

BROOKS/UNF ORTHOPAEDIC RESIDENCY PROGRAM RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS ACCREDITATION

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., – The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) has approved the Brooks/ University of North Florida Orthopaedic Residency Program as an APTA-credentialed post-professional clinical residency program. Brooks Rehabilitation launched the Brooks/UNF Orthopaedic Residency Program in January of 2007. “Receiving our accreditation this early in our development is a great honor, and it makes our program even more valuable to our residents” said Program Manager, Bob Rowe, PT, DPT, DMT, MHS, FAAOMPT.

The Physical Therapy Orthopaedic Residency is a one year program in which experienced physical therapists research and apply highly sophisticated therapy skills, focused on a specialized group of patients such as orthopaedics, back pain, or hand therapy. The Physical Therapy Orthopaedic Residency is one of many joint ventures between Brooks and the Brooks College of Health at UNF. The University offers several components including library access, gross anatomy lab and faculty to support the residents’ learning and mentoring experiences. “Because of our association, the students are enrolled simultaneously within the residency and as students within the UNF Graduate program”, said A. Russell Smith, Jr., PT, Ed.D., OCS, FAAOMPT, assistant professor at the Brooks College of Health.

Students in the Orthopaedic Residency represent a wide range of experience from beginning their careers to longtime Brooks employees, like Lori Hurtak, the Manager of the Brooks Mandarin Clinic. “The training and knowledge I have gained while taking part in the program have really helped me to improve the care we give to patients at our clinic. I really appreciate the opportunity Brooks has given me to take part in this unique program,” said Hurtak.

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. Brooks is currently one of the largest Orthopaedic Residency programs credentialed by the APTA with six residents as compared with most programs which have one or two students enrolled. The Brooks residents are undergoing the rigorous, year-long, advanced training program that includes intense didactic and hands-on learning as well as clinical mentoring. In the fall of 2007, Brooks is launching a Neurologic Residency with an additional five residents. Brooks plans to add a total of seven Physical Therapy Clinical Residency and four Fellowship Programs in multiple specialty areas. The program will cost Brooks an estimated \$200,000 for the first year.

This effort is being led by Bob Rowe, PT, DPT, DMT, MHS, FAAOMPT, a highly credentialed, widely published, and well-known member of the APTA. Rowe joined Brooks in July of 2006 following an extensive academic career, most recently at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, Louisiana. Rowe received his PT degree at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) in 1985 and completed his Master of Health Science in PT in 1994, also at LSUHSC. He completed an orthopaedic residency through the Ola Grimsby Institute (OGI) in 1997 and in 1999 he completed an Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy Spine Fellowship also through the OGI. In 2001, Bob successfully defended his dissertation and was granted the Doctorate of Manual Therapy through the OGI. He is currently enrolled in the MGH IHP t-DPT program with expected completion in 2007. Bob has been an active member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Therapy (AAOMPT) since 1995. He was recognized as a Fellow of the AAOMPT in 2001.

Currently the APTA credentials programs who meet the standards and guidelines set forth within the various specialty areas of practice. The residency/fellowship training is similar to the medical model in that licensed physical therapists who have graduated from an accredited physical therapy program will enter the residency training to attain advanced training within a specialty area of practice. The Brooks program will markedly

advance the clinical and critical thinking skills of the participants who complete the program and also develop future educators.

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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.