 20, the Department of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Allied Health Professions held its inaugural Community Engagement Day. This event saw the incoming cohorts of occupational and physical therapy students stepping out of the classroom and into the community to lend a helping hand to local organizations and partners.

Over 100 students, faculty, and staff participated in various projects at nine community sites in Kearney and Omaha, each designed to support and uplift the community while providing real-world experience in service and care. From assisting with therapeutic activities to engaging in environmental beautification efforts, the day was a testament to the power of collaboration and the impact that healthcare professionals can have outside traditional clinical settings.

The Community Engagement Day was not just about service; it was about fostering connections. Students worked alongside community members and professionals, learning about the diverse needs and strengths of the populations they will one day serve. These experiences are invaluable, helping to shape

well-rounded clinicians who understand the importance of community-based care, social determinants of health, and team-based care.

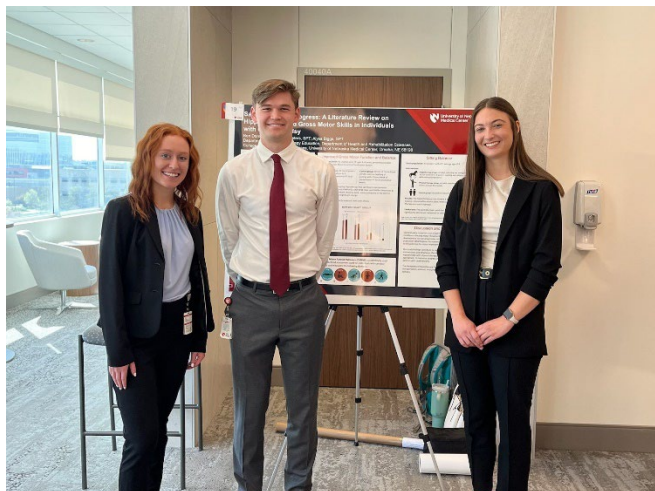
In reflecting on the day, students shared how the experience broadened their perspectives and deepened their commitment to their future professions.

This [video](#) captures the spirit of the day, highlighting the work and dedication of our students.

We are incredibly proud of our students and their contributions. The success of this inaugural Community Engagement Day is a promising start to what we hope will become a cherished annual tradition. It's a day that embodies the mission of the College of Allied Health Professions at UNMC—to improve health by transforming lives and creating a healthy future for all people and communities.

Thank you to all the students, faculty, and community partners who made this day possible. We look forward to continuing this important work and building even stronger connections with the communities we serve.

## Celebrating Munroe Meyer Institute's LEND Participants



*Pictured with their poster (l-r): Alysa Biggs, SPT; Ben Dorsey, SPT; and Emma Peters, SPT*

On Wednesday, April 17, Class of 2025 UNMC PT students Alysa Biggs, Ben Dorsey, and Emma Peters received Outstanding Student Poster Awards for their poster, "Saddling Up for Progress: A Literature Review on Hippotherapy and Gross Motor Skills in Individuals with Cerebral Palsy" at the Munroe-Meyer Institute's (MMI) annual poster session.

Their work was supervised by their advisors – assistant professor Andrea Baraldi Cunha, PT, PhD, and Annie Woodruff Jameson, PT, DPT, in the Physical Therapy Department at MMI.

Subsequently, on Friday, April 26, they were recognized for successful completion of the MMI Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disorders (LEND) internship program. The LEND program is one of 52 LEND Programs nationwide supported by the Maternal Child Health Bureau. The goal is to train future leaders regarding the needs and care of children and their families who are living with neurodevelopmental disabilities or complex health care needs. Over the second year of their PT program, in addition to their required PT coursework, LEND trainees complete 600 hours of interdisciplinary training which includes didactics, research, community-based service and leadership projects, a pediatric clinical practicum, and collaborative interdisciplinary clinic experiences. These training activities are designed to emphasize core leadership competencies such as communication, cultural competence, family-centered and evidence-based care, state and federal policy development, and advocacy among others.

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## PT Student awarded ITEACH Award

During the third annual ITEACH Awards on April 17, students, student organizations, staff and faculty members were recognized for their contributions to campus, student and community life at UNMC.

"Our ITEACH ceremony is dedicated to rewarding those who selflessly give time to improve the lives of others within the UNMC and surrounding communities in addition to their formal academic work," said Heidi Keeler, PhD, assistant vice chancellor of community engagement for UNMC.

Liam Diesing, Class of 2025, was one of six UNMC students presented with a Student Impact Award. Liam serves on Student Senate and has been involved in various projects including planning interprofessional education events and organizing student mock interviews. He is also co-president of the student group Climb. Relax. Adventure. Gather. (CRAG), UNMC's rock climbing club.

The Student Impact Award recognizes students who embody leadership qualities and provide a positive influence on the education and overall experience of UNMC students.



*Liam Diesing, SPT*

## PT students present at Latino Center of the Midlands



*Pictured (l-r): Porfirio Garcia-Hernandez, SPT; Antonio Sarmiento, SPT; Ximena Alvarez Magana, SPT; and Anallely Vega, SPT*

On Monday, July 22, four UNMC Class of 2026 students had the opportunity to present to the interns at the Latino Center of the Midlands. The presentation consisted of a panel discussion introducing themselves, their backgrounds and the physical therapy profession. They provided the average salary, areas of employment, and the education required to become a physical therapist, with insight on their experiences in the UNMC Physical Therapy Program. They also demonstrated some of their skills including balance exercises, goniometer measurements, reflexes, and manual muscle testing.

