

Nikki Lee DiSalvio, PT, DPT, MS, NCS

disalvio@pt.usc.edu

Academics

University of Pittsburgh

Doctor of Physical Therapy

- 2018 Jessie Wright Scholar: Awarded to a DPT student who displays superior achievement and potential for becoming an outstanding clinician

Pittsburgh, PA

June 2015- April 2018

Case Western Reserve University

Master of Science in Applied Anatomy

Cleveland, OH

August 2013- June 2015

University of Rochester

Bachelor of Science Degree in Neuroscience with Minor in Social Psychology

Rochester, NY

August 2008- May 2012

Physical Therapy Clinical Experiences

Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

Physical Therapist

- Primary physical therapist on spinal injury service of acute inpatient rehabilitation unit
- Roles include managing discharge planning, equipment needs, complex wheelchair orders, working with PTAs, interdisciplinary team model

Downey, CA

October 2018- Current

Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

USC/ RLANRC Neurologic Physical Therapy Resident

- Six months experience in outpatient neurologic rehabilitation setting treating patients with a variety of neurologic conditions including CVA, TBI, SCI, balance and vestibular disorders, etc. Additional experience working in the Seating Center to evaluate equipment needs for patients that utilize wheelchairs as their primary means of mobility
- Six months working in inpatient rehabilitation setting treating individuals with a variety of neurologic dysfunctions

Los Angeles, CA

October 2018- October 2019

UPMC Mercy Rehabilitation Institute

Inpatient Rehabilitation Physical Therapy Intern on Spinal Injury Unit: Full time

- Evaluated and treated patients on the spinal injury unit treating with a variety of neurological diagnoses including traumatic spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, cauda equina syndrome, and Guillain Barre Syndrome

Pittsburgh, PA

October 2017- April 2018

UPMC Centers for Rehab Services at South Hills

Outpatient Neurological Rehabilitation Physical Therapy Intern: Full time

- Evaluated and treated patients with a wide variety of neurological impairments including vestibular disorders, post-concussion disorder, traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, multiple systems atrophy, functional movement disorders, etc.

Pittsburgh, PA

May 2017-October 2017

Research Experience

Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

Neurologic physical therapy resident scholarly project

- Case study to demonstrate implementation of the OPTIMAL Theory of Motor Learning into clinical practice under the guidance of Dr. Rebecca Lewthwaite

Downey, CA

September 2018-September 2019

University of Pittsburgh

Research Assistant

- Recruited subjects and collected data for Allyn Bove, PT, DPT for a research project titled: "Racial Differences in Functional Outcomes and Physical Therapy Utilization after Total Knee Arthroplasty."

Pittsburgh, PA

January 2016- April 2017

Section on Orthopaedics, American Physical Therapy Association

Research Assistant

- Assisted with data management for Knee Pain Pilot Project under the direction of G. Kelley Fitzgerald, PT, PhD, FAPTA

La Crosse, WI

January 2017-April 2017

UPMC Eye and Ear Institute

Research Assistant

- Completed data entry for research study exploring results of fNIRS analysis in individuals with visual vertigo during dual-task walking paradigms under principal investigator Carrie Hoppes PT, DPT, PhD, NCS, OCS

Pittsburgh, PA

May 2017-September 2017

Research Intern

June 2016-August 2016

- Completed research project exploring correlations between neuroimaging markers and performance on balance and mobility outcome measures in community dwelling older adults under the mentorship of Patrick Sparto PT, PhD and Susan L. Whitney DPT, PhD, PhD, NCS, ATC, FAPTA. Poster presented at ISPGR 2017 World Congress with publication
- Supported by T32 research training grant to conduct this clinical research project as well as receive additional mentorship and leadership training (detailed information listed below under grants)

Louis Stokes Cleveland VA

Cleveland, OH

Research Assistant/ Health Science Specialist in FES Motion Study Lab

June 2014- May 2015

- Assisted researchers on projects involving spinal cord injured persons with implanted functional electrical stimulation systems
- Prepared a literature review on sitting-pivot transfers and designed a questionnaire to explore trunk-related activities that are important to individuals with a spinal cord injury

University of Rochester Medical Center

Rochester, NY

Research and Technical Assistant in Majewska Lab

October 2010 – April 2011

- Assisted in basic neuroscience lab testing central nervous system stimulants on mice and the effects on breast cancer metastasis to the brain

Peer Reviewed Presentations/Publications

Hoppes, Carrie W. PT, PhD; Huppert, Theodore J. PhD; Whitney, Susan L. PT, PhD; Dunlap, Pamela M. PT; **DiSalvio, Nikki L. PT**; Alshebber, Kefah M. PT, PhD; Furman, Joseph M. MD, PhD; Kwon, Yong H. PT, PhD; Rosso, Andrea L. PhD, MPH (2020). Changes in Cortical Activation During Dual-Task Walking in Individuals With and Without Visual Vertigo. *Journal of Neurologic Physical Therapy*. 44(2): p 156-163.

DiSalvio, N. L., Rosano, C., Aizenstein, H. J., Redfern, M. S., Furman, J. M., Jennings, J. R., ... & Sparto, P. J. (2019). Gray Matter Regions Associated With Functional Mobility in Community-Dwelling Older Adults. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*.

