

SPOT on

June 2012

Speech Physical Occupational Therapy newsletter


 RehabCare
 Restoring Function, Renewing Life.


Welcome to Our Second Issue of SPOT on

The RehabCare Student Programs team is excited to share with you the second issue of our SPOT on newsletter. Each quarter we shine the spotlight on a RehabCare facility and student that we believe exemplify the mission of our department.

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SPOT on Facility

by Lianne Daves

Kindred Transitional Care and Rehabilitation – Queen Anne

In a neighborhood just northwest of downtown Seattle sits Kindred Transitional Care and Rehabilitation – Queen Anne (KTCR-QA), a beautiful 130-bed skilled nursing facility (SNF). Over the years, KTCR-QA has continually opened its doors to students and has thus become a RehabCare hot spot for clinical education in the Seattle area! Each time a student completes a rotation at KTCR-QA, without fail, we receive amazing feedback on their experience. After a recent visit to the program I understand why.

First, the energy and professionalism of the rehab team is top notch. Each therapist is passionate about his or her role in assisting patients in regaining their lives AND in helping current students develop into strong clinicians. John Nicacio, Program Director at KTCR-QA, is committed to taking students not only because of the “tremendous opportunity to give back to the profession”, but because it provides his team the ability to “stay vibrant, fresh and up to date with incoming professionals.”

Jodi Ishii, PT at KTCR-QA, seconds that thought and believes it is extremely beneficial for current therapists to support the clinical education of future therapists. “Students have the newest, evidence-based knowledge and can bring a new perspective to treatments.” She also points out that it is amazing to see the students

gain confidence with patients and develop into true clinicians over the course of their rotation.

Jodi remembers her clinical experiences during school and is grateful to the therapists who took their time to teach her. “I still find myself recalling advice from my year of clinicals and that advice helps with my decision making today,” she says. It is her hope that the students she now helps supervise have the same experience and become supervisors in the future. ●

June Events

- June 7–9 APTA National Conference
- June 12 Student Intern Welcome Call
- June 13 UNLV PT Student Lecture
- June 14 Walsh University Lecture
- June 15 Spalding University Career Event
- June 21 Weatherford College Lecture
- June 25 Bellarmine University Lecture
- June 26 MO PTA Consortium Lecture

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SPOT on Student

by Lianne Daves

Jillian Mears

Jillian Mears is a recent graduate of the University of Nevada – Las Vegas Physical Therapy program and completed her level 2 clinical internship with RehabCare earlier this year. When asked about her internship Jillian stated, “Being able to experience a clinical affiliation at Kindred Transitional Care and Rehabilitation – Queen Anne (KTCR-QA) was an integral part of my growth toward becoming an autonomous physical therapist. I was able to learn firsthand how large a role the physical therapist plays in the development of each patient’s plan of care.”

This is exactly what we hope to hear after a student completes an internship with us. We strive to make an impact on each student’s development and show him or her how important their role will be as a clinician.

When asked to reflect on her experience with the staff she stated, “The rehab team maintained respect for me as a student and perceived me as a professional by allowing me to formulate my own schedule, participate in caregiver conferences, and coordinate treatments. These opportunities were extremely important for me to experience before

becoming an autonomous physical therapist practicing with my own license.”

RehabCare also understands the importance of exposing students to the roles each discipline plays in the patient plan of care. During Jillian’s internship she spent time with various rehab team members. “All of the rehab specialists were committed to facilitating as many learning

“All of the rehab specialists were committed to facilitating as many learning experiences in each of their specialties by providing me with opportunities to observe and resources to further my understanding of each patient’s clinical presentation.”

– Jillian Mears

experiences in each of their specialties by providing me with opportunities to observe and resources to further my understanding of each patient’s clinical presentation,” she said. Improving

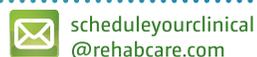


The Rehab Team at Kindred Transitional Care and Rehabilitation – Queen Anne

functional mobility beginning with fundamentals, providing patient and caregiver education, and coordinating with other healthcare providers are three new skills Jillian developed while at KTCR-QA and, as she says, “I plan to incorporate these newly acquired skills as I begin my career.”

I guess this is a good time to mention that Jillian will begin her career this summer as a RehabCare Physical Therapist in Salem, Oregon at Sunnyside Care Center. This again shows how students conducting internships at RehabCare facilities are not just gaining hands-on experience; they are being provided the opportunity to learn about RehabCare as a company – gaining information on our core values, our vast amount of clinical resources, our career opportunities and much more. We are so very excited to have Jillian as a permanent member of the RehabCare family and look forward to having her support the Clinical Internship Program as a clinician in the future! ●

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SPOT on School

by Barb Wallace

University of Nevada – Las Vegas

The University of Nevada – Las Vegas Doctor of Physical Therapy Program has been a terrific academic partner with RehabCare. Over the past months, RehabCare has provided clinical affiliation experiences to many UNLV students with tremendous success.

Why has UNLVPT continued to be a strong partner? Dr. Sue Schuerman PT, PhD, GCS, and Director of Clinical Education, says the availability of clinical education locations that RehabCare provides both local and nationwide has been a strong advantage. "Each year, some of our students are either from other parts or have family and friends from other parts of the US. These students wish to do at least some of their clinical affiliations away from Las Vegas. Having the opportunity to select RHB sites in other parts of the country is very appealing to these students. In addition, RHB has local sites for those students who need or prefer to stay in town for their affiliations."

UNLVPT is committed to preparing students to work with the geriatric population. Information is

incorporated about the examination and care of the older adult throughout the didactic portion of the Doctor of Physical Therapy program. One of the final courses in the curriculum is Geriatric Examination and Intervention. This course covers the unique aspects of the care of the older adult to make sure that students are prepared to provide high-quality care to this population.

This preparation has been instrumental to the success of the student experience as evidenced by the experience of student Jillian Mears who completed her rotation at Kindred Transitional Care and Rehab – Queen Anne in Seattle, WA. (See Spot on Students on page 2 for more details.)

The Student Clinical Internship Program with UNLVPT and RHB has been just one of the ways in which this partnership has blossomed. Dr. Schuerman goes on to mention, "the collaboration for classroom lectures has been very helpful for our students and



The Bigelow Health Sciences Building – home to UNLV's Department of Physical Therapy

much appreciated." RehabCare has the ability to bring in seasoned professionals, many of whom are UNLVPT alumni to share their day to day experiences, information on the long-term acute care hospital setting and providing services over the continuum of care for patients. These lectures truly help to paint the picture for the upcoming healthcare providers.

UNLVPT has been granted accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association. Roughly 30 spaces are available each year and there are currently 87 students in the program. Ninety-three percent of their graduates pass their license exam on the first attempt and 100% of their graduates are employed. We are pleased to welcome Jillian Mears to the RehabCare family! ●

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