

Orthopaedic PT Residency Website Content

Overview of Program

Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Residency Program

Southeastern Louisiana Veterans Health Care Services Physical Therapy Service offers licensed physical therapists a year-long advanced practice residency in Orthopaedic Physical Therapy.

Our residency program is in development status seeking accreditation by the American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education (ABPTRFE) as a post professional program for physical therapists in Orthopaedics and is funded by the Office of Academic Affiliations. Located in the heart of New Orleans, Louisiana with a thriving diverse cultural scene, residents will enjoy full-time employment with benefits, completing 150+ hours of 1:1 mentoring with Orthopaedic and Neurologic Clinical Specialists and experienced clinicians across a variety of settings. Our program supports 1 resident annually. Residents who successfully complete the program are well-prepared and eligible to sit for the Orthopedic Clinical Specialist (OCS) exam.

Mission and Goals

- Mission: To provide advanced education through mentoring, didactic instruction, evidence-based practice, and clinical experiences to promote board-specialization in orthopedic physical therapy in order to elevate the care of our Veterans.

- Goals:
 - Develop advanced orthopedic practitioners that are committed to providing excellence in orthopedic physical therapy
 - Develop and deliver an advanced curriculum that integrates the mentor-mentee model of learning.
 - Contribute to the continued growth and advancement of knowledge in orthopedic physical therapy
 - Serve as an orthopedic physical therapy resource within professional, academic and social communities
 - Graduate physical therapists who exemplify professional excellence, commit to continued learning, and prepare to pursue ABPTS certification as an Orthopedic Clinical Specialist
 - Establish and maintain ABPTRFE Accreditation of Orthopedic Residency Program

Curriculum

Our curriculum addresses all components of the Orthopaedic Description of Residency Practice which includes a blend of didactic learning activities, online resources, clinical mentoring, and laboratory practical work. The core curriculum is composed of 11 modules reflective of areas of importance in the care of the individual with orthopedic dysfunction. These modules and online training compliment weekly mentored advanced clinical practice in the area of orthopedic physical therapy across settings.

- Acute/ICU
- Outpatient
- Primary Care
- Pediatric Observation
- Aquatics
- Wellness Programs

Clinical education will include interdisciplinary education with medical residents in PM&R and medical/procedural observations such as the following.

- Joint/spinal injection
- EMG/NCS
- Radiofrequency ablation
- Total Joint & Arthroscopic orthopedic procedures
- Pharmacological pain management

It is the intention of the program to support APTA Clinical Instructor credentialing and attendance at the Louisiana State PT Meeting and APTA Combined Sections Meeting within the residency unless in the case of unforeseen circumstances.

Residency Requirements

- US Citizenship
- Graduation from a CAPTE accredited program
- English language proficiency
- Unrestricted State Licensure to practice physical therapy in a State, Territory or Commonwealth of the US or the District of Columbia, or demonstrated plan to achieve licensure before the start date of the residency
- APTA and Ortho Section membership
- Case Presentations
- Journal club facilitator
- Medical resident Instructor for Physical Therapy Department
- Submission of Research Proposal

- In-service presentations
- Quarterly Peer Reviews
- 2 Written Exams
- At least 2 Live Patient Evaluations
- 3 Resident Competency Evaluation Instrument submissions
- Completion of all program requirements within a 12-month time frame

How to apply

Application Procedures:

Email Residency Program Director for the required application items and process of submission.

Susan.kurtz2@va.gov

Application Acceptance: October – March

Interview: Onsite/Virtual: January – April

Notification of Acceptance: No later than April 30

Program Begins: After July 4

Should you have any questions, please contact Susan Kurtz at susan.kurtz2@va.gov

Benefits

- Stipend salary provided by OAA
- Health insurance
- Paid leave days: 13 vacation; 13 sick; 11 federal holidays
- Personal workspace
- Office supplies/support personnel
- Medical Media services
- Medical Library access
- Free parking
- Teaching experience

Faculty

PT Residency Program Director

Susan Kurtz, PT, MPT, CWS, SCCE

Kurtz graduated from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science and in 1997 with a Master's in Physical Therapy. She received her Certified Wound Specialist certification through the American Board of Wound Management in 2001. Her over twenty-year career started in the ICU/CCU at Southern Regional Medical Center in Jonesboro, GA. She spent one year as a traveling PT at Kindred Hospital in New Orleans where she led the expansion of the wound care department to include physical therapy introducing PT modalities in wound care. She continued her career at Kindred Hospital in New Orleans, and in 2002, was appointed the Wound Care Coordinator. In 2003, she was appointed Director of Rehabilitation at Kindred Hospital, managing a multidisciplinary staff of fifteen. During her time as Director of Rehabilitation, Susan assisted her team during Hurricane Katrina to relocate staff and within four months, reopen Kindred Hospital in New Orleans. Susan's wound care expertise crosses the life span, working as weekend coverage for burn and wound care at Children's Hospital in New Orleans from 1999-2006. In 2007, Susan expanded her provision of PT services to the pediatric population, working with infants and children, ages 0-20, at Crane Rehab Center and as a certified provider with the Early Intervention Program of Louisiana. Susan continues to work with the pediatric population; oftentimes, seeing clients through their entire course of care with developmental and neurological disease processes. Susan transitioned to serve the veteran population in 2015, establishing a new community-based outpatient clinic in Slidell. Susan continues to further her education: keeping abreast of the latest information in the field regarding wound care, evidenced based practice for the neurological population, maintaining her Lee Silverman Voice Treatment certification for the Parkinson's population, Kinesiotape certification and dry needling certification with continued competencies, along with progressing her knowledge in andragogy. Susan impacts future physical therapy practitioners by working as an adjunct faculty member at LSU Health DPT program in New Orleans, particularly through the Diagnosis and Management of the Integumentary System course. In 2016, Susan promoted to PT Clinical Specialist-Clinical Educator where she continues to advance knowledge of future physical therapy practitioners through clinical based learning opportunities. During her time at the VA, Susan has supervised seven students directly, increased academic agreements to nine universities, allowing for a more diverse student population, and counseled/onboarded forty-seven students for the entire PT program. She has expanded interdisciplinary education, bringing Tulane Medical School Neurology Clerkship Interprofessional Education course to the VA outpatient rehab clinic; medical students are provided one to one observation and education with experienced therapists to provided knowledge and understanding of rehabilitation services. Currently, Susan works with veterans with progressive neurological disorders; during the pandemic, she played an integral role transitioning the BIG for LIFE group program through Lee Silverman Voice Training to a virtual telehealth platform.

