



# HONORS & AWARDS

## OUTSTANDING PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT AWARD

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**2015**  
BRAD THURINGER

**2014**  
RUSSELL B. STOWERS

**2013**  
DAVID EMERICK, SR

**2012**  
JOHN KELLY

**2011**  
JANET ADAMS

**2009**  
DEBORA K. BORNMANN

**2008**  
SHARON D. WEIL \*

**2007**  
ROY CHRISTOPHER JUNKINS \*

\* A biography and photo are not available

† Recipient is deceased

2014  
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# OUTSTANDING PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT AWARD



## RUSSELL B. STOWERS, PTA, MS, EdD

Russell B. Stowers, PTA, MS, EdD, is considered a role model for physical therapist assistants for leadership in clinical and educational settings.

Stowers is currently director of Rehabilitation Services for Christus/St Vincent Regional Medical Center in Santa Fe. Previously, he held positions with Del Mar College's Physical Therapist Assistant Program, Christus Spohn Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, and Home Health International. He holds an EdD in Higher Education Administration and

MS in Occupational Training and Educational Technology, both from Texas A&M University; MHA from the University of New Mexico; BAS in Community Health from Abilene Christian University; and AAS for Physical Therapist Assistant from Amarillo College in Amarillo, TX.

Stowers has represented the PTA profession in many ways during his 23-year career. After graduating as a PTA, he obtained three additional degrees, two at the graduate level, all to enhance his work in the physical therapy profession. He has maintained his dedication to education by continually working to advance his skills; currently he is set to graduate with a MHA in Healthcare Administration in 2015. In addition to advancing his own education, he affords many hours to educating emerging professionals as well as established PTAs as a mentor and speaker. He has worked consistently to promote PTA involvement and educational advancement individually and within APTA. In his early career, Stowers was active on the Representative Board of the National Assembly, collaborating with APTA to move PTAs to the current structure of the PTA Caucus. He was also instrumental in the origination of the Advanced Proficiency for the Physical Therapist Assistant. He devotes many hours to his chapter, as well as to his service on APTA's Task Force for Alternative Structure for the PTA, the PTA Career Pathways Task Force, and as previous chair of the PTA Recognition Committee.

A member of APTA since 1987, Stowers is currently a commissioner for the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education, on the Task Force for PTA Alternative Structure, and the PTA Career Pathways Task Force. He served as a delegate for the PTA Caucus and chaired the Committee on PTA Recognition. He was elected to the board of directors of the Texas Chapter in 2001.

APTA is pleased to recognize Russell Stowers' dedication to the PTA role and physical therapy profession with the Outstanding Physical Therapist Assistant Award.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*I would especially like to thank my parents Karen, Larry, Janice and Jerry for their love and support. I would also like to thank my partner Carlos, and friends Araceli, Gustavo, Anna, Linda, Cydney and Peggy for their willingness to let me vent my frustrations and to take me away from my everyday life on our many adventures. To my work family at CHRISTUS St. Vincent in Santa Fe, NM thank you for being such a positive and encouraging group of employees and influential in your daily work with patients.*

*The Physical Therapist Assistant students at Del Mar College were a great inspiration to me and kept me grounded. You will never know how much you kept me focused by your perseverance and joy of learning. Last but not least, I want to acknowledge my APTA friends throughout the country. Thank you for your encouragement and friendship.*



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## DAVID W. EMERICK SR, PTA, BBA

David W. Emerick Sr, PTA, BBA, has been an advocate for the profession and physical therapist assistants throughout his career, both at the state level and nationally.

Presently Staff Physical Therapist Assistant with Fauquier Health Home Care, Mr Emerick was previously associated with Winchester Medical Center, Winchester, VA, and Loudoun Sports Therapy Center. He received an AAS from the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at

Northern Virginia Community College and AS in Biology from Ferrum College and BBA from Averett University.

With areas of expertise that include orthopedics, neurology, cardiac, surgical, pulmonary, oncology, gastrointestinal, and wound care, Mr Emerick has mentored many PTs and PTAs and always challenges them to reach for the next level. Taking every opportunity he can to talk to PTA students, Mr Emerick emphasizes the importance of acting in a professional manner as well as upholding the ethical standards expected of PTAs. He drives the point home through his own professional demeanor and numerous examples of the standards he holds in the way he practices and successfully manages various ethical and professional dilemmas. Mr Emerick is dedicated to achieving functional outcomes with his patients to improve their quality of life and highest ability to function.

