



AT THE FOREFRONT  
**UChicago**  
**Medicine**

**ABPTRFE**  
American Board of  
Physical Therapy Residency  
& Fellowship Education

### University of Chicago Medicine

### Acute Care Physical Therapy Residency Overview

*The residency is currently in developing status. We anticipate being granted candidacy status in June 2022, prior to the enrollment of the first resident in August 2022.*

#### **Mission of the Acute Care Physical Therapy Residency Program:**

The mission of University of Chicago Medical Center Physical Therapy Acute Care Residency program is to provide a post graduate professional development opportunity for physical therapists to become acute care specialists through advanced education, research, and professional interactions. Each interaction will emphasize the development of psychomotor skills, theoretical rationales, and clinical reasoning to enhance the resident's ability to evaluate and treat adult and geriatric acute care patients. The overall focus is to maintain, restore, and improve movement to enable optimal performance, enhance health, well-being, and quality of life for all patients and clients we treat. The program will graduate a physical therapy specialist who will be a resource for the University of Chicago Medical Center, the medical community, and the surrounding community.

#### **Goals of the Orthopedic Physical Therapy Residency Program at UChicago Medicine:**

To provide a post professional acute care educational experience to physical therapists who will be better able to:

1. Practice with advanced clinical decision-making skills with emphasis on maintaining, restoring, and improving movement, activity, and functioning; thereby enabling optimal performance and enhancing health, well-being, and quality of life. Their services are to prevent, minimize, or eliminate impairments of body functions and structures, activity limitations, and participation restrictions
2. Utilize all the elements of PT patient client management model of examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, intervention and outcomes
3. Use evidence based best practice to improve the outcomes of their patients and clients and their caregivers
4. Provide superior efficacious, safe, and age appropriate clinical care

5. Be able to participate as part of a interdisciplinary team to optimize the management of impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions related to acute care patients
6. Become a resource for the community in the rehabilitation in the acute care setting
7. Be prepared to sit for and successfully pass the ABPTS examination for board certification in their specialty of choice or obtain advanced certification within 2 years of graduation.
8. Enhance skills, knowledge and incorporate evidence-based practice into physical therapy care within the University of Chicago Medicine
9. Enhance the physical therapy profession by graduating residents who will contribute to the profession through mentoring of physical therapists and students, teaching at a professional level, and contributing to evidence based practice in physical therapy

### Curriculum:

Schedule for education curriculum

- 53 weeks/ residency year:
  - 4 weeks orientation
  - 3 weeks non education time at holidays
  - 46 weeks for education

*Note the 7 weeks of non-education time are still included in residency hours, these weeks are 100% patient care and this time is calculated in total residency hours.*

Breakdown of teaching hours during the 46 education weeks:

Approximately: 14 hours education, 26 hours treating per week

- **Mentoring:** 3-4 hours a week (one on one with faculty) = minimum 150 hours
- **Clinical Investigations:** 2.5 hours a week (functional measures, tracking of patient scores, research, journal clubs, peer reviews, grand rounds, case reviews) = 115 hours
- **Course work Didactic learning and Lab:** 4 hours a week (lectures and labs) = 184 hours
- **Specialty Practice Observation:** 40 hours MD Clinic/Surgery Observation
- **Clinical Practice:**
  - 30 hours a week for the 47 weeks = 1410 hours
  - 40 hours a week for orientation and holiday weeks = 240 hours
  - Total clinical practice hours = 1650 hours (1586 including mentoring hours)

Total hours for program: 2,155 hours

### Outline of Acute Care Fellowship Educational Modules:

- Principles of Rehabilitation and Clinical Reasoning
- Evidenced Based Practice and Critical Appraisal of Clinical Research
- Orthopedic conditions
- Cardiothoracic Surgery
- Cardiac Medicine and Vascular Medicine/Surgery
- General Medicine

- Burns, Plastic Surgery, and Wounds
- Critical Care
- Neuro/Neurosurgical conditions
- Hematology/Oncology
- Trauma
- General Surgery

**Hours:**

The majority of on-site residency activities occur Monday through Friday between the hours of 7AM and 6 PM. Residents are considered to be exempt employees who are salaried. Their work schedule will be flexible and allow for patient care, training, mentoring, and study time and preparation. Schedules are coordinated by the residency director and shall not exceed expectation of more than 50 hours/week of direct program participation. There will be additional personal study time required.

**Weekend Coverage:**

Physical Therapy Residents will be scheduled to work weekends on a rotating basis, approximately one weekend/4 weeks. This time will be tracked as patient care hours.

**Salary:**

As a resident in the program, your salary for the year of the residency program is set according to the cost of maintaining the program. Currently the salary is \$54,000 (as of 2022-2023 class).

Other than the \$300 continuing education benefit from the institution (available after probation), there are no additional monies allocated for outside continuing education, tuition reimbursement, travel or parking fees to any observations/outside facilities, living expenses, licensure fees, or professional dues. Supplemental work opportunities, covering inpatient weekends are available with additional pay for any resident whose resident expectations are being met. This opportunity is voluntary.

There are no additional program fees.

