

# Report from the Division of Physical Therapy

Burke Gurney PT PhD OCS, Professor and Division Chief

It has been a busy year for the Division of Physical Therapy. In this, our 40th year, we just completed the selection of our 41st class of students, who will start in August. Since inception, our total student enrollment surpasses 750. When the new class arrives, they will see a Division that has recently experienced a lot of change. Burke Gurney was recently appointed as the new Division Chief. In addition, we had two long-time faculty retire, Beth Provost and Sue Queen. Beth taught our pediatric and health promotion content, and Sue taught the pharmacology and pathophysiology content. They will both be sorely missed. We recently hired two excellent new faculty — Marybeth Barkocy, who has taken her energy and expertise into the classroom to teach pediatrics and health promotion, and Tiffany Pelletier, who is quickly adapting to her role as Director of Clinical Education.

The motion analysis lab is moving forward, Bone Dexter has been overseeing several research projects including collaboration with Deana Mercer on the relative contribution of 5 ligaments of the first carpometacarpal joint to the joint's stability. In addition, Kathy Dieruf and Bone are planning to start a study investigating the effects of a unique upper extremity sling on gait dynamics in post stroke patients. The sling was invented by a local PT and OT. In addition, Bone has started testing children with cerebral palsy for gait abnormalities. We are moving forward to launch the clinical side, where we will be doing gait and motion analysis for children from Carrie Tingley Hospital. In the past, families have had to travel to Denver to receive this analysis and we are excited to be able to provide this service here at UNM.

Other research is also occurring. Ron Andrews and Bone Dexter have been involved with Dan Wascher, Bob Schenck and Dustin Richter in long term outcomes of surgical repair after total knee dislocation. In addition, Burke Gurney, in collaboration with researchers in Flagstaff Arizona, has just completed the data collection on an EMG study investigating the activity of the rotator cuff muscles during gait and several post-surgical rehabilitation activities. Fred Carey and Beth Jones recently presented an anatomical case study on hypertrophy of the subclavius accompanied by atrophy of the pectoralis major muscle post-mastectomy at the Combined Sections Meeting, the largest PT national scientific conference.

Many of the faculty are involved in clinical practice in various sites throughout the city, and the Division is working on developing a faculty practice at Sandoval Regional Medical Center that will allow us to consolidate our practice, as well as bring in some new clinical/teaching faculty. We plan on using the facility as a clinical rotation site for our students in addition to performing clinical research.

We are proud of the many accomplishments of our students and faculty, and are looking forward to continuing our service of the NM community into the next 40 years.