When asked what this opportunity meant to them, the students shared these thoughts:

“In 2022, I participated in the Siembra Carreras (Growing Careers) program as an intern, where I obtained an internship that closely aligned with my academic pursuits. Two years later, I had the privilege of presenting to the new interns of the Siembra Salud (Growing Health) program, sharing what it takes to work as a physical therapist and what the job involves. South Omaha holds a special place in my heart, and with its deep-rooted history of service, the Latino Center of the Midlands is especially meaningful to me. I was thrilled to receive the invitation to speak to the interns, as I believe that addressing the lack of diversity in healthcare through community outreach is crucial.” – Porfirio Garcia-Hernandez, SPT

“Speaking and presenting to the interns at the Latino Center of the Midlands means a lot to me because it allows me to give back to my community by sharing my knowledge, ideas, and

passions. I feel very thankful to be in a position where I can share my experiences with others to hopefully put physical therapy on their radar as a future career. It was a great opportunity to communicate and foster connections with others to make a lasting impact on the interns.” – Ximena Alvarez Magana, SPT

“The idea of higher education as a first-generation Latina student seemed out of reach when I was in high school. With the help of educational programs similar to the one provided at the Latino Center of the Midlands, I began to realize that pursuing a health career was possible with determination and strong work ethic. This opportunity resonated very closely with me because I want to inspire minority students to understand that we belong in programs and careers consisting of higher education, the way other people did with me when I was in their shoes.

“The Latino Center of the Midlands is located in South Omaha, where I was born and raised. This community is predominantly Hispanic, and growing up here has given me the experience of knowing that many young students can easily be discouraged from continuing their education based on lifestyles they have grown accustomed to, such as starting to work at an early age to help financially support their family. I hope to one day see more people in this community and other minority communities continue to overcome adversities to reach their goals the way Ximena, Porfirio, Antonio, and I have been doing.” – Anallely Vega, SPT



*Pictured (l-r): Porfirio Garcia-Hernandez, SPT and Antonio Sarmiento, SPT demonstrating some of their skills.*

### Welcome Brad Dexter, PT, DPT



*Brad Dexter, PT, DPT*

Brad Dexter, PT, DPT joined the Physical Therapy Program on June 17, 2024, as an assistant professor. He is a graduate of the 2011 UNMC Doctor of Physical Therapy class and has been practicing at Quality Living Inc. (QLI) in Omaha for the past 13 years. During this time, he has had the privilege of supporting patients and their families through recovery in an inpatient setting. Over the past 5 years, Dr. Dexter has played a key role in building a comprehensive telerehabilitation program at

QLI, allowing patients to receive care in their own homes and communities across the country.

In recognition of his professional leadership, Dr. Dexter received the TLC Excellence Award from the Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals in 2023, and the James P. O'Donnell Demonstrated Excellence Award from QLI in 2015. He is a recognized expert in neurologic and telehealth-based physical therapy, with contributions to presentations, publications, and clinical instruction. In addition to his clinical work, Dr. Dexter has been actively involved in research, service, and teaching over the course of his career.

Dr. Dexter and his family have been in Omaha since 2008. Together, they enjoy outdoor activities, sports, and spending time with friends and family. A native Nebraskan from Central City, Dr. Dexter also enjoys coaching his children, playing guitar, and following Nebraska Cornhusker sports.

UNMC has been a significant part of Dr. Dexter's journey, both personally and professionally. He is eager to join the faculty of the Physical Therapy program, support student growth, and contribute to the College of Allied Health Professions at UNMC.

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### Dr. Becker receives Inaugural Distinguished Educator Award

Betsy J. Becker, PT, DPT, PhD, Chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences and Program Director of Physical Therapy in the UNMC College of Allied Health Professions, has been named Distinguished Educator by UNMC's Interprofessional Academy of Educators (IAE).

It is the academy's highest honor, awarded to a faculty member who consistently demonstrates excellence in teaching and peer mentoring to promote the development of the next generation of effective and innovative teachers.

Dr. Becker is the first individual to receive the Distinguished Educator designation.

She received the honor at the IAE's Spotlight on Scholarship event on March 28 in the Durham Research Center auditorium.

"I am honored to be selected as the inaugural IAE Distinguished Educator," Dr. Becker said. "I am committed to teaching the next generation of health care professionals and continuing



*Senior vice chancellor for academic affairs H. Dele Davies, MD presents Betsy J. Becker, PT, DPT, PhD with the Distinguished Educator award on March 28.*

mentorship of faculty, graduate and professional students.

"I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the students whose feedback has guided my growth and to the faculty and staff members with whom I've had the privilege to learn from and collaborate, as their support has been invaluable."



## Dr. Becker receives Inaugural Distinguished Educator Award *continued*

The Distinguished Educator is not merely a one-time honor but an active designation, according to the IAE. Distinguished Educators are required to engage in at least three teaching or mentoring activities per year and complete a renewal process every five years to maintain the designation.

In March, Dele Davies, MD, senior vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean for graduate studies Dele Davies, MD, said, “I am thrilled that Dr. Becker is the inaugural recipient of the Distinguished Educator designation, as she truly embodies our educational mission.

“This honor is different, because it is given not just for recognition of Dr. Becker’s teaching excellence, but also because it involves a commitment on Dr. Becker’s part to become a mentor to future generations of faculty who will continue the tradition of teaching excellence at UNMC.”

