Excellence in Clinical Practice Award: Jillian MacDonald, PT, DPT, NCS (Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago)

Dr MacDonald demonstrates excellence while providing evidence-based care to patients with neurologic dysfunction in the outpatient setting at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. Her peers recognize her as a humble leader who delivers care with kindness, compassion, empathy, and patience. One colleague describes her as “an expert clinician who utilizes a variety of strategies such as evidence-based practice, critical thinking, experts, and unique resources in order to provide the utmost of care to her patients.” Dr MacDonald continuously seeks opportunities for growth and development such as continuing education, research, and teaching to enhance her clinical skills.

Excellence in Education Award: J. J. Mowder-Tinney, PT, PhD, NCS, C/NDT, CSRS, CEEAA (Nazareth College)

Dr Mowder-Tinney, a physical therapy faculty member at Nazareth College, demonstrates teaching and mentoring excellence in a variety of clinical settings and provides opportunities for students to pursue their interests. She also promotes self-care and resilience among students and demonstrates her commitment to the profession and her students.

Excellence in Research Award: Jules DeWald, PT, PhD (Northwestern University)

Dr DeWald demonstrates excellence in research through the long-standing history of prolific impactful publications, history of extensive funding, and education/formation of future leaders in our profession.

Excellence in Service Award: Linda Csiza, PT, DSc (Texas Women’s University)

Dr Csiza epitomizes what it means to be a high contributor to the Academy. Since stepping into leadership roles more than a decade ago, Dr Csiza has been on the front lines of moving our profession forward. She has developed content to support clinical practice via her writing, supported the development of our profession as a whole through her roles within ABPTRFE, and advanced neurologic physical therapy specifically through her work as an item writer and leader within the Academy. Most recently, Dr Csiza served as treasurer and a member of the board of directors. Dr Csiza’s positive contributions have impacted physical therapy management across many areas, including falls, multiple sclerosis, stroke, vestibular rehabilitation, and aquatics. Through this broad swath of participation and leadership, Dr Csiza has expanded both the reach and excellence of neurologic physical therapy practice.

Early Career Professional Awards: Alana Garcia, PT, DPT, NCS, CBIS (Spectrum Health)

Alana Garcia demonstrates a high level of interest for future involvement within the Academy on both local and national levels. As a new clinician, she serves as a board member of the Brainy Day Trail Run Foundation. In addition to her efforts toward enhancing the level of care provided for individuals with neurologic diagnoses, she is also ardent in her involvement within the Academy. Most recently, Dr Csiza served as a clinical leader for the Brainy Day Trail Run Foundation. In addition to her efforts toward enhancing the level of care provided for individuals with neurologic diagnoses, she is also ardent in her involvement within the Academy.

Bria Varner, PT, DPT, NCS (South Texas Rehabilitation Hospital)

Dr Varner demonstrates a high level of interest for future involvement within the Academy. She currently serves as a physical therapist at South Texas Rehabilitation Hospital where she represents the company in the annual Walk to End Alzheimer’s fundraiser as well as facilitating monthly journal clubs. She serves as an advisory board member at a local physical therapist assistant program at Kaplan College and is an avid blogger. Through her nomination letter, we learned that her colleagues find her “engaging, witty, and eager.” She is looking forward to networking opportunities at CSM to connect with others within the academy, and we look forward to see where she will take lead in the future.

Student Research Awards for Most Exceptional Abstracts Submitted for Presentation at CSM 2017:

Kelly Hawkins, PT, DPT, NCS—Postprofessional student award

*Title:* Thinking About Walking: Functional Neuroimaging Demonstrates Increased Demand for Executive Control of Walking in Adults With Mobility Deficits

*Advisor:* Emily Fox, University of Florida

Robert Sykes, SPT—Professional student award

*Title:* Minimal Detectable Change for Gait Speed Is Dependent on Baseline Gait Speed in Individuals With Chronic Stroke

*Advisor:* Michael Lewek, UNC—Chapel Hill