

Melissa Tovin, PT, MA, PhD, PCS, CEEAA

Associate Professor , Physical Therapy - Ft. Lauderdale
Associate Professor , Bachelor of Health Science
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Education

Dr. Tovin received her degree in Physical Therapy from New York University, her Master's Degree in Applied Physiology from Columbia University, and her PhD in Higher Education from Georgia State University.

Certifications

Dr. Tovin is a Board Certified Clinical Specialist in Pediatric Physical Therapy. She is also a Certified Expert in Exercise for Aging Adults through the American Physical Therapy Association.

Teaching

Courses: PHT 6700: Intro to Research Methods and Data Analysis; PHT 6904: Research Capstone; PHT 6721: The Healthcare Educator; PHT 6817: Pediatrics I; PHT 6819: Pediatrics II; PHT 7805: Theories of Movement, Exercise and Motor Learning; PHT 7800: Dissertation; HPH 7410: Qualitative Research Design

Dr. Tovin is the lead faculty for the pediatric curriculum, which covers two semesters in the professional DPT Program. She also teaches qualitative research in the professional DPT and PhD programs, and provides dissertation advisement for PhD students. She works closely with DPT students on capstone research projects that examine wellness and prevention for individuals with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities. Additionally, Dr. Tovin supervises students in the pediatric clinic and preschool at Nova Southeastern University, and during community-based service both locally and internationally.

Dr. Tovin is Director of Residency Programs, and provides instruction and mentorship in the Faculty Residency Program.

Scholarly Activities and Interests

Dr. Tovin's research and clinical interests focus on autism spectrum disorders, exercise and wellness in special populations, and education. She is currently the lead investigator on two grant funded projects. One is designed to examine the outcomes of interprofessional education, and the other is focused on quality of life outcomes for individuals with autism spectrum disorder. She has several publications in professional journals, has authored book chapters, and regularly presents at national conferences.

Areas of Practice

Dr. Tovin has 30 years of experience as a physical therapist working in a variety of settings including adult neurological and orthopedic rehabilitation, sports medicine, acute care, geriatrics, home care, and pediatrics. Over the past 20 years, she has focused primarily in treating pediatric clients in the school, out-patient clinic, community and home settings. Currently, Dr. Tovin provides services to pediatric patients in the Nova Southeastern University clinic and preschool, and through community-based programs. She is involved in Florida Special Olympics as a team coach, and is trained as a Fun Fitness program provider.

Professional Activity Summary

Dr. Tovin has been an APTA member since 1986, and is currently a member of the Research Section, and the Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy. Dr. Tovin is a senior manuscript reviewer for *Physical Therapy*, the journal of the American Physical Therapy Association, and also reviews manuscripts for the *Strength and Conditioning Journal*, and *Journal of Physical Therapy Education*.