ALEXANDRIA, VA, May 30, 2013 - The Foundation for Physical Therapy Board of Trustees recently awarded a total of $228,000 in Promotion of Doctoral Studies (PODS) I & II Scholarships and a New Investigator Fellowship Training Initiative (NIFTI) to 14 physical therapists.

“The level of excellence of our scholarship and fellowship applications continues to grow,” said Foundation Board of Trustees Chair William G. Boissonnault, PT, DPT, DHSc, FAPTA, FAAOMPT. “The Foundation is proud to support such outstanding physical therapists as they begin their research careers.”

As part of its post-professional Doctoral Opportunities for Clinicians and Scholarships (DOCS) program to fund the most highly-qualified doctoral and post-doctoral students preparing for research careers, the Foundation awards PODS I Scholarships of $7,500 each year to physical therapists or physical therapist assistants who have completed at least two full semesters or three full quarters of their coursework toward a postprofessional doctorate degree. PODS II Scholarships of up to $15,000 each are awarded to physical therapists or physical therapist assistants who have been formally admitted to post-professional doctoral candidacy. These scholarships are primarily funded by the American Physical Therapy Association’s (APTA) “Scholarship Fund” as well as the Foundation’s Neurology Endowment Fund.

Congratulations to the 2013 PODS I Scholarship recipients: Kendra Cherry, PT, DPT, Washington University in St. Louis; Hyosub Kim, PT, DPT, University of Illinois at Chicago; Andrew Kittelson, PT, DPT, University of Colorado, Denver; Ryan Marker, PT, DPT, University of Colorado, Denver; Kate Minick, PT, DPT, University of Utah; and Stacy Stolzman, PT, MPT, Marquette University.

Hyosub Kim, PT, DPT, University of Illinois at Chicago, is the recipient of the 2013 Patricia Leahy Award for his outstanding application in post-professional studies within neurology. This award is given in memory of APTA Section on Neurology member, accomplished physical therapist, and Foundation Doctoral Training
Research Grant recipient, Patricia Leahy, PT, MS, NCS. Leahy was a professor at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia and was one of the first physical therapists ever to receive the Neurologic Certified Specialist certification. This scholarship is generously supported by members of the Neurology Section through the Foundation’s Neurology Endowment Fund.

Kendra Cherry, PT, DPT, Washington University in St. Louis, has been named as the recipient of the Pittsburgh-Marquette Challenge Award for exceptional achievement within a PODS application. This award was made possible by the 2011-2012 Pittsburgh-Marquette Challenge. The Pittsburgh–Marquette Challenge is the signature annual fundraising initiative of the Foundation, raising more funds each year than any other Foundation activity. The Challenge is coordinated and carried out by physical therapist and physical therapist assistant students across the country. Students organize grassroots fundraisers on their campuses and in their local communities that raise awareness for and benefit the Foundation for Physical Therapy. Since its inception, the Challenge has raised over $2.3 million and has specifically funded over 20 research grants and scholarships.

The 2013 PODS II Scholarship recipients are: Eric Anson, PT, MPT, University of Maryland; Jessica Cassidy, PT, DPT, University of Minnesota; Beth Cloud, PT, DPT, Mayo Graduate School; Kristan Leech, PT, DPT, Northwestern University; Dawn Magnusson, PT, MPT, University of Wisconsin, Madison; Laura Miller, PT, DPT, Northwestern University; and Bahar Shahidi, PT, DPT, University of Colorado, Denver.

Laura Miller, PT, DPT, Northwestern University, is the recipient of the 2013 Mary Lou Barnes Award for her outstanding PODS II application in postprofessional studies within neurology. This award is given in memory of APTA Section on Neurology member and accomplished physical therapist Mary Lou Barnes, PT, FAPTA. Barnes was the founding director of the West Virginia University physical therapy program and served as chair of Georgia State University’s program. During her terms, both programs achieved national recognition. Members of the Neurology Section provided generous support for this award through the Foundation’s Neurology Endowment Fund.

Jessica Cassidy, PT, DPT, University of Minnesota, has been named the Viva J. Erickson Award recipient, for exceptional academic and leadership achievement within a PODS II application in honor of Viva J. Erickson, PT, an accomplished physical therapist and leader within APTA.

Special thanks are extended to the APTA Neurology Section for its sponsorship of the PODS II scholarship for Kristan Leech, PT, DPT, Northwestern University.

The $78,000 New Investigator Fellowship Training Initiative (NIFTI) was awarded to Beth McManus, PT, MPH, ScD, of the University of Colorado, Denver, for her research project, “Outcomes Research for Infants and Toddlers in Early Intervention.” McManus’s fellowship training will focus on exploring the association between child characteristics and early intervention PT service delivery as well as determining the costs and effectiveness of early intervention PT services. She will be under the mentorship of Dr. Richard Lindrooth, Associate Professor in the Department of Health Systems, Management and Policy in the Colorado School of
Public Health at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. This award is supported through APTA’s “Scholarship Fund” and the Foundation’s General Research Fund.

The NIFTI supports post-professional, doctorally prepared physical therapists as they begin their research careers. It is designed to accommodate both traditional postdoctoral and new faculty applicants for a closely mentored research experience.

Dr. McManus has also received a Mary McMillan Doctoral Scholarship in 2004, a PODS I Scholarship in 2005 and a PODS II Scholarship in 2008.

The Foundation for Physical Therapy was established in 1979 as a national, independent nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality and delivery of physical therapy care by providing support for scientifically-based and clinically-relevant physical therapy research and doctoral scholarships and fellowships.

Contributions to the Foundation for Physical Therapy are tax-deductible and can be made online at Foundation4PT.org or sent to its headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. The mailing address is 1111 N Fairfax St, Alexandria, VA 22314. For more information, e-mail Info@Foundation4PT.org or call 800/875-1378.

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