University of Delaware PT Students Recognized by Foundation for Physical Therapy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Barbara Malm, MBA
703/706-8502
barbaramalm@foundation4pt.org

ALEXANDRIA, VA (June 21, 2016) – The Foundation for Physical Therapy is pleased to present the University of Delaware’s PT Program with the Award of Excellence and the Biggest Stretch Award for the 2015-2016 Pittsburgh-Marquette Challenge. Award of Excellence is given to schools who show commitment to the Challenge by raising $10,000 or more. The University of Delaware also received the Biggest Stretch School award for having the greatest increase in funds raised since last year’s Challenge. Notably, students at the University of Delaware raised over $20,000 for physical therapy research this year.

Physical therapist and physical therapist assistant students from across the country were recognized for their fundraising efforts through the 2015-2016 Pittsburgh-Marquette Challenge at APTA’s NEXT Conference and Exposition in Nashville, TN on June 9th. Top fundraising schools were announced during the Challenge Awards Luncheon co-hosted by Marquette University and sponsored by Patterson Medical. Students also received recognition during the Foundation’s 2016 Gala. Students from 150 schools raised a record $354,320 to support physical therapy research.

Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) took top honors, winning first place and naming rights for the next Challenge by raising $51,242. The 2016-2017 VCU-Marquette Challenge kicks off at the National Student Conclave in Miami, Florida on October 27.

“We continue to be amazed every year with the level of commitment these students have to the profession and the Foundation,” said Foundation Board of Trustees President, Barbara Connolly, PT, DPT, EdD, FAPTA. “It is through their dedication and eagerness to see physical therapy research become a priority that the Challenge grows stronger each year. Thank you to all the students who
contributed and a special thanks to your faculty for reinforcing the importance of physical therapy research.”

The Challenge is the largest annual student-driven fundraising effort for the Foundation for Physical Therapy. The money raised by PT and PTA students helps fund scholarships and grants that advance patient care. Additionally the Challenge also supports the rigorous scientific review process for all Foundation grants and scholarships. Since its inception in 1989, 264 schools have participated in raising **over $3.3 million** for physical therapy research.

**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 and doctoral scholarships and fellowships.

Over the past 37 years, the Foundation has awarded more than $17 million in research grants, fellowships, and post-professional doctoral scholarships to more than 576 emerging scientists. Foundation-funded researchers have gone on to receive an estimated $753 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 career 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 or via postal mail at 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. For more information, visit Foundation4pt.org, email marquettechallenge@foundation4pt.org, or call 800/875-1378.

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