Oral Presentation at 30th Barany Society Meeting 2018; June 10-13

Uppsala, Sweden

- Changes in Cortical Activity during Dual-task Walking in Individuals with and without Visual Vertigo 11. Gait, Posture, and Locomotion Carrie Hoppes, Theodore Huppert, Susan Whitney, Pamela Dunlap, Kefah Alshebber, **Nikki DiSalvio**, Joseph Furman, Yong Kwon, Andrea Rosso

Poster presented at International Society of Posture and Gait Research World Congress 2017; June 25-29

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

- Relationship between structural neuroimaging measures and performance on functional mobility measures in community-dwelling older adults. **NL DiSalvio**, H Aizenstein, C Rosano, S Perera, MS Redfern, JM Furman, JR Jennings, SL Whitney, PJ Sparto.

Poster presented at Midwest American Society of Biomechanics meeting; 2015 Feb 17-18

Akron, OH

- A Neuroprosthesis for Decreasing Upper Extremity Demands During Pivot Transfers after Spinal Cord Injury. Stephanie Nogan Bailey, Scott Slivka, **Nikki DiSalvio**, Lisa M. Lombardo, Kevin M. Foglyano, Ronald J. Triolo.

Grants

University of Pittsburgh Division of Geriatrics

Pittsburgh, PA

T32 Research Trainee

June 2016- August 2016

- Supported by competitive training grant awarded to research trainees working on a project focused on impacting older adults under principal investigator Susan Greenspan, MD. Supported the research project at the UPMC Eye and Ear Institute exploring correlations between neuroimaging markers and scores on balance and mobility outcome measures

Teaching Experiences

University of Southern California

Adjunct Instructor of Clinical Physical Therapy: Gross Anatomy Lab Instructor

July 2020-Current

Clinical Instructor of Physical Therapy: Codirector of DPT Anatomy course

August 2019-December 2019

- Lab instructor, lecturer, exam development, oversight of all lab activities

Resident Instructor: Clinical Management of the Patient with Neurological Dysfunction *January 2019-April 2019*

- Lab instructor and small group leader for second year DPT students in clinical skills necessary to treat patients with neurologic diagnoses

Resident Instructor- Neuroanatomy *August 2018-December 2018*

- Lab instructor for clinical skills and gross brain structures for second year DPT students. Completed additional specialty dissections for use in the future of the course

University of Pittsburgh

Adjunct Faculty-Lab Instructor and Lecturer for DPT Human Anatomy Course *June 2018-August 2018*

- Full-time lab instructor to first year DPT students in Summer 2018 term for lecture and lab contents. Delivered lecture on the human nervous system, lead review sessions, and mentor students in all surface anatomy and gross anatomy labs

Teaching Assistant for DPT Neuromuscular Rehabilitation 3 Course *January 2018-June 2018*

- Lab instructor for activities regarding treatment of spinal cord injury rehabilitation, and basic neurological examinations to second year DPT students

Teaching Assistant for DPT/MS Falls and Balance Course *January 2018-May 2018*

- Lab instructor for treatment of vestibular and balance disorders for DPT and international MS physical therapy students

Tutor for DPT Human Anatomy Course *June 2017-August 2017*

- Provided 1:1 tutoring to first year DPT students during Summer 2017 term for lecture and lab components

Teaching Assistant for DPT Kinesiology Course *June 2017-August 2017*

- Led review sessions, assisted with all lab sessions, proctored lab practical examinations, prepared gait analysis review videos

Teaching Assistant for SHRS Undergraduate Human Anatomy Course *September 2016-December 2016*

- Instructed gross anatomy labs, provided lecture review sessions, performed additional specialized dissections
- Delivered lecture on upper extremity neurology and angiology with associated review session

Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

Teaching Assistant and Tutor for First and Second Year Medical Students in their Gross Anatomy Curriculum *June 2014-May 2015*

- Led gross anatomy dissections, small group lectures, completed specialized dissections, provided small group tutoring sessions

Teaching Assistant for Graduate Level Gross Anatomy Course *January 2015-May 2015*

- Performed complete dissections for all gross anatomy components, instructed students in technique and completion of anatomical dissections, led review sessions, proctored lab practical examinations

Teaching Assistant for Graduate Level Histology Course *August 2014-December 2014*

- Assisted in identification of structures in lab sessions, provided lecture review sessions

Professional Memberships

American Physical Therapy Association Member *June 2015- Current*

- Attended several APTA conferences, active involvement in neurology section (see below)
- Volunteered with PTNow to develop clinician guides for utilization of online resources

American Physical Therapy Association Neurology Section Member *June 2016- Current*

- Vestibular Rehabilitation Special Interest Group (SIG). Active member on Podcast committee
- Represented the Academy of Neurological Physical Therapy (ANPT) and Vestibular SIG at the National Student Conclave 2017. Duties included promotion of the ANPT at the exhibit hall booth and assistance with the Mentor Mixer event

International Society of Posture and Gait Research (ISPGR)- Student member *February 2017-September 2017*

- Attended ISPGR World Congress 2017, presented peer- reviewed poster

Licensure/Certifications:

ABPTS Board Certified Neurologic Clinical Specialist *July 2020-Current*

California Physical Therapy License *June 2018-Current*

APTA Credentialled Clinical Instructor *January 2020*

ASIA In-Step Certification *December 2019*

American Heart Association Basic Life Support (CPR and AED) Program *January 2019-January 2021*