An active member of APTA since joining as a student in 1996, Mr Emerick was elected Virginia Representative to the National Assembly in 1999 and went on to become president of the National Assembly. As president, he has been known for his speeches that highlighted a simple, everyday household item that makes a significant impact on daily life; he then challenges assembly members to use their talents to make a positive impact on the profession. He has also assisted in leading numerous Virginia Chapter Student Conclaves. He was a member of the PTA Advisory Panel and the Future Role of the PTA Task Force, and treasurer of the Virginia Chapter. He has served as PTA delegate and PTA Caucus Chief Delegate.

APTA is pleased to recognize Mr Emerick with the Outstanding Physical Therapist Assistant Award.



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## **JOHN KELLY, PTA, BS**

John Kelly, PTA, BS, has represented physical therapist assistants in a variety of ways at the local, state and national levels of APTA. He is a strong patient advocate and community activist who inspires his peers to be more active in their professions.

Presently PTA for Easter Seals Crossroads, Indianapolis, and consultant for Mobility Research, Tempe, AZ, Kelly has also been a staff PTA for Hook Rehabilitation Center, Clarian Health Partners and St Vincent New Hope, all in Indianapolis. He received an AS from the Physical Therapist Assistant Program and BS in Business Administration, both from the University of Indianapolis.

Kelly is known to have excellent clinical skills in treating people who have developmental disabilities, neurological infarcts and injuries as well as behavioral issues—often a combination of two or three of these conditions. A therapist can always research and ask questions, but when it comes to actually helping patients and training caregivers in restoring function, it takes a personal approach to be truly effective. Kelly exhibits professionalism and respect for both patients and colleagues, portraying his supervising therapist both verbally and nonverbally to this exceptional category of patients. Kelly's creativity, persistence and consistency allow him to keep the mission of serving patients at the forefront. He is always willing to ask other professionals for input and advice as well as conduct his own research as part of his focus on providing the best care. He extends that dedication to the association as a PTA voice, Physical Therapist Assistant Caucus delegate and as a mentor to those newer to the profession.

An APTA member since 1998, Kelly is presently a member of the Neurology Section. He is also involved with the Brain Injury Association of American and an associate member of the Builders Association of Indiana.

APTA is pleased to recognize Kelly's contributions to the PT profession with the Outstanding Physical Therapist Assistant Award.

## OUTSTANDING PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT AWARD



**JANET ADAMS, PTA**

Janet Adams, PTA, has made outstanding achievements in improving direct patient care, contributing to the community and the advancement of the profession, and mentoring peers and students to pursue excellence.

Adams' career as a licensed PTA is extensive and ongoing, with 20-plus years of experience. Ms Adams currently is employed full-time at St Jude Children's Research Hospital in the Division of Rehabilitative Medicine in Memphis, TN. Adams treats children who have functional loss/disorders, developmental delays, and neurological deficits due to hematology, oncology, and Immunodeficiency disorders, including patients undergoing Limb Salvage and Amputations. Adams is involved indirectly and directly in research initiatives at St. Jude and is currently serving as coordinator for the "Gait 09" protocol. She serves as a certified clinical instructor for PTA students locally and in surrounding areas.

Adams is employed as a PTA, PRN, for Select Specialty Hospital of Memphis, where she rehabilitates patients in the acute phases of illness who exhibit severe weakness and are ventilator-dependent and undergoing ventilator weaning as a result of respiratory failure and cardiac failure, as well as patients with neurologic and orthopedic disorders. Adams' career as a PTA began with employment by Baptist Memorial Hospital Regional Rehabilitation Center and Baptist Memorial Hospital's Home Health Agency. She earned her AAS from Shelby State Community College, now Southwest Tennessee Community College.

