



Academia: The Good Life

Course Description:

Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants serve as educators in a variety of ways: educating patients how to manage their health, educating individual students through clinical education, and educating peers through mentoring or continuing education. But what is it like to be an academic educator? Interest in formal teaching draws many physical therapists and physical therapist assistants to careers in academia. However, it doesn't take long to realize that there's more to the job than showing up to class and imparting your wisdom upon students. This session will feature a panel discussion with faculty from a variety of DPT and PTA academic programs. One of the panelists will serve as moderator to prompt a discussion of the different hats worn by academic faculty. Panelists will describe a "day in the life" in academia as they discuss the pros and cons of their careers and how they balance their roles in teaching, research, clinical practice, and service. The panel will also share factors that influenced their decision to pursue a career in academia versus remaining in a more traditional clinical setting. Time will be reserved near the end of the session to address questions from the audience.

Meet Your Speakers:

Dawn Venema, PT, PhD, has been an assistant professor in the Division of Physical Therapy Education at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) since 2008. She received her MPT from UNMC in 1999 and PhD from UNMC in 2007. Her clinical work focused primarily on fall risk reduction in inpatient and outpatient geriatric settings. Dr Venema's research focuses on reducing fall risk in hospitalized older adults, and the effects of dual-tasks on mobility in older adults. She mentors DPT students in research and teaches courses in the areas of evidence-based practice and functional mobility. Dr Venema received the 2013 Nebraska Physical Therapy Association Achievement in Education Award and the 2015 Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy Excellence in Geriatric Research Award.





Karen Abboud, PTA, MHA, CLT, has been teaching in the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program at Clarkson College since 2009. She began as an adjunct instructor and currently teaches full-time as an assistant professor. She received her AS degree as a PTA from Clarkson College in 2005, worked as a clinician in various skilled nursing facilities (primarily with the geriatric population), and became a certified lymphedema therapist in 2010. She went on to earn her master's in health care administration from Clarkson College in 2012. Karen is actively involved at the state and national level by serving as the PTA Caucus representative, serving on the NPTA Executive Committee, as well as serving as a

member on the Membership and IT committees, and recently completed training to serve as an on-site reviewer for the Commission on Accreditation for Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). Karen received recognition for APTA's Advanced Proficiency for the PTA in Geriatrics in 2011.



Sara Bills, PT, DPT, GCS, has been an assistant professor in the Division of Physical Therapy Education at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) since 2014. She has been practicing in the areas of cardiopulmonary physical therapy and neurorehabilitation since receiving her DPT from UNMC in 2004. At UNMC, Dr Bills is involved in teaching and service. Her teaching areas include cardiopulmonary and integumentary physical therapy, physical agents, and neuroanatomy. She provides service to the University and the Division of Physical Therapy Education through her work on various committees. Dr Bills also serves on the Executive Committee of the Nebraska Physical Therapy Association and the Membership Advisory Committee of the American Burn Association. In 2013, she received the Nebraska Physical Therapy Association's PT Clinical

Excellence Award.



Terry L. Grindstaff, PT, PhD, ATC, SCS, CSCS, is an associate professor in the Department of Physical Therapy at Creighton University. He received his DPT from Belmont University in 2004, became a board-certified sports clinical specialist in 2007, and earned his PhD in kinesiology from the University of Virginia in 2009. Dr Grindstaff's research investigates the neuromuscular consequences of lower extremity joint injury and rehabilitative management to address dysfunction. He has authored or coauthored over 45 peer-reviewed journal articles and presented at national and international meetings. Dr Grindstaff was the recipient of the 2014 Eugene Michels New Investigator Award from the American Physical Therapy Association.



Julie Hoffman, PT, DPT, CCS, is an associate professor of Physical Therapy at Creighton University. She earned her MPT from Hahnemann University in Philadelphia in 1998, her tDPT from Creighton in 2006, and became a board-certified cardiovascular and pulmonary clinical specialist in 2007. She has practiced physical therapy in a variety of settings including adult and medically complex rehabilitation at Madonna Rehabilitation hospital in Lincoln, NE, and acute care at Creighton University Medical Center. Dr Hoffman joined full-time academia in 2003. In addition to teaching the cardiovascular and pulmonary content in the DPT program, Dr Hoffman is director of the PT Institute for Latin American Concern program at Creighton. Her scholarship focus includes educational and clinical outcome-based research.