

Monica L. Lytson, MD, MHPE
Vice Dean for Education
Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons
Rolf H. Scholdager Professor of Medicine

Joel Stein, MD
Simon Baruch Professor
Chair, Department of Rehabilitation and Regenerative Medicine at CUIMC

Jean Fitzpatrick, PT, PhD, MHS, OCS
Director, Programs in Physical Therapy
Vice Chair & Professor, Department of Rehabilitation and Regenerative Medicine at CUIMC
Assistant Dean, Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons

FACULTY

Laurel Daniels Abbruzzese, PT, EdD, FNAP
Professor
Director, Performing Arts Fellowship
Director, Equity & Justice in Curricular Affairs

Trella Allen, PT, DPT, OCS
Lecturer
PT Faculty Practice - Tarrytown

Colleen M. Brough, PT, DPT, PhD, OCS
Assistant Professor
Associate Director, Student Retention & Advancement
Director, Columbia RunLab

Jennifer Cunningham, PT, DPT, GCS
Assistant Professor
Director, Clinical Education

Lauren Dalal, PT, DPT
Lecturer
PT Faculty Practice - Tarrytown

Lobna Elsarafy, PT, PhD, NCS
Assistant Professor

Robert Evander, PhD
Assistant Professor

Jean Fitzpatrick, PT, PhD, MHS, OCS
Professor
Director, Programs in Physical Therapy
Vice Chair, Dept. of Rehabilitation & Regenerative Medicine
Assistant Dean, Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons

Emma Fountain, PT, DPT
Lecturer
PT Faculty Practice - Tarrytown

Wing Fu, PT, PhD, MA
Assistant Professor

Michael Gevertzman, PT, DPT, NCS
Assistant Professor

Dalfry Gutierrez, PT, DPT
Lecturer
PT Faculty Practice - CUIMC

Michael Johnson, PT, DSc, OCS, SCS
Associate Professor
Director, Orthopedic Residency

Cara H. Kanner, PT, DPT, EdD, PCS
Assistant Professor

Stacy A. Kinirons, PT, PhD, MPH
Assistant Professor
Associate Director, Programs in Physical Therapy

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Gina Frassetto, MPA
Director, Finance and Administration

Jason M. Bachan, BA, MS
Program Affairs Coordinator

Stephanie Buraczewski, BS
Admissions & Clinical Education Coordinator

Aimee DeGrazia, BA
Admissions Coordinator & Executive Assistant

Nicole Lockwood
Administrative Aide

Rachel Scott, MA, DELTA
Health Professions Education Learning Specialist

Darlene Hernandez
Practice Coordinator

Erika Alvarez
Practice Associate

Chelsea Franco
Practice Associate

Brittany Houlihan
Practice Associate

Sheina Rodriguez
Practice Associate

Angel Villanueva
Practice Associate

Jacqueline Montes, PT, EdD, NCS
Professor
Director, Research

Ashwini Rao, OTR, EdD, FAOTA
Professor, G.H. Sergievsky Center
Director, Doctor of Education in Movement Science
(Physical Therapy)

Joseph Rivera, PT, DPT
Lecturer
PT Faculty - Tarrytown

Libby Rush-LaRue, PT, DPT
Lecturer
PT Faculty - CUIMC

Rami Said, PT, DPT, PhD, MEng, OCS
Assistant Professor
Director, PT Faculty Practices

Samantha Sawade, PT, DPT, PCS
Assistant Professor

Kynaston Schultz, PT, DPT, OCS
Instructor
Clinical Manager, PT Faculty Practices - CUIMC

Kimberly Smith, PT, DPT, OCS
Instructor
Clinic Manager, PT Faculty Practice - Tarrytown

Mahlon K. Stewart, PT, DPT, PhD, GCS
Assistant Professor
Director, Clinical Education

Danielle Struble, PT, DPT, PhD
Assistant Professor
Associate Director, Student Recruitment

Alexei Vitrak, PT, DPT, OCS
Lecturer
PT Faculty Practice - CUIMC

Rebekah Wallach, PT, DPT, OCS
Instructor
PT Faculty Practice - Tarrytown

Christopher K. Wong, PT, PhD, OCS
Professor
Curriculum Coordinator, Orthopedic Residency

