

APTA Colorado Expert Spokesperson Profile



JILL FLAHERTY, PT, MS
Physical Therapist
St. Mary's Hospital
Grand Junction, Colorado

Specialties:

- Orthopaedics
- Sports
- Vestibular (inner ear/balance)

Jill Flaherty is a native Coloradan with the heart of a teacher and a wealth of experience as a physical therapist.

Flaherty earned a Bachelor of Science degree in physical therapy from the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in 1986. She also

holds a Bachelor of Science in biology and athletic training from Colorado Mesa University and a bachelor's degree in physical education from the University of Northern Colorado. She earned her Master of Science degree in motor control from the University of Oregon.

Flaherty has worked in a variety of physical therapy settings in her more than 30 years of practice as a physical therapist, including private practice and skilled nursing, as well as inpatient, outpatient and rehabilitation hospital departments. She has performed industrial rehabilitation to help individuals return to work after an injury or illness. She also has provided sports medicine for local area high schools and for a National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Baseball Tournament. She was previously certified as an emergency medical technician and has an interest and education in wilderness medicine.

Flaherty has taught as a clinical instructor for the University of Colorado Health Science Center and for the Colorado Mesa University Department of Kinesiology.

Flaherty currently serves on the executive board of the Colorado chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association as the chapter's president-elect, having previously served as the chapter's vice president. She is a member of the Health Policy and Administration Section of the national American Physical Therapy Association. She is also a member of the American Academy of Sports Physical Therapy and the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

APTA Colorado Expert Spokesperson Profile



REBEKAH L. GRIFFITH, PT, DPT, NCS

Physical Therapist Specialist
University of Colorado Hospital
Aurora, Colorado

Specialties:

- Neurology
- Orthopaedics
- Critical care
- Emergency physical therapy

Dr. Rebekah Griffith is a physical therapist providing emergency and intensive care at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, Colorado. She loves serving as a guide to her patients as they regain their life and function with the help of physical therapy.

Griffith is a board-certified neurologic clinical specialist. She is also a master Spanish clinician who has worked with the University of Colorado Hospital to help streamline best practices for Spanish-speaking clinicians. In addition, Griffith worked in conjunction with a team of physical therapists to initiate a program for physical therapy in the hospital's emergency department. To support her colleagues and ensure patient access to care, she served as a back-up member of the hospital's COVID team during the 2020 fall surge of the pandemic.

Griffith has been recognized for her compassion for patients and her outstanding service as an emerging leader in the field of physical therapy. She has delivered peer-reviewed professional presentations on issues such as low-back pain, women's wellness issues, physical therapy in the emergency department and post-concussive syndrome. She has also testified before the Colorado Legislature on opioid addiction and pain management.

Griffith is also a clinical preceptor at the student-run free DAWN Clinic for the uninsured in Aurora, Colorado, and is an appointed clinical instructor within the University of Colorado School of Medicine on the Anschutz Medical Campus. In addition, she serves as the chief delegate for the Colorado chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association.

Griffith obtained her doctorate in physical therapy from the University of Colorado, where she previously earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in kinesiology and applied physiology. She and her husband Benjamin have three children.

APTA Colorado Expert Spokesperson Profile



CAMERON W. MACDONALD, PT, DPT

Associate Professor
Chair, Post Professional Committee
Regis University School of Physical Therapy
Denver, Colorado

Specialties:

- Orthopaedics
- Geriatrics
- Manual therapy

Dr. Cameron MacDonald is an experienced physical therapist who has earned accolades for his research and published works as well as for his leadership and service to the field.

MacDonald is a board-certified specialist in orthopedics and geriatrics with more than 25 years of clinical practice experience. He is the director of the Orthopaedic Residency Program and the Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy Fellowship Program at Regis University's School of Physical Therapy in Denver, Colorado. He is also a fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapists, president of the Colorado chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association and a member of the Orthopaedic, Geriatric and Health Policy Academy.

MacDonald has presented nationally and internationally on the history of physical therapy, the societal role of physical therapists and topics related to his areas of specialty. MacDonald also has presented to community groups and schools on health and wellness issues and has been featured as an expert in various media forums. He has received national awards for his research and published work in addition to state and local awards in recognition of his service to the field.

MacDonald completed his doctoral training in physical therapy in the United States following completion of training as a physiotherapist in Australia. He is currently pursuing a PhD to expand his knowledge of the history of physical therapy and other manual therapy treatments. MacDonald has authored or co-authored more than a dozen peer-reviewed publications. He is published on the topics of orthopedics, geriatrics and manual therapy.

