

BROOKS LAUNCHES PHYSICAL THERAPY CLINICAL RESIDENCY AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., – Brooks Rehabilitation is launching a Physical Therapy Clinical Residency and Fellowship Program in multiple specialty areas. The final goal is to have seven residencies as well as several fellowships, but two programs are being developed now: an Orthopaedic and a Neurologic Residency.

The Physical Therapy Orthopaedic Residency is one of our many joint ventures with the University of North Florida (UNF), operating as the Brooks/UNF Orthopaedic Residency Program. UNF offers several components of the program that Brooks does not have, including a library, gross anatomy lab and faculty to support the residents' learning and mentoring experiences. Under the terms of this joint venture, the residents are enrolled simultaneously within the residency and as students within the UNF Graduate program, giving them access to many resources that they would not have otherwise.

Six individuals have been formally selected for participation in the Orthopaedic Residency. At the beginning of January, they began a 12 month advanced training program that will consist of intense hands-on learning and clinical mentoring within the specialty area of orthopaedics. Classes are currently being held every Tuesday at Brooks Health & Fitness.

The program is costing Brooks an estimated \$150,000 for the first year, and costs will rise closer to \$200,000 when we add the neuro residency. Unlike most other programs, the Brooks program is unique in that residents are not charged tuition. The next clinical residency program in the specialty area of neurologic rehabilitation will begin later this year. Details such as academic partnerships, such as the Orthopaedic program's joint venture with UNF, are being finalized.

When the residents complete the program they will be eligible to sit for their Orthopaedic Board exam in physical therapy. Passing this exam will give them the credentials OCS (Orthopaedic Certified Specialist) and the ability to use OCS behind their names.

Currently, there are only 41 clinical residency and fellowship programs in the country, two of which are located in Florida: one in St. Augustine and one in Miami. In keeping with our vision of providing rehabilitation leadership to the community, Brooks identified this program as a critical method for developing future clinical leaders in Physical Therapy (PT).

The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) names post-professional clinical training programs as one of the primary methods to prepare physical therapists to meet the practice needs of the future. Therapists who complete a Clinical Residency Program and/or Clinical Fellowship Program generally demonstrate superior clinical skills, advanced knowledge in a specific area of clinical practice and the ability to act as advocates and educators to their peers and patients. The Brooks program will markedly advance the clinical and critical thinking skills of the participants who complete the program and also develop future educators.

###

Serving the community for more than 35 years, Brooks has a long-standing tradition of providing quality inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation care to Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia. Our 143-bed acute physical rehab hospital is unique in the region with a highly trained staff and an unmatched range of services. We have an extensive network of outpatient centers as well as a cutting-edge research facility which allow us to provide the best continuum of care possible to the communities we serve. As a non-profit health system, we are deeply dedicated to meeting the needs and improving the health of our community. Brooks is more than rehabilitation. It's about being you again.