

**Department of Physical Therapy
Exceptional Achievement
Recognition Awards
2026 Recipients**

Wednesday July 15, 2026

Exceptional Achievement Award Recipients are individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the Physical Therapy profession.

Crystal MacKay – Research

Mary-Catherine Frser Saxena – Professional Development

Jennifer Kochanowski - Education

Nancy Salbach – Education



Department of Physical Therapy 2026 Exceptional Achievement Awards

Crystal MacKay - Research

Dr. Crystal MacKay is a health services researcher with a clinical background in physical therapy. She is an Assistant Professor in the School of Rehabilitation Therapy, Queen's Health Sciences at Queen's University, and has a status appointment as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto. She also is an Affiliate Scientist at KITE Research Institute, University Health Network. She is a Member of Connected Minds, a collaborative research initiative at Queen's and York Universities, and a Board Member on the International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics Canada. Dr. MacKay's research aims to improve the quality and accessibility of health care for people living with chronic conditions.



Mary-Catherine Fraser Saxena - Professional Development



Mary-Catherine Fraser Saxena, PT is the Manager, Practice Advice at the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario. She is a registered physiotherapist with extensive experience as a clinician and clinic director in private and public facilities in Ontario, Manitoba and the United States. Mary-Catherine joined the College in 2020, and provides guidance to physiotherapists, patients, caregivers, and others across the province. She regularly meets with physiotherapy students to support them in understanding the professional standards and role of the College, and also volunteers with Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada.

Mary-Catherine holds a Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy from the University of Ottawa and a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Science from the University of Toronto.

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Jennifer Kochanowski - Education

Jennifer Kochanowski is the Academic Clinical Educator for Physiotherapy at University Health Network (UHN) and Clinical Education Lead for Toronto Rehab–UHN. She also practices in the Brain Program at Toronto Rehab–University Centre. She holds an Honours Bachelor of Science in Human Kinetics from the University of Guelph and a Master of Science in Physical Therapy from the University of Toronto.

As an Adjunct Lecturer with over 17 years of clinical and educational experience, she is an active contributor to the MScPT and Ontario Internationally Educated Physical Therapy Bridging programs. She is a recent graduate of the Collaborative Change Leadership program, where her team's capstone initiative focused on Transforming the Preceptor Experience at UHN—reflecting a shared commitment to strengthening preceptor support as a key driver of high-quality clinical education and positive learner experiences.



Nancy Salbach - Education



Dr. Nancy Salbach is a physical therapist and Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, and Rehabilitation Sciences Institute in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, where she holds the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute Chair. A leading researcher in stroke rehabilitation and community exercise guideline development, she has secured over \$16 million in funding, published more than 175 peer-reviewed articles, and supervised 100+ trainees. Research in Dr. Salbach's Knowledge to Action Mobility Lab advances innovative tools and community programs that enhance mobility and physical activity among older adults. She is widely recognized for excellence in research, teaching, and mentorship.

Recognition Award Recipients

Recognition Award Recipients are individuals or teams who have provided an extraordinary educational experience and positively impacted physical therapy students while in the academic or clinical environment. The recipients were nominated by students, clinicians and/or faculty.

Administrative Staff

Shane Brandon

Clinical Instructors

Sanaz Agha
Farooq Ahmed
Daniela Basualdo
Danya Bercovitch
Maggie Bergeron
Sejal Bhatt
Louis Biasin
Emily Brewer
Jacqueline Cadete
Janet Campbell
Fabio Carnevale
Corrine Chan
Richard Cisneros
Cynthia Danells
Kyle Davies
Juliana Douglas
Olivia Drodge
Shehreen Fatima
Nicole Gastle
Amber Gill
Silvia Guido
Marley Halsall
Sabrina Handa
Rory Higgins
Aileen Ho
Eunice Ho
Emma Jianopoulos
Gillian Johnston
Samantha Joubert
Jordan Katz
Kerri Kelland
Jeff Kestenberg
Chun Kim
Justin Krull
Mireille Landry
Rose Lee
Samantha Lombardo
Trischa Lowe
Danielle Mah
Lee McKay
Jonathan Miranda

Clinical Instructors (Cont)

Mina Mladenovic
Kajal Neto
Vanessa Ong
Simrat Pangli
Ildiko Parniczky
John Pendlebury
Jenna Peters
Martine Quesnel
Darrah Rivera
Christina Samy
Stephen Sin
Simone Smith
Gillian Sonley
Andrea Sze
Tracy Tan
Marissa Taylor
Andrew Tri
Julian Vitale
Belinda Wagner
Liz Weidmark
Christine Wrong
Stacey Zammit
Caitlyn Zavitz
Henry Zhou

Clinical Reasoning Assignment

Clinician Expert

Anne-Marie Bourgeois
Mireille Landry
Krisztina Weinacht

Coach

Patrick Quimio

Faculty

Lovisa Cheung
Melanie MacKinnon
Marina Petrevska
Martine Quesnel
Eric Robitaille

Lecturers

Joanna Parkes

Lab Volunteers

Anne-Marie Bourgeois
Janet Campbell
Elizabeth Despres
Edwin Fong
Javad Hoseini
Sarpreet Kahlon
Jennifer Kochanowski
Mireille Landry
Samantha Maislin
Carina Orschel
Joanna Parkes
Arjun Patel
Gina Peixoto
Patrick Quimio
Tina Tang
Andrew Tri
Krisztina Weinacht
Alexandra Young

Mentors

Richard Cisneros
Hari Gopalakrishnan Nair

Practical Examiners

Mireille Landry
Tina Tang

Small Group Facilitators

Anne-Marie Bourgeois
Elizabeth Despres
Samantha Maislin
Jennifer Ryan
Krisztina Weinacht
Kristi Whitney
Kenneth Wu

Teams

Ontario Internationally Educated Physical Therapy Bridging Program

Martine Quesnel, Sharon Switzer-Mcintyre, Tess Disturnal, Alana Tintse, Hari Gopalakrishnan Nair

Toronto Kids Physio Team

Tanha Patel, Kasha Pyka, Yuzana Wynn, Agi Divecha, Deb Cole, Jennifer Halfin

UHN – West Park

Rebecca Boyce, Jane Steinke, Nora Thorpe, Denise Stremmler, Aarushi Bahl

Unit 7 Teaching Assistants

Kristina Kokorelias, Renato Barbosa dos Santos, Nicole Cesca, Saina Aliabadi, Ashvene Sureshkumar, Taslima Mamataz, Jennifer Ryan, Angelie Ignacio, Nigel Majoni, Madalena Liougas