

Rebecca Anne Operacz

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Education **Temple University**, Philadelphia, PA
Doctor of Education, Higher Education Anticipated graduation fall 2023

University of Colorado and Health Sciences Center, Denver, CO
Doctor of Physical Therapy 2008

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Bachelor of Arts in English, minor in biology 2002

Organizations

ABPTS Certified Neurologic Clinical Specialist 2015 – present
Philadelphia Area Clinical Education Consortium 2015 – present
National Consortium of Clinical Educators 2015 – present
American Physical Therapy Association 2005 – present

Teaching Experience

Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
Associate Professor of Instruction 2020 - present
Assistant Professor of Instruction 2015 – 2020
Co-director of Clinical Education 2015 – 2020

- Provide didactic and experiential instruction throughout the curriculum (clinical examination and intervention, motor control and motor learning, clinical management of neuromuscular conditions, integrated clinical education, management of medically complex patients, global health)
- Advise DPT students with respect to clinical, academic, and professional growth
- Apply CAPTE objectives to meet the learning needs of students within an accredited Doctor of Physical Therapy program
- Provide service to the program and University (faculty advisor for the DPT Student Association, Inter-professional Education Steering Committee, Faculty Herald Advisory Board)

Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA 2013 – 2015
Clinical Faculty

- Develop course curricula for physical therapy interventions for individuals with neurological impairments
- Apply CAPTE objectives to the development of course materials within the neurology course track of an accredited Doctor of Physical Therapy program
- Primary instructor for Rehabilitation Continuum of Care
- Guest lecture and lab teaching assistant: motor development, clinical skills, neurologic interventions, cardiopulmonary care

Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA
Adjunct Lab Instructor

2010 – 2013

- Lab teaching assistant for DPT program: neuromuscular clinical management, clinical examination and intervention
 - Clinical mentor for DPT students in the acute hospital setting
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Clinical Practice

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA
Advanced Clinician I

2008 – present

- Assess and treat clients with variable and complex medical conditions in both the acute care and acute inpatient rehabilitation settings (patient populations include medical oncology, neurology, spinal cord injury, medical/surgical, orthopedics, and cardiology)
 - Coordinate with other health care providers in an inter-professional setting to meet clients' individual needs and facilitate transition to the next level of care
 - Educate staff on current best practice interventions appropriate to setting
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Clinical Education/Student Mentoring

Philadelphia Aphasia Community at Temple, Philadelphia, PA
Clinical Instructor: outpatient neurologic clinic

2018 - present

- Clinical mentor for DPT students in an outpatient inter-professional practice for individuals with neurologic injury and aphasia

Temple University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA
Clinical Instructor: acute care hospital

2018 - present

- Clinical mentor for DPT students in the acute care setting within part-time integrated clinical experiences

North Broad Physical Therapy Center, Philadelphia, PA
Clinical Mentor: pro bono outpatient clinic

2016 – present

- Mentor to DPT students regarding the delivery of pro bono services within the setting of an outpatient student-run clinic

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA
Clinical Instructor: acute care & inpatient rehabilitation

2009 – 2015

- Mentor to DPT students within the inpatient acute hospital and rehabilitation settings regarding appropriate clinical decision-making, inter-professional communication, and discharge planning for individuals with various complex medical conditions
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Professional Presentations

Invited Presenter/Co-presenter

Willgens, A., **Vernon, R.**, & Fagan, J. (2021, March). *Educating Mindful Doctor of Physical Therapy Students: A Mentoring Workshop for the Clinician*. American Physical Therapy Association Post-Combined Sections Meeting workshop.

Vernon, R., & Fagan, J. (2020, February). *ICE – Is it working? Exploring the impact of an integrated clinical education curriculum on student confidence and preparedness for the inpatient clinical environment*. Poster session presented at the Annual Combined Sections Meeting of the American Physical Therapy Association, Denver, CO.

Burns, S., Fagan, J., Sinnott, M., & **Vernon, R.** (2019, October). *Blind dating in PT education: Where is the trust?* Exploring entrustable professional activities within a DPT program. Education session presented at the Education Leadership Conference of the American Physical Therapy Association, Bellevue, WA.

Vernon, R. & Fagan, J. (2019, October). *Educating students beyond the classroom: The development of a Clinical Instructor mentorship course to address today's health professions student*. Education session presented at the Education Leadership Conference of the American Physical Therapy Association, Bellevue, WA.

Vernon, R. (2019, January). *Moving from IPE to IPP on a global scale*. Platform session presented at the Annual Combined Sections Meeting of the American Physical Therapy Association, Washington, DC.

Tucker, C., **Vernon, R.**, Blau, A., & Craighead, G. (2019, January). *CAPERS: Clinical Academic Partnerships: Education, Research, & Service*. Platform session presented at the Annual Combined Sections Meeting of the American Physical Therapy Association, Washington, DC.

Willgens, A., & **Vernon, R.** (2018, October). *Mindful Practice: an orientation for students, faculty, and staff*. Education session presented at the Education Leadership Conference of the American Physical Therapy Association, Jacksonville, FL.

Vernon, R. (2018, June). *Communication and Addressing Client Needs Across the Continuum*. Education session presented at the quarterly meeting of the Southeast District Neurologic Special Interest Group of the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Vernon, R., Maciborski, M., & Sibley, N. (2014, February). *Case Study: Following an individual with acute neurological event throughout the continuum of care*. Education session presented for the inaugural Young Professionals Seminar of the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association, Chester, PA.

