



ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS NOW

Sports Medicine of Atlanta, Inc

ORTHOPAEDIC PRIMARY CARE PHYSICAL THERAPY RESIDENCY

SportsMedicine of Atlanta's tenet is to advance physical therapy and primary care physical therapy by teaching, through academic research, and by providing world-class care. SportsMedicine of Atlanta strives to provide patients with the highest quality of care to ensure maximal functional outcomes. APTA and state licensed therapists provide a thorough and individual evaluation, examination, diagnosis, prognosis and intervention plan aimed at the treatment of movement impairments and their associated functional limitations and/or disabilities. Additionally, the physical therapists and other health specialists at SportsMedicine of Atlanta are dedicated to the enhancement of movement performance, the education of the community concerning prevention of injury and promotion of wellness, the education of entry-level and post-professional doctoral physical therapy students, the development and utilization of evidence based medicine in patient care and promotion of the positive evolution of health care. With these goals and aspirations, and in light of the APTA's 1998 endorsement of post-professional residency education through accredited sites, SportsMedicine of Atlanta has taken the next logical step: implementation of a residency program that offers physical therapists the opportunity to enhance their skills and strive for excellence in their profession. The major focus of the clinical residency is to accelerate the resident's acquisition of expertise in examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, intervention and management of patients with movement system impairments and functional limitations. It is the goal and objective for the resident to completely diagnose movement-related dysfunction, classify and label clusters of impairments and engage in the scientific study of diagnostic procedures and therapeutic interventions, as related to the human movement system. Additionally, residents must become experts in screening for medical referral. SportsMedicine of Atlanta conducts this Clinical Residency program at their out-patient clinic in Snellville, Georgia. Both the didactic and clinical portions of this residency are available exclusively through SportsMedicine of Atlanta. A limited number of 12-month residencies are available. For those residents without a doctor of physical therapy degree, optional didactic courses provided through the University of St. Augustine meet the requirements for the transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree and Primary Care Physical Therapy Certification (PCC).

- 1. What is a Residency?** Residency is a planned and mentored clinical learning experience, with didactic and clinical components designed to produce a master clinician in a defined area of practice. SportsMedicine of Atlanta offers a residency in Primary Care Physical Therapy. SportsMedicine of Atlanta administered the research practice analysis that identified the competencies for primary contact physical therapy practice, published in the Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy, June 2004.
- 2. Who may apply?** Minimal eligibility requirements for acceptance into the program include: state acquired licensing as a physical therapist within the United States, background which could include strong interest in excelling in clinical mastery and leadership as a direct access, primary contact practitioner. Optional degree seeking residents must complete S1, E1 or MF1 courses prior to commencing the residency, and the applicant being intent on completing a Master's of Science or DPT degree with the University of St. Augustine. Scholastic credit for fellowship is earned in the MScPT program as course MT 6350, and in the DPT program as course DPT 7825. Desirable applicants include those that have strong interests in direct access and autonomous practice, and possess superior verbal and written communication skills, have experience in data collection, analysis and publication and possess strong fundamentals in the principles of clinical reasoning and the application of manual examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis interventions, and outcome measurement. Preference will be given to the most qualified candidates.
- 3. Goals of Residency.** The goal of SportsMedicine of Atlanta's Residency Program is to graduate master clinicians who safely administer quality interventions that fulfill the needs of each patient. The goal is to produce residents who are competent, reflective, empathetic and autonomous practitioners who, by virtue of their critical thinking, clinical experience and diagnostic proficiency and commitment to professionalism, and will represent the best clinicians in the physical therapy profession.
- 4. Responsibility and Learning Activities.** Residents are responsible for their progress in the residency program. Residency is a demanding clinical learning experience, with substantial didactic components designed to bring out the best in each candidate. Expected learning experiences will be developed at the beginning of the residency during discussions between the resident and the clinical faculty. However, both the faculty and the resident must remain flexible to possible changes that may occur in the schedule.
- 5. Organizational Structure.** The resident is hired and paid by SportsMedicine of Atlanta, Inc upon the joint recommendation of the clinical residency director and for those seeking an optional degree, the University of

St. Augustine Residency Coordinator. Most employment issues will be between the resident and the clinical residency director and for the degree seeking residents, most academic issues will be between the resident and the didactic university based residency program coordinator.

