

## From - the - Dean

With our significant research in rehabilitation, the annual conference of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine has become increasingly important in our efforts to showcase our work and enhance partnerships across the field. The School of Health Professions was well represented at this year's event, the 100th conference, held October 28 to November 2 in Atlanta.

Department of Occupational Therapy Education faculty member **Tobia Zanutto, Ph.D.**, received the Neurodegenerative Diseases Networking Group Best Poster Award and a Top 30 Poster Spotlight recognition for "Association Between Frailty and Sleep Quality in People Living with Multiple Sclerosis: An Observational Cross-sectional Study." Congratulations.

**Lingjun Chen** was honored with the Best Early Career Poster in Aging Research and Geriatric Rehabilitation for "Arm Response in Experimental Falls Among Older Adults." It was also scored among the Top 30 posters, as was "Evaluation of Postural Control in Adults with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus" by **Tony Cheng**. The two rehabilitation science doctoral students are mentored by **Jake Sosnoff, Ph.D.**, and **Kai Huang, Ph.D.**, respectfully. Congratulations.

Faculty members **Hannes Devos, Ph.D.**, and Huang [presented a symposium](#) titled "New Advances in Sensory Organization Testing of Neurological Conditions" with rehabilitation science students **Sodiq Fakorede, Maryam Sadeghi** and Cheng. Great job.

Additional faculty presenting at the event included **Laurie Steen, OTD**, Sosnoff and me. Additional doctoral students presenting were **Pedram Ahmadnezhad** and **Samuel Durairaj** from our rehabilitation science program and **Makenna Snyder Hood** from our therapeutic science program. Well done.

**Lisa VanHoose, Ph.D.**, a graduate of our rehabilitation science program and former faculty member in the Department of Physical Therapy, Rehabilitation Science, and Athletic Training, delivered the plenary presentation "Overcoming DEI Fatigue in Rehabilitation Medicine and Research."

Finally, I was humbled to accept the [2023 Outstanding Mentor Award](#) at the conference; it recognizes significant contributions to the field of rehabilitation medicine and research.

Student presenters had their travel to the conference funded by the Lou Loescher-Junge Professional Development award. We are especially grateful for the continued generosity and support over many years from **Ms. Loescher-Junge**, former assistant dean of our school.

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