

Winner of the 2017 Global Health Special Interest Group Dr. Ronnie Leavitt Award for Leadership in the Promotion of Social Responsibility: Sue Klappa, PT, PhD

Dr. Sue Klappa is currently a professor in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa. It is estimated that Dr. Sue Klappa has spent close to two of the last ten years providing community-based services to areas of Haiti, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Honduras, and Mexico, including often overseeing student groups to provide direct services.

Tangible examples of her successes include assisting with establishing a center in the Dominican Republic where prostheses can be manufactured locally, and developing community-educational materials in Creole and Spanish related to residual limb care, maternal health, infant positioning for optimum development, and wellness. She has also established service-learning activities at all the colleges where she has worked, including establishing pro bono student run clinics.

Dr. Klappa has a passion for service that is contagious both to her colleagues and students. She embodies her passion by participating in international service and local pro bono services. Her love of service is reflected in her professional organization service as well.

Scholarly, a large percentage of Dr. Klappa's research has centered on issues related to international service, service-learning, and caregiver burnout for service providers. This includes approximately forty peer-reviewed presentations related to social responsibility over the last five years.

Within the HPA Section and the Global Health SIG, Dr. Klappa has held various prestigious positions, including four years on the Member Services Committee where she is currently the Committee Chair, eight years as the Global Health SIG Secretary, and recently was elected Vice President of the GHSIG. Within these various leadership roles, she has not only promoted membership within the Section and Special Interest Group, but encouraged students and members to be "agents of change."