6. **Learning Objectives.** Each resident is required to develop a learning agreement prior to commencing the residency. This agreement will be reviewed with the clinical residency coordinator at the beginning of the residency and will be modified to reflect the learning needs and the offerings of the residency. Modification of the agreement may take place from time to time. These learning objectives are to include the type of clinical skills or other specific information or area the resident wishes to focus upon during the residency, and to outline the faculty with whom he or she wishes to work.
7. **Journal.** All residents must keep a detailed journal documenting the clinical and didactic learning activities. All journal entries must be signed by an appropriate member of the faculty within thirty days of the experience. For degree seeking residents, journal documentation is required for the award of academic credit, and must be available to the University for oversight and accreditation purposes and, when completed, will be retained by both the University of St. Augustine and SportsMedicine of Atlanta.

Journal Documentation may include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Clinical consultation with faculty
 - b. Direct patient care supervision
 - c. Case presentations
 - d. Clinical meetings
 - e. Journal Club meetings' minutes and critiques
8. **Journal Club.** All residents must participate in the Journal Club, serving as chairperson or co-chair of the Club, and are responsible for reviewing Journals that have been received in the previous month and writing a critique and/or abstract of the selected articles. Formally, ten journal articles must be presented per SportsMedicine of Atlanta criteria during the resident's tenure.
9. **Case Presentation.** All residents must make a minimum of ten case presentations (oral and written) over the term of the residency as per criteria set forth by SportsMedicine of Atlanta.
10. **Case Load.** Residents shall endeavor to schedule a minimum case load of 15 patients per day.
11. **SportsMedicine of Atlanta Staff Meetings.** All residents must attend SportsMedicine of Atlanta staff meetings conducted by the director of patient care and/or office manager.

12. **Other Learning Activities (Not required, but encouraged).**
 - a. Provide in-service training for Sports Medicine of Atlanta Staff.
 - b. Obtain APTA credentialed clinical instructor certification.
 - c. Supervise entry-level PT interns as appropriate.
 - d. Seek certified strength and conditioning specialist (CSCS) certification through the National Strength and Conditioning Association.
13. **Period of Residency.** The residency period is no less than twelve months/1500 patient care hours, which may be renewable for an additional length of time. It is envisioned that during any twelve-month period the therapist should complete sufficient requirements for membership and, hopefully, meet all requirements of an APTA credentialed residency. Degree seeking residents are expected to complete primary care certification requirements and all degree requirements during the residency period.
14. **Hours and Terms of Employment.** The position is a salaried position consisting of a minimum of forty plus hours per week and includes weekend coverage in the clinic.
15. **Salary and Educational Benefits.** The salary shall be approximately 50-75% of the going rate paid to a new graduate in the Atlanta, Georgia area. In addition, the residents shall be eligible to receive a package of benefits offered to SportsMedicine of Atlanta employees.
16. **Restrictions of Completion.** Those therapists terminating or completing residency for any reason whatsoever are restricted from practicing within Gwinnett County for any employer other than SportsMedicine of Atlanta, Inc for a period of two years following such termination or completion, as such practice would compete with the practice at SportsMedicine of Atlanta and potentially limit the numbers that can be admitted into an already small residency program.
17. **Ownership Opportunities.** Residents who satisfactorily complete residency requirements (DPT, PCC or the equivalent) will be considered for long term employment, including start-up partnership (ownership) opportunities for their own clinics in the Atlanta area.
18. **Who to contact?** If you are interested in the SportsMedicine of Atlanta Residency Program please contact:

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