The Physical Therapy Section at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking graduate, postgraduate, and academic faculty candidates for a clinical research training program in support of ongoing clinical research trials and other scientific investigations at the NIH. The purpose of the training program is to provide an opportunity for therapists to participate in the design, implementation, and publication of scientific investigations. The program supports ongoing clinical research trials and other scientific investigations at the NIH.

The program is comprised of two tracks: A and B.

Track A emphasizes the development of advanced competencies and skill components utilized in the research process. Examples include: literature review, data collection, data analysis, scientific writing, and multimedia presentation. This track is designed specifically to provide an opportunity for participants to contribute toward specific components of the research process. Such individuals could be recognized as associate investigator on specific studies depending on their contribution to the investigation.

Track B emphasizes the comprehensive development and implementation of a specific research question resulting in a professional publication and/or presentation. The goal of the program is to integrate all knowledge, skills, and abilities of research methods with clinical practice. This track is specifically designed to provide an opportunity for participants to initiate and implement original research. Individuals could be recognized as primary investigator on specific studies depending on the contribution to the investigation. In addition, this track allows academicians to participate in clinical research by establishing an agreement of one day per week, (Monday through Friday), to accomplish the same goals during a six month to one year time period.

Following the receipt of applications, all credentials will be reviewed and evaluated for merit based on specific selection criteria listed on page two. Upon acceptance into the program, the applicant will be assigned a mentor/preceptor to assist them in the completion of the program. Research projects approved for implementation will be designed to meet the interest of the applicant and the mission of the NIH. The NIH mission is listed at the end of this document.

Subjects selected for study in both tracks will include patient populations with common and rare diagnoses in oncology, neurology, rheumatology, metabolic disorders, pediatrics and heritable disorders*.

Advanced clinical training in areas of metabolic exercise testing, muscle performance assessment, orthotic fabrication, and pediatric assessment will be associated with both tracks.
The program is non-degree and began 9/1/00. The length of the program extends a minimum of two - six months (track A) and six months to one year (track B). There may be no financial support or stipend available for applicants during this period of training. However, Pre-Irta funding may be available for selected Track ‘A’ applicants (http://training.nih.gov/students). NIH staff can assist in providing recommendations for local housing and transportation resources, but it will be the responsibility of the applicant to pursue their own accommodations.

The receipt of applications and the application review process occur year round. Applications must be received six months in advance of the anticipated start date. Perspective applicants will be notified by mail 30 days after the receipt of the completed application.

Selection criteria include:

- Two to three years of clinical experience unless currently enrolled in a DPT or PhD program
- Curriculum vitae
- Brief one to two page letter of intent, to include research objectives and source of financial support
- Three letters of recommendation
- Telephone or personal interview
- Brief narrative of research interest (Identification of Track A or B)
- Research proposal (if applicable)

Proposals for research should be consistent with current projects and new protocols generated by the therapists at NIH. The completed research project may be serve as partial fulfillment of academic requirements. In which case, a contractual agreement between institutions, must be established in advance of the start date.

*Patient population referral patterns at the Clinical Center (CC) vary and may be comprised of a very narrow group of patient diagnoses. Additional information regarding the various clinical programs and patient populations can be reviewed at this URL: (www.cc.nih.gov/rmd/pt/index.html)**.

**This program may assist in obtaining advanced knowledge and competencies in specific clinical areas, however, it is not specifically designed to prepare therapists for Specialty Board Certification Exams sponsored by the American Physical Therapy Association. The intent of this program is to train individuals in specific areas of research methods and scientific inquiry according to an area of clinical research interest. 

Guidelines for Completion of the Clinical Research Program
Track A requires a minimum of a two to six-month period and includes participation in the areas listed below. Track B requires a minimum of six months to one-year and necessitates the submission of appropriate research materials in the areas listed below:

- A comprehensive literature review
- Proposal submission
- Data Collection
- Data Analysis
- Manuscript development

MISSION

The mission of the physical therapy clinical research program is to provide an opportunity for research to enhance professional development and contribute to the scientific literature of the physical therapy profession.

VISION

The vision of the clinical research program at the National Institutes of Health is to support excellent research on a local, national, and international level. Our intention is to enhance professional development by facilitating independent and collaborative research in a clinical setting.

Clinical Research Program's Goal and Objectives

Goal: The applicant will contribute to the evidence-based practice of physical therapy
Objectives:
- Complete a comprehensive literature review
- Compile an annotated bibliography.
- Generate a research proposal
- Develop a research hypothesis
- Complete data collection and analysis
- Disseminate findings

Clinical Research Path

1) Initial contact with PT Section collaborator

2) Orientation phase
   - Research and interest-specific CBO module
   - Computer Based Training Program: Protecting Human Research Subjects at the NIH
   - NIH Computer Security Awareness Training
   - CC/RMD Policies and Procedures
• CC Orientation
• NIH Institutional Review Board (IRB) Process review
• NIH electronic/information resource training as appropriate
• Protomechanics

3) Protocol phase

• Development
• Submission
• Rehabilitation Medicine Department Rehabilitation Research Review Committee (3RC)

4) Data Collection/Analysis

• Familiarization with selected data collection methods as necessary

5) Professional Communication

• Journal Club
• RMD Grand Rounds
• Article submission to a peer-reviewed journal
• Scientific presentations at national conferences

01/29/04