Lisa Yoon, PT, DPT, PCS
Assistant Professor

 **COLUMBIA** | VAGELOS COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS
PROGRAMS IN
PHYSICAL THERAPY

CONVOCATION & AWARDS CEREMONY

2026
Class of



TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026
ALUMNI AUDITORIUM
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

RECEPTION
50 HAVEN AVE.
12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL

<i>Welcome by the Program Director</i>	Jean Fitzpatrick
<i>Land Acknowledgment</i>	Sydney Takeda
<i>Welcome by the Vice Dean</i>	Monica Lypson
<i>Welcome by the Chair</i>	Joel Stein
<i>Keynote Speaker</i>	Michael Johnson
<i>FIERCE Commitment to Social Justice</i>	Angelica Coleman & Joanna Samuel
<i>Class President</i>	Katelyn Gonzalez
<i>Class Video</i>	Sydney Takeda

PROGRAM AWARDS

<i>Faculty Award for Academic Excellence</i>	Wing Fu
<i>Mary E. Callahan Award</i>	Rami Said
<i>Joan E. Edelstein Award</i>	Colleen Brough
<i>Risa Granick Award</i>	Danielle Struble & Colleen Brough
<i>Marcia Ebert Award for Clinical Excellence</i>	Mahlon Stewart & Jennifer Cunningham
<i>Faculty Award for Excellence in Adult Neurorehabilitation</i>	Lobna Elsarafy & Michael Gevertzman
<i>Faculty Award for Excellence in Adult Orthopedics</i>	Michael Johnson & Rami Said
<i>Alfred DiMarino Award for Excellence in Pediatrics</i>	Lisa Yoon & Samantha Sawade
<i>Excellence in Research Award</i>	Ashwini Rao
<i>Excellence in Teaching Award</i>	Stacy Kinirons
<i>Leadership in Clinical Education Award</i>	Mahlon Stewart & Jennifer Cunningham
<i>Debbie Clayton Krasinski Award for Lifetime Achievement</i>	Clare Bassile

CALLING OF NAMES AND HOODING

Mahlon Stewart, Stacy Kinirons & Laurel Abbruzzese

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

James Sinodinos

RECESSIONAL

CLASS OF 2026

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Jasmine Ahmed	Josephine Martinez
Roy Ayash	Delaney McNamar
Derrick Aznar	Mackay MorganArmstrong
Ella Bergman †	Meredith Mottern †
Tyler Beriault †	Ashley Mulhare
Ben Bleier	Cameryn Murakami †
Alexandra Bock	Gabriel Nakano †
Andrea Boe †	Kimberly Ng
Caitlin Carberry	Virak Nhek
Tae Jin Chung †	Adelyn O'Dell
Lauren Cleary	Alexandra Peiliker
Angelica Coleman	Athena Politis
Austin Davis	Rachel Portnay
Dorothy Dong	Matthew Raft
Ryan Erich	Jillian Reiner
Mackenzie Gaynor	Joseph Romeo †
Anna George †	Joanna Samuel
Gabriella Gilgorri	Meghan Schiffer †
Katelyn Gonzalez †	Nathaniel Serrurier †
Alana Greenspan	Rachel Stromberg †
Marjorie Gross †	Kaiyue Sun
Joshua Harris	Yiheng Sun
Katarina Henselder	Sydney Takeda
Karen Iovine	Claire Tang †
Madison Isaak	Jize Tao †
Kayla Kaussner	Hailey TenHuisen †
Christopher Kim	Eric Velazquez
Elizabeth Krauss †	Elise Walker
Michelle Krug	Thomas Wallace
Natalie Laryea	Eva Widmaier
Ji Ho Lee	Christos Xenophontos
Avery Lincoln †	Bryan Xu
Anna Link	Terence Xu
Maggie Lung	Weiyang Xu
Michaela Magpile †	Annina Zelkin †

HONORS (GPA ≥ 3.85) †