SPA Awards Committee

Award of Merit – Clinical Education

Terms of Reference

2026 Version

PURPOSE: Awarded to an SPA member for:

- Outstanding contribution to the Clinical Education of U of S MPT Physical Therapy students.
- Recognize and honour an individual who contributes expertise and time to support and promote the clinical education of students, with direct student supervision and/or program development in clinical education as an ongoing focus in their professional life.

HISTORY: Established in 2006 and based on the CPA Clinical Education Award. In 2008 CPA adopted a position statement in support of clinical education of physical therapy students. It states: "Clinical education is a critical component of physiotherapy education…." Clinical education in the health sciences, including physiotherapy, is rapidly evolving as a recognized area of clinical expertise with a defined knowledge base, scientific peer-reviewed journals and a well-established national network for the establishment, scheduling, setting of expectations and monitoring of clinical practicums and instructors.

CRITERIA: Must be a member in good standing with CPA and SPA.
Must have a history of high professional standards in the clinical education of physical therapy students over a period of at least 5 years, gaining respect of colleagues and students along the way.

In addition, the following will be considered an ideal candidate:

- Demonstrated high standards of professionalism and commitment to students in the role of professional mentor and/or leadership in promoting quality clinical education programs for students in health service delivery programs.
- Demonstrated a spirit of cooperation and collaboration with the School of Rehabilitation Science (formerly the School of Physical Therapy), University of Saskatchewan.
- Committed to excellence and/or innovation in clinical teaching and/or administration in a health service agency (i.e., clinical practice, research, publishing, managerial).
- Demonstrated willingness to apply innovative models of clinical education.
- Works collaboratively with the School of Rehabilitation Science in curriculum and/or program development. This may be demonstrated in a variety of activities such as:

- Clinical Education Committee meetings or other School of Rehabilitation Science committees.
- Clinical education policy development.
- Advisory capacity for clinical education program processes.
- Development and implementation of a clinical education program in a service agency.
- Engagement in planning and implementation of other School of Rehabilitation Science programs.
- Serving as a positive role model for students and demonstrating productive and positive student-mentor relationships as attested by students.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE:

Nominated by the U of S School of Rehabilitation Science yearly.

Nominations must be submitted in written form and must include:

- Name and contact information of nominator.
- Name and contact information of a seconder who would support the nomination.
- Name and contact information for nominee.
- Two letters of support:
  - One from a current or former student.
  - One from a person with a faculty appointment (i.e.: full-time faculty, clinical faculty, part-time faculty) in the School of Rehabilitation Science.

Deadline for submissions: February 13th, 2026

SELECTION OF RECIPIENT:

Made by the SPA Awards Committee, in consultation with the U of S School of Rehabilitation Science.

A maximum of two (2) awards per year may be awarded:

- (1) For instructors working in the urban centres of Regina and Saskatoon.
- (1) For instructors working in rural areas outside of Regina and Saskatoon.

PRESENTATION:

Annually – At the SPA Annual General Meeting. Award winners will be contacted by the committee prior to the AGM and invited to attend the awards presentation and make a brief response to the award received. A complimentary entry for the awards presentation will be provided to both the award nominator and the recipient.

FORM OF AWARD:

Framed Certificate and $50 Value Prize