Nominators noted that Dr. Becker’s career is marked by innovative teaching methodologies and research in educational technology, instructional development and curricular design. Committed to advising and mentorship, she guides students and faculty toward excellence, fostering effective professional networks.

“Dr. Becker’s passion for teaching, constant innovation both in and out of the classroom — particularly through her experience in digital learning — and unwavering dedication to mentoring fellow faculty and students make her a true asset to our academic community,” Dr. Davies said.

Dean Kyle Meyer, PhD, said this is a proud moment for the UNMC College of Allied Health Professions.

“Dr. Becker’s influence extends beyond UNMC, evidenced by her contribution at both state and national levels, advancing educational initiatives and policies,” he said. “Her strategic guidance fosters collaborative learning environments, enhancing student experiences and promoting faculty development across UNMC’s Kearney and Omaha campuses.”

The IAE is comprised of more than 200 faculty, staff and learners across Nebraska, with members from all five campuses, seven colleges and three partner organizations. Their mission is to cultivate a community across professions that connects educators with like interests to drive collaboration, innovation and scholarship. Due to the competitive nature and prestige of the award, no more than two individuals will be named Distinguished Educators each application cycle.

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## Dr. Bills completes additional training



Sara E. Bills, PT, DPT, GCS

Assistant Professor and Associate Director of the Physical Therapy Program Sara E. Bills, PT, DPT, GCS recently completed the Wound Treatment Associate Program offered through the UNMC College of Nursing’s Continuing interProfessional Development and Innovation Office. She is looking forward to integrating the new concepts, teaching methodologies, and valuable resources she obtained into her own practice and with the students she teaches in UNMC’s Physical Therapy Program.

## Volkman and Frazee honored at state association meeting



*Megan Frazee, PT, DPT, OCS, MTC, FAAOMPT pictured with APTA Nebraska Executive Committee President Nicholas Weber, PT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT on April 5.*

On Friday, April 5, at the APTA – Nebraska Annual Education Conference, associate professor Kathleen G. Volkman, PT, MS, NSC was awarded the Mary Ellen Sacksteder Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Advancement of Physical Therapy. This award is the highest award given by the association. It represents a lifetime of achievement and involvement in the physical therapy profession. Professor Volkman retired in May 2024.

At the same meeting, assistant professor Megan Frazee, PT, DPT, OCS, MTC, FAAOMPT; was awarded the Achievement in Education award.

To be eligible for this award, the recipient is a current member of the Nebraska Physical Therapy Association and his or her achievements in education, practice, research and service to the NPTA is well known by his or her colleagues. In addition, “The recipient shall be one who has made a valuable service contribution to physical therapy and to NPTA by developing quality education experiences that improve the profession of physical therapy through any of the following areas: Academic, Clinical, Continuing education.”

Criteria for the award consists of the recipient demonstrating “consistent academic service to NPTA members,” performing “activities promoting academic achievement and the profession of physical therapy,” and being “active in their community in educational and professional areas.”

In addition, Dr. Frazee was honored with the UNMC College of Allied Health Professions 2024 Excellence in Teaching award. This award recognizes a faculty member who is outstanding in the areas of directing learning, advising students, facilitating human relations, and promoting improvement of educational quality.



*Kathleen G. Volkman, PT, MS, NSC pictured with APTA Nebraska Executive Committee President Nicholas Weber, PT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT on April 5.*

**Mike Moravec, PT, DPT, Class of 2004**



*SBA Administrator Isabel Casillas Guzman pictured with Michael Moravec, PT, DPT, in April 2024.*

Last spring, Michael Moravec, PT, DPT (Class of 2004), owner of Bluffs Physical Therapy in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, was named the 2024 [Nebraska Small Business Person of the Year](#) by the Small Business Administration. As such, he represented Nebraska at the National Small Business Week ceremonies in Washington D.C. in April.

**Please explain your role and responsibilities.**

"My role is to run a business that maintains a team of passionate people that are excited to get people better with the latest, greatest and most appropriate means a physical therapist can provide in the great state of Nebraska!"

**How do you think UNMC prepared you for your career?**

"Obviously, UNMC has provided me with the education necessary to treat my clients, but it has also allowed me to trust the product that comes out of UNMC! I have hired numerous grads from UNMC throughout the years and there is no question what you will receive when hiring the product of a UNMC education!"

**What does this mean to you and for your career?**

"If I'm being honest, it is an honor to be named Nebraska Small Business Person of the Year, but it was nothing I was striving for. My recognition for my worth comes in the patient that gets better, the employee that feels loved and respected and the community that feels blessed by the presence of our business."

**Do you have any advice for others?**

"Hit every single day with a passion to be alive and to serve those that God has blessed you with every single day with the abilities that only He can give and you have developed through your education. Never forget your community. Without them, you are just another person trying to make a buck rather than make a difference!"

**Do you have a favorite memory of your time at UNMC?**

"I love so many things about UNMC. I love the teachers that spent countless hours to make me the knowledgeable therapist that I am today. I love the "above the rest" training I got from my PT and anatomy professors, but my favorite memory was playing pitch everyday at lunch as a means of "winding down" with my classmates. Thank you PT Class of 2004!"

**PROGRAM NOTE:**

Dr. Moravec is leaving a legacy in more ways than one – his son, Logan, is a member of the UNMC DPT Class of 2026!