## UChicago Medicine Acute Care Physical Therapy Residency

### Paid Time Off (PTO) Guidelines

Physical Therapy Residents are full time employees of the University of Chicago Medical Center. They will be eligible to take 5 days of paid time off, with the approval of the residency program director and the assistant director.

7 organizational holidays will also be paid; New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

Because of the extensive education and curriculum pieces of the residency positions it is very challenging to provide the residents with extended time (more than 1-2 consecutive work days) off throughout their program.

#### **Paid Time off:**

- Paid days off will be scheduled with the approval of the Physical Therapy Acute Care Residency Program Coordinator.
- Unscheduled days off, (such as sick, emergency, etc.) must also be approved by the residency program coordinator and will be deducted from the PTO bank.
- Any unpaid time (beyond the 5 days) will be granted only for an approved emergency leave, by the Therapy Services Assistant Director.
- New employees of the Therapy Services Department are encouraged not to take paid days off during their first 6 months of employment. This is considered probationary time.
- All paid time off must be taken within the time frame of the residency program commitment.
- Time off from the residency may be allowed if:
  - Staffing allows adequate patient care coverage
  - The residency program requirements are able to be met
  - The resident may need to work additional hours before and after a scheduled day off to assure that all educational pieces and patient care obligations are achieved

#### **Sick Days:**

- All employees are asked to not put patients and co-workers at risk by attending work if they are ill.
- Any employee calling off work needs to notify the department by sending an email to [therapyservices@uchospitals.edu](mailto:therapyservices@uchospitals.edu) **no later than 6:30 am** and indicate the following:
  - Name
  - Phone number
  - Reason for call off: Sick, Sick family (must indicate who the family member is) or other (car trouble, cancelled flight, etc)
  - IP team members need to send coverage email per team guidelines.

If you are calling off sick, you must send a text message to your manager verifying symptoms to allow for operational planning. **You must speak to your manager on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of call off.**

If sick time taken exceeds amount of PTO days (5), or if a pattern is noticed, time off will be discussed with the resident. A doctors' note may be required any time abuse of sick time is suspected.

### **How to Apply:**

**We will be a part of the centralized application process with the APTA starting with the class of 2024.**

For our first class to start 2022, please send the following materials to Lauren Miller, information listed below, by **MAY 1<sup>st</sup>**.

- Resume/CV
- Educational transcripts
- Cover letter
- Three letters of recommendation:
  - At least one from clinical instructor
  - At least one from PT school faculty

Interested applicants must be Physical Therapists:

- Licensed or eligible for licensure, in the state of Illinois.
- Practicing at the level of a competent clinician with basic patient management issues related to examination, evaluation, diagnosis/prognosis and intervention.
- Display professional behaviors and a strong interest in Acute Care physical therapy
- Interested new graduates may apply prior to graduation and state licensure, however, all residents must be graduates of an APTA accredited program and licensed in the state of Illinois by the start of the program year (August).

**In addition, please complete a PT Acute Care Resident application online at:**

<http://www.uchospitals.edu/jobs/index.html>

### **Interviews:**

Top candidates will be interviewed initially via phone, second interviews will be completed on the University of Chicago Medical Campus (or virtually, depending on current institutional guidelines) in June of the application year. All interviews will include behavioral, clinical questions, and patient scenarios. Please be prepared to discuss research ideas and to demonstrate patient interactions and treatment plans.

### **Lauren Miller, PT DPT**

Program Director for Acute Care PT Residency Program  
Board Certified Clinical Specialist in Oncologic Physical Therapy

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## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. As a full time employee at the hospital, how is the resident compensated? Is there a separate resident rate during residency hours? Or is the resident on a "normal" salary with additional years of commitment after the residency ends? Is there tuition involved or is it waived by being a full time employee?**

The residency position is a full time salaried position. The level of compensation is less than a full time treating therapist and the difference in pay is what it costs UCMC to educate the resident. There are not additional years of commitment from the resident or the organization upon completion of the program.

**3. How many people are usually accepted into the program each year?**

1 acute care resident

**4. Are the hours of didactic coursework each week in a classroom format? If so, is that during the working week or on the weekend?**

This is generally presented during the work week in multiple different formats.

**5. Who are the faculty of this program and who are the mentors?**

Faculty and mentors are the same – most are employees of UCMC and for some sections we have additional faculty from outside clinics. Faculty that is involved in the program have extensive experience in acute care and specifically with the patient population involved in each module. During each section the faculty who is teaching is also mentoring the resident for at least 3-4 hours/week.

**6. Do residents work weekends?**

Yes, about one weekend a month. Comp days are given for the weekend time – one day prior to the weekend, and one day after the weekend.

**7. Does the University of Chicago affiliate with a Physical Therapy School and require teaching in the University setting?**

The University of Chicago does not have a PT program which it is affiliated with for teaching. Many of our faculty members teach at local PT programs and this may be an opportunity during the course of the residency. We do have a medical school at the University of Chicago and the physical therapy residents are involved in teaching Medical residents from the various services as well as nurses and other health professionals. We also take a number of PT students throughout the year for clinical rotations.