



ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS NOW

Sports Medicine of Atlanta, Inc



MANUAL THERAPY FELLOWSHIP AND “DPT”

SportsMedicine of Atlanta’s tenet is to advance orthopaedics and manual physical therapy by teaching, through academic research, and by providing world-class care. SportsMedicine of Atlanta strives to provide patients with the highest quality of care to ensure maximal functional outcomes. State licensed physical therapists provide a thorough and individual evaluation, examination, diagnosis, prognosis and intervention plan aimed at the treatment of movement impairments and their associated functional limitations and/or disabilities. Additionally, the physical therapists and other health specialists at SportsMedicine of Atlanta are dedicated to the enhancement of movement performance, the education of the community concerning prevention of injury and promotion of wellness, the education of entry-level and post-professional doctoral physical therapy students, the development and utilization of evidence based medicine in patient care and promotion of the positive evolution of health care. With these goals and aspirations, and in light of the APTA’s 1998 endorsement of post-professional fellowship education through credentialed programs, SportsMedicine of Atlanta has taken the next logical step: implementation of a fellowship program that offers physical therapists the opportunity to enhance their skills and strive for excellence in their profession. The major focus of the clinical fellowship is to accelerate the fellow’s acquisition of expertise in examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, intervention and management of patients with musculoskeletal impairments and functional limitations. It is the goal and objective for the fellow to completely diagnose movement-related dysfunction, classify and label clusters of impairments and engage in the scientific study of diagnostic procedures and therapeutic interventions.

SportsMedicine of Atlanta conducts this Clinical Fellowship program at their out-patient clinic in Snellville, Georgia. A limited number of 12-month fellowships are available which, when combined with selected didactic courses provided through the University of St. Augustine, meet the requirements for the transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy degree, Manual Therapy Certification and eligibility requirements for ABPTS Board Certification in Orthopaedics, as well as the AAOMPT Fellow requirements.

1. **What is Fellowship?** Fellowship is a mentored clinical learning experience designed to produce a master clinician in a specialized area of practice. SportsMedicine of Atlanta offers a fellowship in Manual Physical Therapy.
2. **Who may apply?** Minimal eligibility requirements for acceptance into the program include: state acquired licensing as a physical therapist within the United States, background which could include Orthopaedic Specialist Certification or completion of a residency in a specialty area, substantial clinical experience in a specialty area, demonstrable clinical skills within a particular specialty area, completion of prerequisite S1 E1 or MF1 courses prior to commencing the fellowship, and the applicant being intent on completing a Master’s of Science or DPT degree with the University of St. Augustine. Scholastic credit for fellowship is earned in the MScPT program as course MT 6350, and in the DPT program as course DPT 7825. Desirable applicants include those that have completed an extended internship or externship under the direct clinical supervision of a Clinical Specialist in Orthopaedic Physical Therapy, possess superior verbal and written communication skills, have experience in data collection, analysis and publication and possess strong fundamentals in the principles of clinical reasoning and the application of manual examination and interventions. Preference will be given to the most qualified candidates.
3. **Goals of Fellowship.** The goal of SportsMedicine of Atlanta’s Fellowship Program is to graduate master clinicians who safely administer quality interventions that fulfill the needs of each patient. The goal is to produce fellows who are competent, reflective, empathetic and autonomous practitioners who, by virtue of their critical thinking, clinical experience and diagnostic proficiency and commitment to professionalism, will represent the best clinicians in the physical therapy profession.
4. **Responsibility and Learning Activities.** Fellows are responsible for their progress in the fellowship program. Fellowship is a demanding clinical learning experience designed to bring out the best in each candidate. Expected learning experiences will be developed at the beginning of the fellowship during discussions between the fellow and the clinical faculty. However, both the faculty and the fellow must remain flexible to possible changes that may occur in the schedule.
5. **Organizational Structure.** The fellow is hired and paid by SportsMedicine of Atlanta, Inc upon the joint recommendation of the clinical fellowship director and the University of St. Augustine Fellow Coordinator. Most employment issues will be between the fellow and the clinical fellowship director and most academic and fellowship issues will be between the fellow and the didactic fellowship program coordinator.