*Michael Moravec, PT, DPT, and his wife, Lisa, in Washington, D.C. in April 2024.*

**ALUMNI** – If you or a fellow alumnus has an interesting story to tell, please let us know at [pteducation@unmc.edu](mailto:pteducation@unmc.edu). It may be featured in a future newsletter!

### Department Operations Manager receives CAHP award



*Marcela Williams, BHM*

Department of Rehabilitation Sciences department operations manager Marcela Williams, BHM was named the College of Allied Health Professions (CAHP) 2024 Distinguished Administrative Professional.

This award honors a CAHP employee who exemplifies the ITEACH values (Innovation, Teamwork, Excellence, Accountability, Courage and Healing) and improves the CAHP and/or its programs.

One nominator said of Marcela, “Marcela's role as the bridge between the Physical Therapy (PT) and Occupational Therapy (OT) programs exemplifies her exceptional teamwork skills. She actively participates in meetings for both programs, and because of this can bring resources, ideas, and continuity to each program. Her respectful communication and attentiveness to diverse perspectives have made her an invaluable team player . . . Marcela's willingness to contribute beyond her standard responsibilities exemplifies her commitment to supporting the growth and success of our programs.”

Ms. Williams said of the award, “I am honored to be considered for this award. There are so many skilled and experienced staff in the college that deserve this award. I thoroughly enjoy working with the Physical and Occupational Therapy faculty, staff and students and look forward to continued collaboration between both programs.”

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### Clinical Education Associate nominated for UNMC award

Physical Therapy Program Clinical Education Associate Michelle Hawkins, MS was nominated for the UNMC Interprofessional Academy of Educators Catalyst for Education Award. Criteria for the award include the ITEACH values of Innovation, Teamwork, Excellence, Accountability, Courage and Healing.

Ms. Hawkins' nominators said, in part:

- Michelle demonstrates exceptional accountability in her role managing over 350 affiliation agreements. Recently appointed as the Affiliation Agreement Lead for the College of Allied Health Professions, she oversees the database of all active clinical affiliation agreements, monitors processing status and expiration dates, and coordinates agreements with other Colleges within the University. Michelle initiates and leads the negotiation of new or renewing CAHP clinical affiliation agreements on behalf of the Department of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences and other selected programs within CAHP. Additionally, she is responsible for training and leading both current and new CAHP employees in handling affiliation agreements, ensuring accuracy and timely processing.



*Michelle Hawkins, MS*

- Michelle excels in her responsibilities related to communication among multiple stakeholders, including the clinical education team, students, and clinical education faculty.

Michelle states, “I feel so fortunate to work for a Program and a College with great leadership and stellar students. In addition, working with caring and invested external clinical partners makes this job a rewarding experience in itself.”



*SEED participants pictured with program faculty and staff (front row, l-r): Brad Dexter, PT, DPT; Dawn Venema, PT, PhD; UNMC's Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Jane Meza, PhD; Joseph Siu, PhD; Hannah Tong, PhD, Office of Global Engagement; and Emily Brandt, MA, Office of Global Engagement*

### **SEED program returns to in-person learning**

Fifteen international learners participated in the UNMC Summer Experiential Education (SEED) program in physical therapy, which gives students an opportunity to develop a global perspective on rehabilitation and learn about physical therapy in the U.S.

Joseph Siu, PhD, professor for the UNMC Physical Therapy Program said, "I see their hard work and passion for learning. Coming to UNMC and adapting to a new learning environment in a short period of time is not an easy task, but the SEED scholars did it and were highly successful."

Hannah Tong, PhD, executive director of academic partnerships with the UNMC Office of Global Engagement, said the organizers were excited to welcome back students for the first in-person SEED program since the pandemic.

"This program offers a unique and invaluable opportunity for students to gain experience, exchange knowledge and forge lasting connections that will shape their professional journeys," she said.

The SEED program, administered by the office of global engagement and delivered by the UNMC Physical Therapy Program, is a two-week, in-person summer program designed for international physical therapy and rehabilitation students. It includes lectures by UNMC physical therapy faculty, research exposure, clinical observation and cultural activities.

Lecture topics included an introduction to U.S. physical therapy education, major topics in physical therapy, including neurology, musculoskeletal, cardiopulmonary and pediatric physical therapy, evidence-based practice and professionalism.

Faculty showed the students UNMC's cutting-edge Wellness Innovation Clinical Research Lab. Students also visited different physical therapy and rehabilitation clinical settings in Omaha, including Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, Nebraska Medicine and Quality Living Inc.

## **COVER STORY: PT Program awarded University-wide Department Teaching Award *contd***

Honored departments are selected by a committee of faculty members from across the university. The award includes a \$25,000 prize to be used as the department sees fit, for example for travel to a conference, instructional equipment or improvements to classroom space.

“Being selected for the 2024 University-wide Departmental Teaching Award underscores our team’s dedication to high-quality education,” said Betsy Becker, PT, DPT, PhD, chair of the UNMC College of Allied Health Professions Department of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, director of the physical therapy program and associate professor. “As a team, we navigate challenges, striving for excellence. I’m proud of our contributions and positive impact.”

Said Kabourek, “The fundamental mission of the University of Nebraska is to provide outstanding education to our students. The faculty and staff of UNMC’s physical therapy department are answering that call every day. The department has been a pioneer since its earliest days, leading the way in offering high-quality, accessible physical therapy education that meets workforce and health care needs across our state.

