

History of the U.S. Army Sports Physical Therapy Doctoral Program

The idea of a Physical Therapy residency involving West Point began with LTC (ret) Jim Swain when he was Chief of Physical Therapy, KACH. The idea was taken up by the next chief, COL (Ret) Charles Scoville, who developed a program that would prepare Physical Therapists to provide "Sports Medicine on the Battlefield". With the help of Dr. John Uhorchak, Dr. Robert Arciero, and LTC Jim Greenwood, COL (Ret) Scoville got approval to start the program and welcomed the first resident in 1994. Under the next director, LTC Barbara Springer, both Navy and Air Force therapists joined the program, and it became the first residency in the country credentialed by the American Physical Therapy Association. LTC Joe Moore took the program to new heights, lengthening it to 18 months and making it a doctoral degree granting program through Baylor University. In 2001 three residents became the first doctoral degree graduates. In the short history of the program, Physical Therapists involved in the program have published over 10 articles in peer reviewed journals, won 3 awards for research excellence, and performed over 20 presentations at national meetings. Graduates currently provide medical support to military men and women around the world.



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Keller Army Community Hospital
900 Washington Road
West Point, NY 10996

Phone: 845-938-4821

Fax: 845-938-6806

<http://www.usma.edu/Meddac/services/SportsMedicine/>