Morina, A., & **Vernon, R.** (2012, March). *Diagnosis, Prevention, and Physical Therapy Interventions for Pressure Ulcers*. Education session presented at the quarterly Southeast District Meeting of the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Publications

Rotz, M. E., Calligaro, I. L., Kaplan, L. I., Xiaoning, L., Sinnott, M. C., Spadone, S., **Vernon, R.**, Huaqing, Z., & Idahosa, C. N. (2021). Design and evaluation of an interprofessional education workshop series for preclinical and prelicensure health professional students. *Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning*, 13(7), 885-894. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cptl.2021.03.023>

Continuing Education Provided

Willgens, A., **Vernon, R.**, & Fagan, J. (2020, January & 2019, October). *Educating Mindful Doctor of Physical Therapy Students: A Mentoring Workshop for the Clinician*. One day continuing education workshop delivered to community clinical partners of the Temple University Doctor of Physical Therapy program, Blue Bell, PA.

McManus, C., Willgens, A., & **Vernon, R.** (2018, April). *Mindfully Informed Patient Care and Student Teaching*. A two-day continuing education course delivered through the Philadelphia Area Clinical Education Consortium, Philadelphia, PA.

Vernon, R., Lewis, M., Campbell, S., & Tomlinson, S. (2016, April). *Ethical Issues in Clinical Education*. A continuing education course delivered through the Philadelphia Area Clinical Education Consortium, Philadelphia, PA.

Vernon, R. (2015, September). *Early Rehab for Stroke: It's More than Transfers and Gait*. A continuing education session delivered at the Temple University Clinical Education Appreciation Day, Philadelphia, PA.

Vernon, R., Tiernan, M., & Bright, J. (2013, April). *An Interdisciplinary Approach to Patient Seating and Positioning for Pressure Ulcer Prevention*. A continuing education course for clinical staff at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA.

Service

Temple University 2020 – present
Faculty Senate

- Board member of the Faculty Herald: Coordinate with the editor to suggest content and recruit authors for the Faculty Herald quarterly publication
- Member of the Faculty Senate Budget Committee: Collaborate with fellow committee members to review University budget documents and share public budget information with the faculty senate

Inter-Professional Education Steering Committee 2015 – present
Temple University Health Sciences Campus

- Collaborate with educators from the various health professions (pharmacy, nursing, medicine, podiatry, dentistry, occupational therapy, physical therapy) to develop an inter-professional education curriculum for the health sciences students
- Implement inter-professional student learning activities to foster respect among the healthcare fields and facilitate comprehensive client care

Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

Spring 2020

Homeless Health Initiative

- Develop and implement programming for weekly Safe Physical Activity and Recreation for Kids (SPARK) program
- Collaborate with colleagues from occupational therapy and social work to meet the needs of children in shelter communities

Temple Inter-professional Practice: Guatemala

2016 – 2020

Temple University/Hearts in Motion

- Develop and implement an inter-professional practice experience for physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy students
- Guide students in care plan development for children with special needs who are participating in a one week rehab intensive in Zacapa, Guatemala
- Facilitate inter-professional communication for optimal client outcomes

North Broad Physical Therapy Center

2016 – 2020

Temple University Department of Physical Therapy

- Participate in inter-professional collaboration within the College of Public Health to meet the healthcare needs of the North Philadelphia community via a student-run pro bono clinic
- Provide physical therapy services to members of an under-served community seeking care within the outpatient pro-bono clinic

Hands of Hope

2014 – 2017

Jefferson School of Health Professions

- Mentor Doctor of Physical Therapy students in a pro bono health care clinic setting
- Assist DPT students with triaging clients and addressing clients’ outpatient physical therapy needs with limited resources
- Cater physical therapy interventions and education to an underserved outpatient community

Global Health Committee

2014 – 2015

Jefferson School of Health Professions

- Collaborate with fellow physical therapy faculty to identify global health learning opportunities for current doctor of physical therapy students
- Work with an inter-professional team to coordinate global health learning experiences for students entering a doctoring health profession

Jefferson Center for Inter-professional Education

2014 – 2015

Thomas Jefferson University

- Mentor inter-professional student groups regarding respect, teamwork, and collaboration among various health disciplines
- Guide students to use inter-professional skills to address the needs of a health mentor volunteer living with illness or disability

Health Volunteers Overseas

January 2008

Staff education, Managua, Nicaragua

Lecture and clinical practice: *Evaluation and Treatment of the Individual with Spinal Cord Injury*

- Develop educational materials for university physical therapy faculty and clinicians regarding the treatment of individuals with spinal cord injury
 - Respect cultural traditions and differences pertaining to healthcare implementation and perception of medical impairment
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Continuing Education Courses Attended (last 5 years)

Temple University

- Teaching in Higher Education Certificate
- 2-course/6-credit series completed August 2021
 - Teaching in Higher Education
 - Problems in Educational Psychology/Teaching with Technology

American Physical Therapy Association

- Annual Combined Sections Meeting
- February 2015, February 2016, January 2019, February 2020

American Physical Therapy Association

- Education Leadership Conference
- October 2016, October 2017, October 2018, October 2019

Temple University Center for the Advancement of Teaching

- Annual Conference on Teaching Excellence
- January 2020, January 2017, January 2016

Philadelphia Area Clinical Education Consortium

- Do Ask, Do Tell: Sexual and Gender Minority Health Cultural Humility and Connections to Health Disparities
- November 7, 2019

Temple University DPT Program

- Clinical Education Appreciation Day
- September 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

Penn Medicine Simulation Facilitators Program

- Teaching with Simulation: A Simulation Facilitator Workshop
- May 13 – 15, 2019

Integrating Current Evidence into Neurologic PT Educational Programs

- APTA Combined Sections Meeting pre-conference course
- January 22 – 23, 2019