“We are a healthier and stronger state thanks to the physical therapy department’s commitment to excellence and innovation. I’m honored to publicly celebrate their extraordinary impact on many generations of students and on the well-being of our communities and all Nebraskans.”

Housed within UNMC’s College of Allied Health Professions, the physical therapy department offers a three-year professional curriculum leading to a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. It is the only public program in Nebraska for the professional education of physical therapists, serving a crucial workforce need for the state. It currently is home to about 15 FTE faculty and 200 students and last year celebrated 50 years of graduates.

The quality of teaching is reflected in student outcomes: A 97% licensure exam pass rate for the Class of 2022-23 and a 99% graduation rate. More than 60% of recent graduates are employed in Nebraska, many of them in rural areas, helping address a growing demand for physical therapists as the population ages and more job opportunities are created.

The department is committed to serving the entire state, educating future physical therapists at UNMC’s Omaha campus as well as at the Health Science Education Complex on the University of Nebraska at Kearney campus, ensuring a strong workforce pipeline for Nebraska’s urban and rural communities alike. The physical therapy department also participates in the Kearney Health Opportunities Program (a partnership with UNK) and the Rural Health Opportunities Program (a partnership with the Nebraska state colleges), pathway programs that encourage students from rural areas to practice in rural Nebraska after they graduate.

Faculty have been leaders in adopting new technologies to enhance their teaching, including simulation experiences that allow students to practice in realistic, hands-on clinical scenarios. The department also supports its students outside the classroom, for example with a “buddy” program that pairs incoming students with upper-class mentors on their first day of class to ensure they have peer support throughout their course of study.

Additionally, faculty, staff and students are actively engaged in serving the community, participating in programs that provide affordable health care to Nebraskans in need, volunteering to offer companionship to Nebraskans with long-term conditions such as multiple sclerosis or spinal cord injury, and working with UNMC’s Munroe-Meyer Institute to create mobility devices for children with movement limitations.

“I would like to thank Interim President Kabourek and the selection committee for this prestigious recognition of our outstanding physical therapy program,” said Kyle Meyer, PhD, dean of the UNMC College of Allied Health Professions. “The award reflects the program’s commitment to providing an extraordinary educational experience for students, as well as a commitment to advancing the field of physical therapy for the patients and communities our faculty and graduates serve.”

*Continued on page 15.*

## COVER STORY: PT Program awarded University-wide Department Teaching Award *contd*

UNMC Chancellor and incoming University of Nebraska President Jeffrey P. Gold, MD, congratulated Drs. Becker and Meyer on the award.

“Under the leadership of Dr. Meyer and Dr. Becker, the physical therapy program at UNMC will only continue to excel,” he said. “This honor is richly deserved, and we are proud of their work, as well as the impact of that work here in Nebraska and beyond.”

This is the second time the program has earned this prestigious honor. The program also received the award in 2006. The program now spans 18 faculty members across two campuses. Representatives of the physical therapy faculty were honored along with other President’s Excellence Awards recipients at the Board of Regents meeting on August 8.

### Program Updates

#### Fun learning TeamSTEPPS®



*Pictured (l-r): Patricia Hageman, PT, PhD, FAPTA; OT program director Nancy Krusen, PhD, OTR/L; and Sara Bills, PT, DPT, GCS*

On Monday, May 6, 2024, faculty from Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Medical Laboratory Science, and Occupational Therapy Programs joined the Physical Therapy faculty and staff for the Team Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety (TeamSTEPPS®) course. PT Assistant Professor Nikki Sleddens, PT, PhD, and Department of Allied Health Professions Education, Research, and Practice Assistant Professor Vicki Kennel, PhD, presented this course.

TeamSTEPPS® is a teamwork system approach for healthcare professionals that offers powerful solutions to improving collaboration and communication within healthcare institutions.

More specifically, it enables them to respond quickly and effectively to whatever situations arise.

The TeamSTEPPS® course is taught to PT students during their course of study, having been integrated into the physical therapy curriculum.



*Pictured (l-r): Stacie Christensen, PT, DPT, NCS; Dawn Venema, PT, PhD; and Kaitlyn Uwazurike, PT, DPT*

## Scholarly Activity

*Physical Therapy Program faculty are actively disseminating research and scholarly work on a variety of topics. Below is a list of publications, presentations and grants since the last Joint Connections newsletter in April 2024. Names in bold are faculty members in the Physical Therapy Program.*

### Publications

Jorgensen A, McManigal M, Post A, Werner D, Wichman C, Tao M, **Wellsandt E**. Reliability of an instrumented pressure walkway for measuring walking and running characteristics in young, athletic individuals. *Int J Sports Phys Ther*. 2024; Apr 1;19(4):429-439. PubMed PMID: 38576831.