A strong team participant, Adams works well alongside therapists and medical staff, as well as serves on several task forces and committees within and outside of her department, including CAPTE as the PTA onsite reviewer team member and through APTA as a member of the PTA CPI revision group. Adams primarily treats in-patients, demonstrating superior knowledge and clinical skills to provide exceptional care to patients who are often medically fragile, transferring her care to the outpatient center to improve consistency of care and assist with the transition of patients to outpatient therapy. Adams provides, fun, creative, and individualized treatment interventions successfully, involving parents and siblings in treatment sessions to optimize patient participation, resulting in exceptional goal achievement and patient outcomes,

Adams has often been recognized for her achievements and accomplishments, including receiving certificates as "Outstanding Clinical Instructor" from Southwest Tennessee Community College. She received the Advanced Proficiency for the Physical Therapist Assistant in Neuromusculoskeletal Therapy through APTA, and was featured in *Physical Therapy magazine* and in APTA's *Revised Fit Teens* magazine. In 2001, she was St Jude Children's Hospital Employee of Quarter and St Jude Hospital's Employee of the Year. She also been featured in an article in St Jude Hospital's "Corridor" as "People Who Care."

APTA is pleased to honor Janet Adams with the Outstanding Physical Therapist Assistant Award.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*I am honored to receive this award for Outstanding PTA. I am blessed to work full-time in a department at St Jude where I am supported by a Rehab team, especially the exceptional, amazing PTs who encourage, motivate, give me opportunities, and allow me to excel in areas of patient care and research, without which receiving this award would not have been possible.*

*I would like to thank Lola McCrerey, PT, and Swati Salian, PT, who have been my mentors for years. They had confidence in my abilities and potential early in my career and challenged, motivated and encouraged me to work to my full potential whether excelling in patient care, serving as a clinical instructor, or working on committees.*

*Thank you to Eddie Zeno, Director of the PTA program at SWTCC, and the Rehab team at Select Specialty Hospital for their support.*

*Finally, but not least, I want to thank my family, who has always encouraged me to strive to be the best, and whose support and encouragement continues through difficult times as well as the good times. Thank you!*



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## DEBORA K BORNMANN, PTA, BAS

Debora K Bornmann, PTA, BAS, has consistently lent her talents and her voice to the physical therapy profession via local and national involvement in trade groups, in addition to reaching out to future physical therapist assistants (PTAs) as an educator and mentor.

She works as the director of rehabilitation at Warm Springs Specialty Hospital of Victoria, TX, where she manages inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services and serves as center coordinator of clinical education. As a faculty member in the physical therapist assistant program at GateWay Community College Ms Bornmann developed course materials and lab content instructing and supervising PTA students in the classroom, lab, and via distance-education settings in the content areas of orthopedics, neurology, physical agents, rehabilitation techniques, and musculoskeletal assessment. She continues to work as adjunct faculty in the PTA Distance Education Program at GateWay. She has also taught at Rio Salado College in Tempe, and has worked in the clinical settings at Maricopa Medical Center and the Arizona Burn Center in Phoenix, in private practice with Martha Brubaker, PT, and at Casa Grande Regional Medical Center in Arizona. Ms. Bornmann earned a bachelor of applied science degree in health promotion from Northern Arizona University.

Ms Bornmann has been a member of the Arizona Chapter, serving on the Practice Act Revision and Practice Act Rules task forces, the Task Force on Utilization of Physical Therapist Assistants, and the Task Force on Legislative Action for Off-Site Supervision of the PTA. In addition, she has been chair and co-chair of the Physical Therapist Assistant Special Interest Group, and Arizona PTA Representative to the National Assembly. On the national level she is the PTA member of the Acute Care Section Board of Directors and recently served as chair of the Advisory Panel of Physical Therapist Assistants. She was a member of the Task Force for the Revision of Core Ethics Documents, served as presiding officer of the National Assembly and on the Collaboration Task Force, to name just a few volunteer positions. She has also been involved in the Neurology Section Public Relations Committee and as a participant in the section's Educational Planning Retreat, and is now a member of the Texas Chapter.

However, Ms Bornmann's service to the profession extends beyond the APTA community. She has served on the Physical Therapist Assistant Program Advisory Committee for GateWay Community College and as a PTA member of the Jurisprudence Examination Construction Committee of the State of Arizona Board of Physical Therapy and Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. When not working in the clinic or teaching, Ms Bornmann has volunteered with the Phoenix-area Special Olympics, the Casa Grande Alliance, a group that shares a vision of a safe and drug-free community, and is an ambassador for the Victoria, TX, Chamber of Commerce.

For her involvement in professional organizations, in the classroom, and in the community, APTA is pleased to recognize Ms Bornmann with the Outstanding Physical Therapist Assistant Award.

