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FOUNDATION FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY AWARDS \$210,000 IN DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIPS TO 19 PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

ALEXANDRIA, VA, June 23, 2009 — The Foundation for Physical Therapy Board of Trustees recently awarded a total of \$210,000 in Promotion of Doctoral Studies (PODS I & II) Scholarships to 19 physical therapists.

"The standard of excellence shown by this year's applicants was very impressive," said Foundation President Richard Shields, PT, PhD, FAPTA. "The Foundation is pleased to continue fulfilling its mission by providing support for such promising young researchers as they begin their careers."

As part of its Doctoral Opportunities for Clinicians and Scholarships (DOCS) program, the Foundation awards PODS I scholarships of \$7,500 each year to physical therapists or physical therapist assistants who have completed at least two full semesters or three full quarters of their coursework toward a doctorate. PODS II scholarships of up to \$15,000 each are awarded to physical therapists or physical therapist assistants who have been formally admitted to doctoral candidacy.

Recipients of the 2009 PODS I scholarships are Eric Allen, MS, MPT, University of Iowa; Keith Avin, BS, MS, DPT, University of Iowa; Amy Feldman Bailes, PT, MS, PCS, University of Cincinnati; Alexandra Borstad, PT, NCS, The Ohio State University; Stephanie Di Stasi, MSPT, CSCS, University of Delaware; **Elisa Gonzalez-Rothi, DPT, University of Florida; Virginia Little, PT, MS, NCS, University of Florida;** Ericka Merriwether, DPT, Washington University in St. Louis; Lynnette Montgomery, BPhy, The Ohio State University; Richard Willy, MPT, BSSPS, University of Delaware.

Recipients of the 2009 PODS II scholarships are Shawn Farrokhi, DPT, University of Southern California; Bernadette Gillick, PT, University of Minnesota; Andrew Littman, PT, MA, NCS, University of Iowa; Erica Pitsch, MPT, University of Southern California; **Barbara Smith, MPT, University of Florida;** Kristen Stearns, MSPT, University of Southern California; Jill Stewart, PT, MS, NCS, University of Southern California; William Thompson, DPT, University of Delaware; Lori Tuttle, MPT, Washington University in St. Louis.

The PODS I scholarship awarded to Stephanie Di Stasi, MSPT, CSCS, was made possible by the Marquette Challenge, co-sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh. This annual grassroots student fundraising effort coordinated by physical therapy students from Marquette University has become so successful that it continues to fund a PODS I scholarship in addition to funding research grants.

Elisa Gonzalez-Rothi, DPT, was awarded the Barnes-Leahy scholarship, given to a PODS I recipient for post-professional studies in neurology. This award is given in memory of Neurology Section members and accomplished physical therapists Marylou Barnes, PT, FAPTA and Patricia Leahy, PT.

Andrew Littman, PT, MA, NCS, was awarded the Viva J. Erickson Doctoral Scholarship, given to a PODS recipient for post-professional doctoral studies. This scholarship is intended to help prepare the recipient for academic leadership in physical therapy education programs. The award is generously funded by the Viva J. Erickson Fund established in 1995 in memory of this accomplished physical therapist and APTA leader.

Barbara Smith, PT, MPT, was awarded for the second year the Scot C. Irwin, PT, DPT, CCS Scholarship, given to an accomplished PODS recipient for post-professional studies in

cardiovascular and pulmonary studies. This award is given in memory of accomplished physical therapist and Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Section member Scot C. Irwin, PT, DPT, CCS.

Tax deductible contributions can be made in support of the Foundation on-line at www.FoundationforPhysicalTherapy.org or sent to: Foundation for Physical Therapy, P.O. Box 1017, Merrifield, VA 22116-9767. For more information, please call 800-875-1378.

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

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