**Bills S**, Skrzat J, Tevald MA. Application of the 4-element movement model to cardiovascular and pulmonary physical therapy practice. *Cardiopulm Phys Ther J*. 2024; Published online February 27, 2024. doi:10.1097/cpt.0000000000000246

**Becker BJ, Johnson GC, Gossman K**. Exercise: Boosting health and academic success. In THRIVE: Success strategies for the modern-day faculty member v2. Omaha, NE: Office of Faculty Development, University of Nebraska Medical Center. In press (book chapter)

**Becker BJ**, Kennel V. Strategies for a strong professional network for faculty career advancement. In THRIVE: Success strategies for the modern-day faculty member v2. Omaha, NE: Office of Faculty Development, University of Nebraska Medical Center. In press (book chapter)

**Becker BJ, Volkman K, Wells T, Sleddens N, Cochran TM**. Lifestyle medicine: Enhancing success for health professionals. In THRIVE: Success strategies for the modern-day faculty member v2. Omaha, NE: Office of Faculty Development, University of Nebraska Medical Center. In press (book chapter)

**Becker BJ**, Jewell J, Stejskal L, Browning K, Labosky B, Berry J. Physical therapist assistant educator communities enhance professional connections and social capital. *J of Phys Ther Educ*. 2024; 38(3). doi:10.1097/JTE.0000000000000371

**Becker BJ**, Von Essen S, Shope R, Sayles H, Willett G. Integrating faculty scholarly productivity indicators with professional network development strategies: New inferences generated from mixing methods. *J Allied Health*. 2024; 53(3): 218-226. PMID:39293009.

**Bilek LD**, Flores, LE, Waltman, N, Mack, LR, Smith, K, Kelly, C, Keaveny, TM, Hillstrom, D, Griffin, M, Yecies, L, Jaasma, MJ. Benefits of targeted vibration for bone strength and bone density in postmenopausal women with Osteopenia: A randomized, sham-controlled trial. *JBMR Plus*. 2024; <https://doi.org/10.1093/jbmrpl/ziae104>

Elder E, Struminger A, Wilkerson A, Wilkins S, **Rosenthal M**, Post E. A social ecological approach to understanding youth sport specialization. *J of Sport Behav*. 2024; Jun 1;47(2).

**Fraze M**, Gipson K, Lyden E, Langel S. Immediate vs delayed feedback in a progressive musculoskeletal e-module case for clinical reasoning development. *Innovations in Health Science Education Journal*. 2024; 2(1).

Ito N, Capin JJ, Arhos EK, **Wellsandt E**, Pohlig RT, Buchanan TS, Snyder-Mackler L. Prolonged quadriceps latency during gait early after anterior cruciate ligament injury predicts radiographic knee osteoarthritis 6-years after anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction. *Clin Biomech (Bristol, Avon)*. 2024; Jun 27;117:106301. doi: 10.1016/j.clinbiomech.2024.106301. PMID: 38945068.

Jensen S, Leiting M, Romero B, Wester N, Runge HJ, Nelson CA, **Siu KC**. Validation of the Intu-VR-vention program for enhancing medical training through Virtual Reality (VR) storyboard integration for intubation. *Proceedings of the 2024 Design of Medical Devices Conference*. 2024; Design of Medical Devices Conference. Minneapolis, MN, USA. April 8–10, 2024. V001T06A007. ASME.

Kennel V, **Cochran TM**, Honeycutt K. Getting started: Basic resources for Interprofessional Education (IPE) and collaborative learning. In THRIVE: Success strategies for the modern-day faculty member v2. Omaha, NE: Office of Faculty Development, University of Nebraska Medical Center, In press (book chapter)

Leutzinger TJ, Kingston DC, Dinkel DM, **Wellsandt E**, Knarr BA. Differences in knee joint moments between individuals who are living with obesity and those of a healthy weight when negotiating stairs. *Knee*. 2024; Jul 22;49:217-225. doi: 10.1016/j.knee.2024.07.006. PMID: 39043017

Li H, Shin H, Sentis L, **Siu KC**, Millán JR, Lu N. Combining VR with electroencephalography as a frontier of brain-computer interfaces. *Device*. 2024; 2(6): 100425.

Malisetty S, Rastegari E, **Siu KC**, Ali H. Exploring the impact of hand dominance on laparoscopic surgical skills development using network models. *J Clin Med*. 2024; 13: 1150.



## Publications *continued*

Malisetty S, Rastegari E, **Siu KC**, Ali HH. (2024). Threshold optimization in constructing comparative network models: A case study on enhancing laparoscopic surgical skill assessment with edge betweenness. In: Franco L, de Mulatier C, Paszynski M, Krzhizhanovskaya VV, Dongarra JJ, Sloot PMA. (eds) Computational Science – ICCS 2024. ICCS 2024. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 14837, pp. 28-42. Springer, Cham. (book chapter)

Malisetty S, Rastegari E, **Siu KC**, Ali H. Threshold optimization in constructing comparative network models: A case study on enhancing laparoscopic surgical skill assessment with edge betweenness. *International Conference on Computational Science*. 2024; Lecture Notes in Computer Science; 14837: 28-42.

Jackson MK, Ehlers DK, **Bilek LD**, Graeff-Armas L, Acquazzino M, Hébert JR, Price S, Beaudoin R, Hanson CK. The impact of a virtual educational cooking class on the inflammatory potential of diet in cancer survivors. *Appl Sci*. 2024;14 (12), 5332

Nelson V, Ang HW, Thengvall S, Nelson CA, Li H, Suh I, **Siu KC**. Improved portable instrument tracking system for surgical training. *Proceedings of the 2024 Design of Medical Devices Conference*. 2024; Design of Medical Devices Conference. Minneapolis, MN, USA. April 8–10, 2024. V001T06A006. ASME.

Post A, McManigal M, Allen M, Jorgensen A, **Rosenthal M, Wellsandt M**, Tao M, **Wellsandt E**. Reliability of spatiotemporal characteristics during single-legged hop and bilateral drop jump tasks using an instrumented pressure walkway. *Int J Sports Phys Ther*. 2024; Jun 1;19(6):704-713. PubMed PMID: 38835980.