SportsMedicine of Atlanta is credentialed by the American Physical Therapy Association as a postprofessional clinical fellowship program for physical therapists in Orthopaedic Manual Therapy.

6. **Learning Objectives.** Each fellow is required to develop a learning agreement prior to commencing the fellowship. This agreement will be reviewed with the clinical fellowship coordinator at the beginning of the fellowship and will be modified to reflect the learning needs and the offerings of the fellowship. Modification of the agreement may take place from time to time. These learning objectives are to include the type of clinical skills or other specific information or area the fellow wishes to focus upon during the fellowship, and to outline the faculty with whom he or she wishes to work.
7. **Journal.** All fellows must keep a detailed journal documenting the clinical and didactic learning activities. All journal entries must be signed by an appropriate member of the faculty within thirty days of the experience. Journal documentation is required for the award of credit, and must be available to the University for oversight and accreditation purposes and, when completed, will be retained by both the University of St. Augustine and SportsMedicine of Atlanta.

Journal Documentation may include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Clinical consultation with faculty
 - b. Direct patient care supervision
 - c. Case presentations
 - d. Clinical meetings
 - e. Journal Club meetings' minutes and critiques
8. **Journal Club.** All fellows must participate in the Journal Club, serving as chairperson or co-chair of the Club, and are responsible for reviewing Journals that have been received in the previous month and writing a critique and/or abstract of the selected articles. Formally, ten journal articles must be presented per SportsMedicine of Atlanta criteria during the fellow's tenure.
9. **Case Presentation.** All fellows must make a minimum of ten case presentations (oral and written) over the term of the fellowship as per criteria set forth by SportsMedicine of Atlanta.
10. **Case Load.** Fellows shall endeavor to schedule a minimum case load of 15 patients per day.
11. **SportsMedicine of Atlanta Staff Meetings.** All fellows must attend SportsMedicine of Atlanta staff meetings conducted by the director of patient care and/or office manager.
12. **Other Learning Activities (Not required, but encouraged).**
 - a. Attend and participate in the Atlanta Orthopaedic/Manual Therapy Study Group.
 - b. Attend and participate in State and national APTA meetings and activities.
 - c. Participate in GAPTA Research Committee activities.
 - d. Provide in-service training for Sports Medicine of Atlanta Staff.
 - e. Supervise entry-level PT interns.
 - f. Initiate and be actively involved with quality assurance and peer review mechanisms.
13. **Period of Fellowship.** The fellowship period is no less than twelve months/1500 patient care hours, which may be renewable for an additional length of time. It is envisioned that during any twelve-month period the therapist should complete sufficient requirements for membership and, hopefully, meet all requirements of an APTA and AAOMPT credentialed fellowship. Fellows are expected to complete manual therapy certification requirements and all degree requirements during the fellowship period.
14. **Hours and Terms of Employment.** The position is a salaried position consisting of a minimum of forty plus hours per week and includes weekend coverage in the clinic.
15. **Salary and Educational Benefits.** The salary shall be approximately 50% of the going rate paid to a new graduate in the Atlanta, Georgia area. In addition, the fellow shall be eligible to receive a package of benefits offered to SportsMedicine of Atlanta employees.
16. **Restrictions of Completion.** Those therapists terminating or completing fellowship for any reason whatsoever are restricted from practicing within Gwinnett County for any employer other than SportsMedicine of Atlanta, Inc for a period of two years following such termination or completion, as such practice would compete with the practice at SportsMedicine of Atlanta and potentially limit the numbers that can be admitted into an already small fellowship program.
17. **Ownership Opportunities.** Fellows who satisfactorily complete fellowship requirements (DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT, MTC) will be considered for long term employment, including start-up partnership (ownership) opportunities for their own clinics in the Atlanta area.
18. **Who to contact?** If you are interested in the SportsMedicine of Atlanta Fellowship Program leading to the DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT, MTC, please contact:

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