



2018-2019 Pitt-Marquette Challenge Fact Sheet

The Student-Led Marquette Challenge Raises Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars for Physical Therapy Research Each Year

The Pittsburgh-Marquette Challenge is a grassroots, student-led fundraising effort to advance the mission of the Foundation for Physical Therapy. Each year, hundreds of physical therapist (PT) and physical therapist assistant (PTA) students, with the support of their program directors and community, hold fundraising events across the U.S. to fund physical therapy research.

About the Challenge

- The first Challenge was organized by physical therapist students at Marquette University in 1989.
- In the past 30 years, more than 300 schools have participated, raising more than \$4 million for physical therapy research.
- Funds raised through the Challenge support grants and the rigorous scientific review process for Foundation funding.
- The winner of the Marquette Challenge gets co-hosting rights for the following year's Challenge. The University of Pittsburgh won the 2017-2018 Challenge by raising \$50,552 – hence the 2018-2019 Pitt-Marquette Challenge.

About the Foundation for Physical Therapy

- The Foundation for Physical Therapy is the only national nonprofit solely dedicated to funding physical therapy research and researchers.
- The Foundation funds grants, scholarships, and fellowships using a review process modeled after the National Institutes of Health.
- The Foundation has awarded \$17M to more than 540 researchers from 41 states and the District of Columbia.
- Many of today's leading researchers got their start with support from the Foundation. Foundation-funded researchers have gone on to secure more than \$804 million in follow-on funding to continue their research.

About Physical Therapy Research

- Physical therapy improves the quality of life for people living with illness, injury, disability, or the complexities of aging.
- Physical therapy research helps PTs and PTAs deliver the best and most effective care.
- Getting started in physical therapy research is not easy. Early career researchers often compete with other practices and established investigators for limited funding. Early career funding and mentorship develops the new generation of leaders.