



## 2016 Award Presentations

February 19, Hilton Anaheim: California Ballroom A  
Following the HPA Business Meeting (6:30 pm – 8:00 pm)

### Julia Chevan, PT, PhD, MPH, OCS

#### Dr. Ronnie Leavitt Award for Leadership in the Promotion of Social Responsibility in Physical Therapy



Nomination from **Kathleen Pappas, PT, DPT**, Associate Professor, Department of Physical Therapy, Springfield College:

“Julia Chevan has been a leader in the profession for much of her career. Her leadership in the area of social responsibility is clearly seen in her in her Curriculum Vitae. From 1989 to the present she has focused her research in the area of Public Health Issues and her personal and professional service to populations who are underserved. Just this month she has initiated a weekly meeting and reflection at the Springfield College campus peace pole/meeting spot for those who share in her passion.

Julia’s service occurs at the local, national and international level. I am pleased to focus on her leadership in the area of providing global health care. Locally she is involved in her community from assisting in soup kitchens, and co-ops to coaching soccer and as a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission and finally as a parent and board member to a local school to assist in strategic planning and implementation.

Her second area of local input is at the curricular level in the DPT program at Springfield College. Her personal goal has been to provide a curricular course for students to provide care in an underserved country. This goal was realized last year with the first Global Studies trip to Haiti with faculty and students in the DPT and MSOT programs. The success and interest in this trip resulted in additional faculty taking students this coming spring, doubling the service. This is only the most recent curricular change. She has been part of the strategic planning and implementation of the Center for Excellence in Community-engaged Education in Physical Therapy (CECEPT) which is the provision of clinical services programs for community members of all ages with a variety of developmental and rehabilitation needs. These experiences started with service to stroke survivors, most who are 5-10 years post onset. Additional experiences have been initiated to include a day program for brain injury survivors and pediatric screening clinic. These community groups are provided PT service by faculty and students from the DPT program. As Department Chair of the program, Julia encourages all faculty to participate in

strategic planning to further advance our services to the community. Each spring the Department of Physical Therapy provides an endowed lectureship by a noted researcher whose work has influenced the field of physical therapy. In the spring of 2015 Julia was able to bring Celia Pechak to speak to the campus community. Her lecture entitled "In Pursuit of Ethical Practice with Underserved Communities Locally and Abroad: One Physical Therapist's Path to a Research Agenda" was attended by DPT students and faculty as well as Deans, Department Chairs and others from across the campus. Her message and the work she does was inspirational to all!

National leadership is easy to see by her involvement in many areas of the APTA. She is not a person to sit at the sidelines. She is a valuable member who has been recognized as a Mary McMillan Scholarship recipient, honored by the Section on Geriatrics, the Education section and the Massachusetts chapter for her research work. She continues to be active in holding positions in ACAPT, a reviewer for Section on Geriatrics journal submissions, and serves on the communications committee for the Section on Research.

Global service is Julia Chevan's passion. At the PT practice level she has participated as both a reviewer and a presenter at the WCPT. In 2011 she was awarded a Fulbright Scholars Grant for a lectureship and consultation position at Kigali Health Institute in Kigali, Rwanda. She maintained a blog of her experiences during that 6 month period. She has worked with Project Hope, traveling on mission work to Haiti in March 2013 and 2014 providing mentorship and education to rehabilitation workers at clinics in Port au Prince, Cap Haitien and Milot; traveled to West Africa in March 2008 providing mentorship and education to rehabilitation workers in Monrovia at the JFK Hospital. She continues to advocate for others to carry on this work through being a member of the Peer Review Committee, Fulbright U.S. Scholar East Africa, Council for International Exchange of Scholars, and the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders application reader in 2013, 2014.

As you can see Dr. Julia Chevan is innovative, enthusiastic and a true leader in the development of opportunities to serve others at the personal, local, national and global level. She is passionate about social responsibility. Those who work with her often wonder how she can possibly do all of the things she does! I cannot think of another person more deserving than Julia to receive the Ronnie Leavitt Award for leadership in the Promotion of Social Responsibility in Physical Therapy."