Salahshurian E, Pozehl BJ, Lundgren SW, **Bills S**, Pandey A, Carbone S, Alonzo WW. Working me to life: Longitudinal perceptions from adults with heart failure with preserved ejection fraction enrolled in an exercise training clinical trial. *Eur J Cardiovasc Nurs*. 2024; Published online April 10, 2024. doi:10.1093/eurjcn/zvae049

Zhu, D, **Frazer M, Rosenthal M, Siu KC**. Patient-reported outcome measures in outpatient physical therapy: A retrospective pilot study. *Orthopedic Practice*. 2024; 36(3):18-22.

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## Presentations

Atteberry M, Mormino S, Fuentes-Rivera L, Tao M, **Wellsandt E**. Association of tranexamic acid during ACL reconstruction with early markers of Osteoarthritis. Poster presentation. Osteoarthritis Research Society International Annual World Congress; April 2024; Vienna, Austria.

**Becker BJ, Volkman K, Wells TM, Sleddens N, Cochran T**. Does implementation of a lifestyle medicine curriculum affect student wellness during Doctor of Physical Therapy education? Poster presentation. APTA Nebraska State Meeting; April 6, 2024; Omaha, NE.

Blay R, Roskam G, Golightly Y, **Bilek L**. Preliminary evaluation of a novel computed tomography application to monitor knee osteoarthritis. Osteoarthritis Research Society International (OARSI); April 2024; Vienna, Austria.

**Christensen S**, Pohlmann L, Lyden E, Beam B, Langel S. Designing effective e-learning modules: Exploring best practices in module navigation. Poster presentation. APTA Nebraska State Meeting; April 6, 2024; Omaha, NE.

**Christensen S**. Dial M. From textbooks to clinical practice: Selecting and implementing outcome measures in stroke rehabilitation. Peer-reviewed presentation. APTA Nebraska State Meeting; April 6, 2024; Omaha, NE.

Cohoon C, **Sleddens N**. DCE as a faculty appointment. APTA Academy of Education New Faculty Development Workshop; July 2024; Chicago, IL.

Cohoon C, **Sleddens N**. DCE as a faculty appointment. APTA Academy of Education Virtual New Faculty Development Workshop; March 2024.

Cohoon C, Thomas R, **Sleddens N**. Developing the student as a professional. APTA Academy of Education Virtual New Faculty Development Workshop; March 2024.

Delahunt JZ, Stimson S, Calderon B, **Cochran TM**. Advancing collaborative care in higher education. Invited virtual panel presentation. Heartland Innovations in Interprofessional Education and Practice Summit; July 11, 2024.

Fuentes-Rivera L, Jorgensen A, Wichman C, Tao M, **Wellsandt E**. The associations between body mass changes and gait biomechanics after ACL reconstruction. Poster presentation. Osteoarthritis Research Society International Annual World Congress; April 2024; Vienna, Austria.

Fuentes-Rivera L, McKee M, Atteberry M, Werner D, Jorgensen A, Tao M, **Wellsandt E**. Exploring the relationship between knee biomechanics, physical activity, and serum biomarkers before and after ACL reconstruction. Poster presentation. American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine Annual Meeting; July 2024; Denver, CO.

Jensen S, **Siu KC**: Intu-VR-vention: Enhancing medical training in intubation through virtual reality storyboard integration. 2024 The American College of Physicians Internal Medicine Meeting; April 2024; Boston, MA.

## **Presentations *continued***

Kallman T, Amirtharaj M, Weldon N, Manzer M, Tao M, **Wellsandt E**. Changes in anterior tibial translation are not associated with degradation in weightbearing cartilage of the knee following Anterior Cruciate Ligament reconstruction. Poster presentation. American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine Annual Meeting; July 2024; Denver, CO.

Kennel VK, **Venema DM**. CAPTURE Falls Virtual Educational Series - session 4: Auditing fall risk reduction practices. Webinar for the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, Iowa Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant; May 15, 2024.

Kennel VK, **Venema DM**. CAPTURE Falls Virtual Educational Series - session 6: Post-fall huddles. Webinar for the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, Iowa Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant; July 17, 2024.

Lesh S, **Sleddens N**. Work-life integration. APTA Academy of Education New Faculty Development Workshop; July 2024; Chicago, IL.

Lowndes B, Yoder A, **Siu KC**, Pitla S, Nyacyesa S, Hanson D, Haug A. Ingress egress safety for agriculture machinery: Refining our behavioral observation and clinical methods. International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health Annual Conference; June 2024; Portland, OR.

Mormino S, Weldon N, Atteberry M, Werner D, Manzer M, Tao M, **Wellsandt E**. Impact of graft type and meniscal status on patellofemoral cartilage early after ACL reconstruction. Poster presentation. American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine Annual Meeting; July 2024; Denver, CO.

Peterson J, **Fraze M**, Long S, Greise B, Dyer R, Todd B, Jensen G, Weber N. Residency education: Weighing the pros and cons (Oxford Debate style). Peer-reviewed presentation. APTA Nebraska State Meeting; April 6, 2024; Omaha, NE.