Residency Program Coordinator

Monique Serpas, PT, DPT, OCS

Serpas graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology from Louisiana State University in 2004 and Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) in 2008 from Concordia University-Wisconsin where she was

awarded the Concordia University Graduate Leadership Award by faculty. She worked for HealthReach Rehab as a physical therapist and then clinic manager until 2012. During her time at HealthReach, she received additional training in vestibular therapy, taught a continuing education class on treatment of the shoulder including manual therapy techniques, worked on an interdisciplinary team to establish a falls prevention program, established an aquatic therapy program, and a golf rehab program. In 2012 she became board-certified in orthopaedics through the ABPTS. She moved to Louisiana and started working at Touro Infirmary's Back In Action clinic where she gave regular lectures to the community about physical therapy, was interviewed for "Doctors of New Orleans" a public-access television show, started a monthly journal club, gave lectures on evidence-based practice and LE biomechanics, and spearheaded an initiative to establish hospital-based direct access. She has worked at the VA since 2016 and is a member of the Comprehensive Pain Rehabilitation Program (CPRP), lectures to medical residents on the topics of osteoporosis and mTBI, created the Get Your Healthy Back class, created group treatment for veterans with lower extremity arthritis, and is one of two therapists being embedded in primary care starting in April 2021. She has presented research on the CPRP at the APTA-LA fall conference in 2019. She has also presented at the Southern Pain Society's and APTALA's conferences on the topics of integrated pain care and the team approach to managing pain in 2019 and 2020. Additional education and certifications include certification in dry needling, coursework through APTA and Tulane University in musculoskeletal ultrasound, manual therapy courses through the University of St. Augustine, and clinical instructor credentialing level 1 through the APTA. She served on Concordia University-Wisconsin's PT Academic Advisory Board in 2011. She served the Wisconsin Physical Therapy Association as Academic Liaison Coordinator and on the board as Membership Chair. She is a book reviewer for the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy since 2012. She serves on the APTA-Louisiana board as the Education Committee Chair, coordinating two conferences per year.

Clinical Faculty

Alexandra Gambino, OTR/L, TPS, DRS

Gambino is a licensed and registered occupational therapist with seven years of experience across therapy settings including acute care, general outpatient, driving rehabilitation, orthopedics, and chronic pain rehabilitation. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Allied Health from Nicholls State University in 2011 and obtained her Master of Occupational Therapy degree from Louisiana State University Health Science Center, New Orleans in 2014. In 2019, she completed the Therapeutic Pain Specialty graduate certificate program through the International Spine and Pain Institute. She is a guest lecturer for the OT orthopedics class at LSUHSC-New Orleans. She currently works at the Southeast Louisiana Veteran's Healthcare System in the outpatient orthopedic setting as well as within the Comprehensive Pain Rehabilitation Program.

Charles Clebert LeBlanc, PT, DPT, Cert. MDT

LeBlanc graduated from LSU School of Allied Health in New Orleans with a BSPT degree in 1991. He completed a Transitional DPT degree in 2010 at Regis University in Denver, Colorado. His primary clinical focus has been in the area of orthopedic physical therapy. He completed his certification (Cert.MDT) in MDT (Mechanical Diagnosis and Treatment of the Spine) in 2008 through the McKenzie Institute USA. He has been employed at the Southeast Louisiana Veteran's Healthcare System New Orleans since 2015. He is employed as an Orthopedic Specialist in outpatient orthopedics at SLVHCS and gives lectures to the

medical residents on physical modalities in musculoskeletal care. Another area of interest for Clebert is utilizing Tai Chi as an integrative approach for chronic health conditions. He developed the Tai Chi classes for veterans and employees at the New Orleans VA. He is a certified instructor in Tai Chi through the Adaptive Tai Chi International Assoc and the Center for Tai Chi Studies. He is also a member of the CPRP for veterans with chronic pain.

John Wesley Thompson, PT, DPT, OCS

Thompson is a licensed physical therapist with 10 years of experience primarily in orthopedics but also in the acute care setting. He graduated from Louisiana State University Shreveport Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biological Sciences in 2008 and then graduated from Louisiana State University Health Science Center-Shreveport with a Doctor of Physical Therapy in 2011. In 2012 he completed an Orthopedic and Practice Management Residency at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center and in 2013 he became a Board Certified Clinical Orthopedic Specialist through the APTA. In 2014 he completed coursework to become certified in Functional Dry Needling through Kinetacore, Inc. He currently works at the Southeast Louisiana Veteran's Healthcare System in the outpatient orthopedic setting.

Program Outcomes

We are a new program, following accreditation we will post the following outcomes:

Graduation rate

Specialty board pass rate

Retention employment within VHA Healthcare System