APTA Colorado Expert Spokesperson Profile



JENNIFER MASAMITSU, PT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT

Senior Software Engineer

LifeLink

Denver, Colorado

Specialties:

- Orthopaedics

Jennifer Masamitsu is both a physical therapist and a senior software engineer, using her passion for patient care to help improve the technology platforms used in health care by providers, support staff and consumers.

Masamitsu earned her doctorate of physical therapy from Regis University in Denver, Colorado, after graduating from the University of Colorado Boulder with a Bachelor of Science in computer science. After practicing as a physical therapist in outpatient orthopaedics for 10 years, during which time she completed a fellowship in manual therapy, Masamitsu left clinical practice to join the health care tech startup LifeLink.

Technology is an integral component of the modern system of health care delivery. The current focus of Masamitsu's work is on improving patient communication, education and satisfaction using innovative technology solutions.

Masamitsu is also a fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapists, treasurer of the Colorado chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and member of the national APTA's orthopaedics section and health policy and administration section.

During her time as a student and as a practicing physical therapist, Masamitsu participated in several international outreach efforts, including to Belize and Haiti. She also made three separate trips to Ethiopia where she helped manage the cultural immersion experience and service learning for Regis University physical therapy students and served patients at the Ethiopian Government Hospital. She was chosen in 2018 as physical therapist of the year by the Colorado chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association.

APTA Colorado Expert Spokesperson Profile



PATTY PENNELL NOEL, PT, ScD

Physical Therapist

Back to Motion Physical Therapy

Denver, Colorado

Specialties:

- Sports
- Dry needling

Dr. Patty Pennell Noel is the owner of Back to Motion Physical Therapy, a practice that has been serving the Denver area for more than 27 years, specializing in spine and sports injuries as well as workplace injuries.

Pennell earned her master's degree in physical therapy from the University of Colorado and her doctorate of

science through Texas Tech University.

Pennell currently works with the United States Tennis Association as a physical therapist for the women's pro circuit events. She previously worked for the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) for three years, providing physical therapy care at tournaments hosted worldwide. She is a certified tennis performance specialist and continues to treat tennis players at her practice in Denver. Pennell also previously served as a consultant for the Leukemia & Lymphoma's Team in Training, which participates in endurance challenges worldwide to raise money for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

When she isn't helping patients, Pennell is teaching. She works as clinical faculty for Regis University's Physical Therapy Program, where she has taught for the past 15 years. In addition, she teaches professional continuing education courses on dry needling through a company she co-owns in Denver named Therapy Concepts.

Patty was voted outstanding physical therapist by the Colorado chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association in 2007 and named as their physical therapist of the year the following year. She was also the Bob Doctor Service Award recipient in 2004 in recognition of outstanding professional service. Pennell is currently serving in her second term as the vice president for the Colorado chapter of the APTA.

APTA Colorado Expert Spokesperson Profile



CYNTHIA RAUERT, PT, DPT

Senior Physical Therapist

University of Colorado Hospital, Anschutz Medical Campus
Aurora, Colorado

Specialties:

- Orthopaedics
- Men's health
- Women's health
- Postpartum and prenatal
- Lymphedema therapy

Dr. Cynthia Rauert is a senior physical therapist for the University of Colorado Hospital's main campus in Aurora, Colorado. She finds satisfaction in empowering her patients to reach their goals of increased activity, decreased pain and an improved ability to more fully live their lives.

Rauert earned her doctor of physical therapy at Regis University in Denver, Colorado. She earned her Bachelor of Science in exercise science from Truman State University in Missouri and her Master of Science in exercise science from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Rauert has received specialized training in dry needling; pelvic health for both men and women, including postpartum and prenatal care; and lymphedema therapy, to address swelling in the arms or legs. She has been a certified exercise physiologist through the American College of Sports Medicine since 2002.

Rauert previously worked as an inpatient and outpatient physical therapist for the Platte Valley Medical Center in Brighton, Colorado. There, she served on the hospital's Interdisciplinary Comprehensive Pain Science Program Panel, helping to create a hospital-wide interdisciplinary program for patients with persistent pain.

Rauert currently is an active member of the Colorado chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association, serving as a member of the executive committee, as chapter secretary and as a member of the public relations committee.

Rauert brought with her to the field of physical therapy 12 years of work experience in health research, policy and health promotion. She also has been a certified Pilates instructor since 2013.