

Subject: Student-run clinic January newsletter  
January 9, 2014

To all students, faculty, and staff,

We are excited to present the first official newsletter of the department's student-run physical therapy clinic, which will have its **opening day in late February, 2014** at the Midvale Family Health Clinic, in collaboration with the [Community Building Community Initiative of Midvale City \(CBC\)](#) and University of Utah Health Care. This newsletter will be distributed monthly to provide information about board activities, clinic events, upcoming plans, and opportunities for becoming involved with the clinic. Several volunteer staff and support positions are available for department members; we aim to reach 30-40% student and faculty involvement by the end of spring semester 2014.

For students interested in becoming involved, student liaisons Erica Peterich '15 ([erica.peterich@utah.edu](mailto:erica.peterich@utah.edu)) and Preston Ward '16 ([preston.ward@utah.edu](mailto:preston.ward@utah.edu)) will be distributing interest surveys to each class next week. Faculty interested in participating either as attending physical therapists or in another capacity may contact Erin McDermott '15 ([erin.mcdermott@utah.edu](mailto:erin.mcdermott@utah.edu)) and Lauren Johnson '16 ([lauren.johnson@utah.edu](mailto:lauren.johnson@utah.edu)), the board's attending liaisons. In addition, we are in the process of developing a website where more information about the clinic will be available.

Items in this letter:

- Letter from the Director
- Student and faculty board
- Overview of board progress
  - Mission statement and vision
  - Model of care
  - Recap of recent site visits
- Upcoming events
  - UPTA meeting
  - Opening day
  - National Association for Student-Run Clinics conference

#### LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Students and Faculty,

We are excited to partner with The University Medical School's Midvale Health Clinic and Communities Building Communities (a Midvale community non profit) to provide pro bono physical therapy services to our neighbors most in need. Due to the dedicated effort of the board last semester, we were able to build the groundwork to begin offering physical therapy services by late February. Despite this, there is an enormous amount of work to accomplish prior to opening. Like the old saying goes, "it takes a village," and we hope to collaborate with you, utilizing your talents and services in the weeks to come. Time and time, again you all have shown why you were chosen for this program and we know you will stand up to the challenge of making this vision possible. We openly welcome your participation, questions or concerns as this project unfolds. Feel free to contact Katey or myself.

Sincerely,

Ally Armstrong, [Allyson.armstrong@utah.edu](mailto:Allyson.armstrong@utah.edu)

Katey Blumenthal, [katey.Blumenthal@utah.edu](mailto:katey.Blumenthal@utah.edu)

## STUDENT AND FACULTY BOARD

Student board members were elected from the DPT classes of 2015 and 2016 in November, 2013 at an open nomination and voting session. A member from each class was elected to each of eight pre-defined board positions, in order to provide redundancy between the two classes. We aim to continue this election cycle in years to come. Our faculty advisory board was selected on a volunteer basis. Currently the board is only comprised of Department of Physical Therapy faculty, but future boards may expand to include those from other departments as well.

### Student Board Members:

Therapy Director: Ally Armstrong '15, Katey Blumenthal '16  
Secretary: Nira Salant '15, Jordan Johnson '16  
Development/Finance: Garrett Jacobson '15, Blake Rowinski '16  
Student liaison: Erica Peterich '15, Preston Ward '16  
Attending liaison: Erin McDermott '15, Lauren Johnson '16  
Technology: Geoff Buchanan '15, Brett Fechter '16  
Community liaison: Marissa Floodman '15, Todd Monson '16  
Research/Outcomes: Kayla Trobec '15, Simone Mata '16

In addition, some board members will be forming committees to help with certain projects or duties that will include the efforts and assistance of students from all classes. Board members will meet weekly throughout the year to discuss and plan clinic operation and further growth.

