

Education Task force

Impact of COVID-19 on physiotherapist entry level education

2020 Webinar series

Webinar #2: Overcoming challenges in clinical practice in times of COVID-19: revisiting the scope of clinical training

Meet our moderators and speakers



Judith E. Deutsch PT PhD FAPTA received her BA in Human Biology from Stanford, her MS in Physical Therapy from USC and her PhD in Pathokinesiology from NYU. She completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Rehabilitation Research at UMDNJ. Dr. Deutsch is Professor and Director of the Research in Virtual Environments and Rehabilitation Sciences (Rivers) Lab in the Doctoral Programs in Physical Therapy at the Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences. Her current research includes the development and testing of virtual reality and serious games to improve functional mobility and fitness of individuals with neurologic conditions. She contributes to the transfer of the technology and knowledge translation aimed at facilitating adoption and evidence-based practice these technologies.

She is an active member of the global PT community serving currently as President of the International Neurological Physical Therapy Association a sub-group of the World Physiotherapy. She is the immediate past-Editor in Chief of the Journal of Neurologic Physical Therapy and a member of the Editorial Boards of the Journal of Neural Engineering Research and Games for Health. The AHA, NSF and NIH fund her work.



John Xerri de Caro, PhD, MMAP, is a physiotherapist educator, practitioner and advocate. He is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Physiotherapy at the University of Malta, Malta; as well as a part-time self-employed practice owner and practitioner. He is the coordinator of Practice Education at the UM since 2016. His main research interest is in Governance in Physiotherapy Education.

Since 2014/15, John has been an Executive Board Member on the Board of World Physiotherapy elected from the Europe Region. He is the current Chair of the Accreditation Service of World Physiotherapy. Previously John also sat on the Regulatory Board for Allied Health Professionals in Malta between 2016 and 2019.



Soraya Maart is an Associate Professor in the Division of Physiotherapy in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Cape Town. She completed her BSc Physiotherapy and Masters in Public Health at the University of the Western Cape. She has a keen interest in improving access to people with disabilities and has completed her PhD at the University of Cape Town in this area. She serves on the World Health Organisation Family of Classifications Network as the South African representative in the Functioning and Disability Reference Group and as secretariat to the Family Development Committee.

She was the Head of the Physiotherapy Division from 2011-2017. Until recently she convened the Undergraduate Education Committee for the Department of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. The focus of the committee was the development of shared learning opportunities and the enhancement of interprofessional collaborative clinical practice.

She serves as reviewer and editorial board member for local and internal journals.



Joost van Wijchen is a senior lecturer, educational designer, physiotherapist and health professional at the HAN University of Applied Sciences in Nijmegen the Netherlands. Trained as (musculoskeletal) physiotherapist, nowadays a professional with a scope on learning, reasoning, narratives, humanities, education, planetary health, inclusion, collaboration and internationalisation. Health and education are two domains grounded in interaction, democracy and partnership among all participants. Special interest in constructionism, connectivism and complementarity in learning.

These roles are combined with being a member of the PREP (Physiotherapy & Refugees Education Project) project, an Executive board member of ENPHE (European Network of Physiotherapy in Higher Education), an Executive board member of EPA (Environmental Physiotherapy Association), Co-Initiator QuarantTrain, member of In-Beta (experiments in Physiotherapy education) and Dutch Comenius teaching fellow. The latter was granted based on a current developing project "Critical Emancipative Learning, joyful complex, comfortable uncertain!" within Delta-stream in the physiotherapy program at the HAN University of applied Sciences.

Next to those roles, he is a rebel, activist, advocate, pioneer, father, swimmer, cyclist and sailor. Love to explore and dive into the unknown, discover chaos, challenge the norm, fight for freedom, being drawn in philosophy, watching Marvel movies, with a total passion for learning in all its aspects.



Dr. Dyanna Haley-Rezac, PT, DPT, OCS, NCS, FAAOMPT, CFMP

Physical Therapist

Doctor of Physical Therapy

Board Certified Orthopedic Physical Therapist

Board Certified Neurologic Physical Therapist

Fellow American Academy of Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapists

Certified Functional Medicine Practitioner

Dr. Haley-Rezac a private practice co-owner with her husband, Scott Rezac, at Rezac & Associates Physical Therapy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA. Their team of clinicians specialize in treating patients with central sensitization and complex orthopedic, neurological and visuo-vestibular conditions. She has been treating as a Functional Medicine Practitioner via telehealth for the past 2 years and is an affiliate faculty member of Regis University's Doctor of Physical Therapy Program in Denver, CO.

Rezac PT is dedicated to clinical education from the intern contemplating a career in physical therapy to the PTA and DPT entry level students and extending to Orthopedic Residents and Fellows. Dr. Haley-Rezac was honored with the National APTA's Signe Brunnström Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching (2018) and Colorado APTA's Outstanding Physical Therapist of the Year (2016) and Bob Doctor Service Award (2012) for her commitment to teaching and the APTA. She is passionate about education and the advancement of our profession especially in epigenetics and population epidemiology.