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Summer is almost upon us and with it comes wonderful things for the Foundation! This month I am proud to feature our Scientific Review Committee (SRC) Chair **Carolynn Patten, PT, PhD**, as our Researcher of the Month and recognize ActivaTek as one of our newest Partners in Research. I am also excited to welcome two new members of our staff, Karen Chesbrough as Scientific Administrator and MaryEllen Petrie, a Marquette University PT student who is interning with us this summer.



As we prepare to announce our next round of grant recipients next month, we thank the members of our SRC for their time and effort in reviewing all of the applications submitted each grant cycle. Our next application deadline is August 19th; please be sure to help spread the word.

I also invite you to take a moment and learn more about a new service the Foundation offers through CardCafe.com. In this season of graduations, weddings and Father's Day (June 21), we help make it easy to send cards and gifts while benefiting the Foundation.

I hope to see you in Baltimore. We have some wonderful surprises for PT09 attendees!

Bob Brennan  
Executive Director

## Researcher of the Month

### Carolynn Patten, PT, PhD

This month we celebrate another researcher whose career was launched with funding from the Foundation. We are proud to feature Carolynn Patten, PT, PhD, who has dedicated her career to promoting physical therapy research by mentoring her students and by serving as Chair of the Foundation's Scientific Review Committee. Read Carolynn's story on the next page.

## Where Are They Today?

### **Carolynn Patten, PT, PhD (May 2009)**

Carolynn Patten, PT, PhD, credits the Foundation for Physical Therapy with getting her started on her career path as a researcher, even before she was awarded her first \$1,800 grant in 1995.

"While funding from the Foundation provided support for my doctoral studies, equally important was the structure provided through the grant application process and the invaluable feedback from the review panel. Together, these experiences provided early, formative experiences to the process of learning how to be a productive researcher."

Patten, who researches neural recovery and adaptations in adults after stroke, wrote successful applications for Foundation funding that resulted in three doctoral scholarships totaling \$31,800 and a New Investigator Fellowship and Training Initiative Award for \$60,000. The NIFTI fellowship matched her with experienced research mentors who helped develop her research skills and direction.



She leveraged the initial data resulting from her Foundation awards into proposals that have attracted \$12,427,174 in research funding from agencies including the VA, National Institutes of Health, the Whitaker Foundation and the National Science Foundation. She was the first physical therapist to receive a Career Development Award through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Rehabilitation Research & Development Service, an award previously given only to individuals with an MD. Now an Associate Professor at the University of Florida, Patten conducts her research as a Senior Research Scientist at the Brain Research Center at Rehabilitation the Malcolm Randall Veteran's Administration Medical Center in Gainesville, FL. She directs the Neural Control of Movement Lab and coordinates the BRRC Upper-Extremity Research Initiative.

Patten keeps a full schedule of teaching, mentoring and researching, yet she makes time to give back to the profession and the Foundation that gave her the resources to start her research career. She chairs the Foundation's 9-member Scientific Review Committee, which is responsible for evaluating all applications for Foundation funding and recommending those that are most promising. She also serves on *Physical Therapy Journal* Editorial Board.

"One of the things that has always struck me is that there was a group of forward thinking people in our profession – I wish I knew who they were so I could personally thank them – who recognized the need to develop the next generation of physical therapist researchers and academics and create a Foundation to support that effort.

"I feel humbled to be one of the people touched by their legacy and feel it is important to pass this on to the next generation. My role on the Foundation's Scientific Review Committee allows me to contribute in some small way. The Foundation is a part of all of us in physical therapy. It's important that everyone in the PT community knows the Foundation touches us. In participating with the Foundation we touch our future."

Patten encourages and guides her students to pursue Foundation funding, continuing the cycle among the next generation of scientists. Two of her students, Eliza Gonzalez-Rothi, PT, DPT, and Virginia Little, PT, MS, NCS, received Florence P Kendall Doctoral Scholarships last year. They are awaiting word of whether they will be approved for Foundation PODS-I funding this year.