Faculty Advisor: Misha Bradford, MPT, DPT

Faculty board members:  
Robin Marcus, PT, PhD, OCS  
Heidi Lane, PT, DPT, PCS  
Jim Ballard, PT, DPT

## OVERVIEW OF BOARD PROGRESS

Since November, the student board and Dr. Bradford have addressed numerous logistical and philosophical issues critical to the establishment of the student clinic. We've developed a mission statement and vision, discussed alternative models of care, created a timeline for clinic opening, and established short- and long-term goals for each board position.

### Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide quality physical therapy services to underserved and underinsured individuals in the greater Salt Lake area, and to enhance the educational experience of University of Utah physical therapy students through service learning.

### *About Us:*

- Services are provided by physical therapy students currently enrolled in the entry-level doctorate of physical therapy program at the University of Utah, while under the guidance of licensed physical therapy practitioners from the local community.

- Services are facilitated primarily through donated time and resources.
- Planning of current and future operation of the clinic are integrated into the curriculum of the department.
- We share the core values of the [University of Utah College of Health](#) and [Department of Physical Therapy, University of Utah Health Care](#), and the [American Physical Therapy Association \(APTA\)](#).
- We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, age, religion or religious creed, disability or handicap, sex, gender or sexual preference.

#### *Our Vision:*

- Enhance the education of students and community members alike.
- Address physical therapy needs of the community through evaluation and provision of current evidence-based practice.
- Promote social awareness among students of key issues in the community.
- Create community partnerships.
- Promote the profession of physical therapy through advocacy, professionalism and quality service.

#### Model of Care

Physical therapy services will be free for Midvale and neighboring community members with incomes less than or equal to 150% of poverty, including many who are non-English speakers or illiterate. Primary patients will be referrals from the medical division of the Midvale Family Health Clinic. More information about the services and goals of the [Midvale clinic](#) and the Community-[Building-Community Initiative \(CBC\)](#) can be found on their websites. The board will continue to discuss alternative payment models (e.g., a flat rate refundable deposit) and whether to implement a no-show policy in the future. Outcomes coordinators will track compliance rates and patient responses under the current model to help refine the model of care.

#### Recap of Recent Site Visit

Several student board members and faculty visited the clinic location at Midvale Middle School on December 12, 2013, where they met with Mauricio Agramont, the director of the Midvale Family Health Clinic and the head of the CBC. Through discussion with Mr. Agramont it became clear that the community need for physical therapy services is high, as many patients have chronic conditions such as hypertension and diabetes or suffer from low back pain and other musculoskeletal impairments. Board members assessed the supplies and space available and compiled a list of equipment and resources needed to open the clinic. Other proposed sites are also being considered in terms of patient access, equipment availability, and space. Information gathered during this visit was used to inform board decisions regarding staffing, model of care, and advertising.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

##### UPTA Meeting

Misha Bradford, Lee Skinner, Ally Armstrong, Katey Blumenthal, and Brett Fechter will be attending the upcoming **UPTA meeting on January 15, 2013**. We will be requesting funding, supplies, and equipment needed for clinic opening and operation, as well as using the opportunity to enhance our relationship with the organization and spread the word about our efforts.

##### Opening Day

We hope to open the physical therapy clinic [sometime in late February, 2014](#). Until then we have lots of work to do and we will continue to keep you informed on the decisions and plans that are being made.

National Association for Student-Run Clinics Conference

Misha Bradford, Ally Armstrong and Brett Fechter will be attending the National Association for Student-Run Clinics Conference, held **February 1-2, 2014** in Nashville, Tennessee. This will be a great opportunity for our board members to learn about the process of opening and running a student-run clinic. Presentations will include clinic models of student-run free clinics from various institutions. Students from all aspects of healthcare will be involved. Our representatives will return and educate us on the new information they have gained.

Thanks for reading! Look for our next newsletter in February. For questions about the information provided here or the clinic in general, please contact Nira Salant '15 (nira.salant@utah.edu) or Jordan Johnson '16 (jordan.johnson@utah.edu).

Sincerely,

Student board Secretaries,  
Nira Salant '15  
Jordan Johnson '16