



# NEWS RELEASE

1111 North Fairfax Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
800/875-1378  
703/706-1378  
www.foundation4pt.org

## Foundation for Physical Therapy Awards \$120,000 in Research Grants

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rachael Crockett  
703/706-3385  
rachaelcrockett@foundation4pt.org

ALEXANDRIA, VA, (December 17, 2013) – Three physical therapists have each received \$40,000 research grants from the Foundation for Physical Therapy in support of their projects to evaluate the effectiveness of physical therapy interventions.

“We congratulate these three outstanding scholars, whose work will contribute to our profession’s scientific advancement,” said Foundation Board of Trustees President and Chair William G. Boissonnault, PT, DPT, DHSc, FAPTA, FAAOMPT. “To our generous donors who make these awards possible; we are indebted to you!”

The Magistro Family Foundation Research Grant has been awarded to Eric Vidoni, PT, MSPT, PhD, research assistant professor in the Department of Neurology at the University of Kansas Medical Center and education and outreach director of KUMC’s Alzheimer’s Disease Center. His 2-year project, “Promotion of Activity through Clinical Education and Reinforcement,” aims to look at the physical and psychological effects of individualized activity programs for those with Alzheimer’s disease. Dr. Vidoni received his master’s in physical therapy and PhD in rehabilitation sciences from the University of Kansas Medical Center, and was awarded a New Investigator Fellowship Training Initiative (NIFTI) from the Foundation in 2009. This grant is generously provided by the Magistro Family Foundation Endowment Fund.

Ryan Mizner, PT, MPT, PhD, an assistant professor at the University of Montana, is the recipient of the Miami-Marquette Challenge Research Grant. His 2-year project, “A Novel Unweighting Technology to Address Psychological Impairments Limiting Outcomes after ACL Reconstruction,” will look at the effects of a bodyweight reduction instrument to deliver graded exercise (BRIDGE) on the outcomes of

anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction. Mizner received his master's in physical therapy and PhD in biomechanics and movement science from the University of Delaware. Dr. Mizner has also received a Florence P. Kendall Doctoral Scholarship from the Foundation in 2001 and a Promotion of Doctoral Studies (PODS) I Scholarship in 2002. In addition to support from the Miami-Marquette Challenge, this grant was also supported by the American Physical Therapy Association Supporting the Profession Fund and the Legacy Research Fund.

Stacey Dusing, PT, MS, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Physical Therapy at Virginia Commonwealth University, has been awarded a \$40,000 Pediatric Research Grant. Her 2-year project entitled "Supporting Play, Exploration, & Early Development Intervention (SPEEDI) for Infants Born Preterm: An Initial Efficacy Study," will evaluate the efficacy of SPEEDI in improving reaching and problem solving skills in infants at high risk for developmental disabilities. Dr. Dusing received a bachelor's degree in physical therapy from Daemen College and a master's degree and PhD in human movement science from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She was also awarded a Florence P. Kendall Doctoral Scholarship from the Foundation in 2002 and a PODS II Scholarship in 2005. The Pediatric Endowment Fund and the Legacy Research Fund have graciously financed this grant.

### **About The Foundation for Physical Therapy**

The Foundation for Physical Therapy was established in 1979 as a national, independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality and delivery of physical therapy care by providing support for scientifically based and clinically relevant physical therapy research by way of doctoral scholarships, fellowships, and grants.

Over the last 34 years, the Foundation has awarded over \$13 million in research grants, fellowships, and post-professional doctoral scholarships to more than 500 emerging scientists. Foundation funded researchers have gone on to receive an estimated \$550 million in external funding from the National Institutes of Health and other sources. Many of today's leading and emerging physical therapist researchers, clinicians and academicians began their careers with a grant or scholarship from the Foundation.

Contributions to the Foundation for Physical Therapy are tax-deductible and can be made online at [Foundation4PT.org](http://Foundation4PT.org) or sent to its headquarters at 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. For more information, e-mail Barbara Malm, [barbaramalm@foundation4pt.org](mailto:barbaramalm@foundation4pt.org), or call 800/875-1378.

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