History

Mary McMillan (deceased 1959) was a dedicated pioneer of physical therapy in the United States and abroad, the founding President of the American Physical Therapy Association, and an esteemed teacher. Ms. McMillan was born in Hyde Park, Massachusetts, but grew up in England where she received her education from the College of Physical Culture in Liverpool and worked with children under the tutelage of Sir Robert Jones. In 1918, Ms. McMillan was assigned to Walter Reed Hospital as the head reconstruction aide and there founded the first organized physical therapy department in the U.S. Army. Ms. McMillan also taught at Reed College in Oregon, where the graduates of this and other emergency programs helped to handle the peak load of patients in 1919, immediately following World War I. In 1921, Ms. McMillan established and became the founding President (serving two terms) of the American Physiotherapy Association. At this time, Ms. McMillan wrote the first American textbook on physical therapy entitled *Massage and Therapeutic Exercises*.

In 1941, as soon as Ms. McMillan heard of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, she volunteered her services at the Army Hospital in Manila and entered into her second World War. Ms. McMillan was later interned by the Japanese at the Santo Tomas Camp outside of Manila and was eventually moved to the Chapai Camp near Shanghai. In 1943, Mary McMillan was repatriated.

It would be hard to overestimate the contributions of this remarkable woman to physical therapy and to the American Physical Therapy Association. As the guiding spirit of the profession, Mary McMillan led the way toward higher standards in treatment and started physical therapists on the road toward greater professional service to their patients. As a testament of her devotion to the profession and belief in its future development, Mary McMillan made provision in her will for a trust fund "to provide scholarships for worthy students in the field of physical therapy."

Purpose

To acknowledge and honor outstanding physical therapy students who are nearing the completion of their respective program of study. The scholarship program contributes to the growth of physical therapy as a profession by recognizing individuals with superior capabilities.

In addition to the information provided in the *APTA Board of Directors' Policy and Procedures Regarding APTA Honors and Awards, Guiding Principles for Honors and Awards*:

Eligibility

1. Students may be nominated from physical therapist assistant education programs and physical therapist professional education programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) of the Association.

2. Student nominees should be in one of the following phases of their educational program:
• Physical therapist assistant education program students must be enrolled in the final year of study. For physical therapist assistant education programs that have a part-time curriculum, all nominees must be in the final year of the curriculum of that institution. Each institution must determine the minimum number of credit hours required for final year status. Based on this, all nominees must be in the final year of the curriculum to be nominated. [Must be scheduled to graduate between September 1, 2010 and August 31, 2011]

• Physical therapist professional education program students must be within 12 months of completing all requirements for graduation from the entry-level program, by the start of the September 1 Honors and Awards nomination process. [Must be scheduled to graduate between September 1, 2010 and August 31, 2011]

3. Nominations of students from an educational institution will be limited to one (1) physical therapist assistant student, and one (1) physical therapist professional education student.

Criteria for Selection

The intent of the award is to recognize those students who exhibit superior scholastic ability and potential for future professional contribution. Awards are made on a competitive basis. Recipients will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

2. Past productivity.
3. Evidence of potential contribution to physical therapy.

Procedure for Nomination

1. Nominees for the Award will be selected by the faculty and the student body of the program in which the nominee is enrolled.

2. Nomination packages must be submitted with the current enrollment verification and application forms appropriate to the category of the educational program in which the student nominee is enrolled. The current enrollment verification and application forms indicate the year in which the award nomination will be considered and must be submitted electronically via APTA’s web site (www.apta.org). All materials completed and submitted for each nomination must be received by the APTA Honors and Awards Program by 5:00 pm Eastern time on December 1, for consideration for the award.

3. Nomination packages for the Mary McMillan Scholarship Award considered by the Mary McMillan Scholarship Subcommittee of the Awards Committee will not be returned or retained and may not be resubmitted the next year for reconsideration.

4. The faculty nominator shall be responsible for reviewing and ensuring the completion of all steps within the online nomination submission process before its final submission. During the online process, the following documents will be required for upload:
A. Completed nomination form appropriate to the student nominee’s program level. If the nominee’s cumulative grade point average is not based on a grading scale of 1-4, a written explanation of that scale’s equivalence to a 1-4 grading scale must be provided.

B. Completed student application form appropriate to the student nominee’s program, with the required appended statement.

C. Two (2) letters in support of the nomination, one from a representative of the student body and one from a representative of the faculty, that specifically focuses on a nominee’s worthiness for this award, each not to exceed two (2) pages.

Procedure for Review

1. The Mary McMillan Scholarship Subcommittee of the Awards Committee will make every effort to recommend at least one physical therapist and one physical therapist assistant recipient. If the Mary McMillan Scholarship Subcommittee determines there is not a worthy nominee from one education program level, the award may be allocated to the other level.

2. The number of awards granted in any year will be determined by the Mary McMillan Scholarship Subcommittee of the Awards Committee, and will be based on the available funds and the number of nominees who meet the criteria.

Notification of Awards

1. The recipients of the awards and the directors of the programs in which they are enrolled will be notified promptly after selection by APTA’s Board of Directors.

2. Nominees who are not selected and the directors of the program in which they are enrolled will be notified of their non-selection and will be thanked for their participation.

Nature of Awards

An award of $3,000 will be granted to each physical therapist assistant education student recipient selected and $5,000 to each physical therapist professional education student recipient. Student recipients will receive their monetary awards when notified of selection and will receive certificates presented by APTA’s Board of Directors at the Association's annual conference. If the student is unable to attend conference, a representative of the student's education program may accept the certificate on the student's behalf. An official announcement of the award will also appear in an Association publication.

(Executive Department, ext 8508)

[Document updated: 2/18/2011]

Explanation of Reference Numbers:
BOD P00-00-00-00 stands for Board of Directors/month/year/page/vote in the Board of Directors Minutes; the "P" indicates that it is a position (see below). For example, BOD P11-97-06-18 means that this position can be found in the November 1997 Board of Directors minutes on Page 6 and that it was Vote 18. P: Position | S: Standard | G: Guideline | Y: Policy | R: Procedure