Pineda-Gutierrez A, Nyacyesa S, Pitla S, Yoder A, **Siu KC**, Lowndes B. Feasibility of the integrating electromyography and computer vision for occupational safety during tractor ingress and egress. The 15th International Conference on Applied Human Factors and Ergonomics; July 2024; Nice, France.

Pineda-Gutierrez A, Nyacyesa S, Pitla S, Yoder A, **Siu KC**, Lowndes B. Feasibility of the Integration of Electromyography and Computer Vision for Tractor Ingress and Egress Safety. ASABE Annual International Meeting, Anaheim, California, July 2024.

Prokop T, **Sleddens N**. Assessment of student learning: Feedback. APTA Academy of Education New Faculty Development Workshop; July 2024; Chicago, IL.

**Sleddens N**, Cohoon C, Thomas R. Student success and retention. APTA Academy of Education Virtual New Faculty Development Workshop; March 2024.

**Sleddens N**, Wallace A. Assessment of student learning: Assessment design. APTA Academy of Education New Faculty Development Workshop; July 2024; Chicago, IL.

Suh I, Li H, De S, Oleynikov D, Nelson C, **Siu KC**. Attaining the critical view of safety in laparoscopic cholecystectomy using adaptive visual feedback in virtual reality training system. The Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons; April 2024; Cleveland, Ohio.

Tao M; Janicek C. **Wellsandt E**. Don't be scared of the bear: Bridge-enhanced ACL repair considerations for the athletic trainer. Mid-America Athletic Trainers' Association Annual Meeting; March 15, 2024; Omaha, NE.

Tran B, Ramisetty N, Ramsey K, Lawendy M, Anda T, Kadimova E, Yee S, Patterson H, Slepian RC, Rohrer K, **Siu KC**, Slepian MJ. Video quantitative motion analysis for patients with arthritic diseases: A new methodology for remote precision medicine and telehealth. ASAIO 70th Annual Conference; May 2024; Baltimore, MD.

**Venema DM**, Kennel VK. Preventing falls for patients at risk of impaired mobility. Webinar for the ECRI Patient Safety Organization Falls Prevention Safety Collaborative; May 21, 2024.

**Venema DM**, Kennel VK. CAPTURE Falls Virtual Educational Series - session 3: Fall risk reduction interventions. Webinar for the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, Iowa Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant; April 17, 2024.

**Venema DM**, Kennel VK. CAPTURE Falls Virtual Educational Series - session 5: Post-fall clinical assessment; Fall event reporting. Webinar for the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, Iowa Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant; June 19, 2024.

Weldon N, Atteberry M, Werner D, Kallman T, Tao M, **Wellsandt E**. Muscle performance and drop jump mechanics associate with second injury in a matched cohort of athletes who passed functional return-to-sport criteria after ACL reconstruction. Poster presentation. American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine Annual Meeting; July 2024; Denver, CO.

## **Presentations *continued***

**Wellsandt E**, Manzer M, Sajja B, Golightly YM, Wichman C, Tao MA. Cumulative knee joint loading and early markers of cartilage microstructure after ACL injury. Poster presentation. Osteoarthritis Research Society International Annual World Congress; April 2024; Vienna, Austria.

**Wellsandt E**, Schmitt L, Mobasher A. Preventing Osteoarthritis after an Anterior Cruciate Ligament injury: An Osteoarthritis Action Alliance consensus statement. Osteoarthritis Research Society International World Congress; April 22, 2024; Vienna, Austria.

Werner D, Howell Smith M, Golightly YM, **Rosenthal M**, Tao M, **Wellsandt E**. Feasibility and safety of a progressive walking program early after Anterior Cruciate Ligament reconstruction. Poster presentation. International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity Annual Meeting; May 2024; Omaha, NE.

Williams C, Lu S, **Siu KC**, Farritor S, Jobst M. Examining the validity of training simulator for a novel miniaturized robotic assisted surgery system. American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons Annual Scientific Meeting; June 2024; Baltimore, MD.

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## **Grants**

*PI: Primary Investigator*

*Co-PI: Co-Primary Investigator*

*Co-I: Co-Investigator*

### **Laura D. Bilek, PT, PhD (Co-I) and Teresa M. Cochran, PT, DPT, MA, GCS, FNAP (Co-I)**

Funding Source: University of Nebraska Collaboration Initiative

Title: Nutrition Phenotyping: An Advanced Tool for Accurate Dietary Assessment in Cancer Survivors.

Dates: July 2022 - June 2024

### **Dawn M. Venema, PT, PhD (Co-PI)**

Funding Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Title: CATCH RURAL Falls (Coordinated Action Toward Community Health: RedUce Risk And Limit Falls) and CAPTURE Falls (Collaboration and Proactive Teamwork Used to Reduce Falls)

Dates: September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025

### **Elizabeth Wellsandt, PT, DPT, PhD, OCS (Site PI)**

Funding Source: NIH NIAMS R01AR080346 and UNMC Subaward

Title: Knee Arthroplasty Activity Trial (KArAT)

Dates: March 1, 2024 – August 31, 2027

## Announcements



**Did you know that the Physical Therapy Program has a job board for affiliated clinical sites?** Request an account by emailing [ptclined@unmc.edu](mailto:ptclined@unmc.edu) with details! If you have an account, you can edit by clicking [here](#).



**UNMC PT Apparel Orders:** Show your school spirit AND support the DPT Class of 2026! Order [HERE](#) by Monday, October 28, at noon. This is a fundraiser for the DPT Class of 2026. All proceeds go toward the class.

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