

Kathleen Rockefeller, PT, ScD, MPH

Professor & Research Coordinator, Physical Therapy Tampa
Faculty Residency Coordinator

Education

- 2002 Doctor of Science (ScD), Department of Work Environment, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell, MA. Concentration in ergonomics and musculoskeletal epidemiology
- 1990 Master of Public Health (MPH), School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
- 1978 Certificate in Physical Therapy (PT), Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons, New York, NY
- 1978 Master of Science (MS), Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York. Concentration in exercise physiology
- 1976 Bachelor of Arts (BA), Dance Major, Physical Education Minor, State University College, Brockport, NY

Teaching

Dr. Rockefeller's primary teaching responsibilities include the courses on Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) in the curriculum – Introduction to Evidence-Based Practice, Application of Evidence Based Practice, and Evidence-Based Capstone. She is also faculty in Systems Management (safe patient handling and mobility content) and Musculoskeletal III (occupational health physical therapy and ergonomics).

Dr. Rockefeller is the Coordinator of the Faculty Residency Program, where she also provides instruction and mentorship.

Scholarly Activities and Interests

Dr. Rockefeller has scholarly interests in a variety of areas, including the study of work-related musculoskeletal disorders in health care professionals, especially physical and occupational therapists. She has been active in studying the implementation of safe patient handling and mobility programs in rehabilitation settings. She has published work in professional journals and has delivered presentations both nationally and internationally.

Areas of Practice

Dr. Rockefeller was the regional manager for ergonomics and safety initiatives for a Fortune 500 telecommunications company, while completing her MPH at the University of Washington. She has been teaching in physical therapist programs since 1996. She designed, coordinated and instructed courses in the musculoskeletal practice area in several entry-level DPT programs. She designed and instructed the EBP sequence at two other universities before joining the faculty at Nova. One of her teaching goals is to continue to strive to make evidence-based practice and rehabilitation research relevant and interesting to physical therapist students.

Professional Activities

Dr. Rockefeller has been an APTA member since 1978; she is currently a member of the Academies of Acute Care, Education, and Orthopaedic Physical Therapy, as well as the Research and Health Policy and Administration. She is a member of several special interest groups; the Evidence-Based Practice SIG in the Research Section, and the Occupational Health and Performing Arts SIGs in the Orthopaedic Section. She has served as both the Vice-President and the Research Chair of the Occupational Health Special Interest Group. She has represented the OHSIG in national and international efforts in various areas of occupational health physical therapy and ergonomics, particularly safe patient handling and mobility. She is a founding Editorial Board member of the *International Journal of Safe Patient Handling & Mobility*. She is a Senior Manuscript Reviewer for *Physical Therapy*; and reviews for other journals and funding agencies.