

## **Ohio State Doctoral Students Awarded Foundation of Physical Therapy Research Grants**

Four PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences students were awarded competitive Foundation for Physical Therapy Research Promotion of Doctoral Studies (PODS) I & II Scholarships. Julia Mazzarella, PT, DPT, Kimberley Scott, PT, DPT, and Christin Zwolski, PT, DPT received PODS I scholarships of \$7,500 and Rachel Bican, PT, DPT received a PODS II award of \$15,000 to support their doctoral studies.

**Dr. Julia Mazzarella's** study advised by Jill Heathcock, PT, PhD is entitled "Effects of constraint on reaching behavior in infants with and without neonatal stroke: a kinematic assessment." The aim of the study is to determine how constraint affects the quality of upper extremity movement during the age of reach onset and development in infants with typical development compared with infants with neonatal stroke at 3-6 months of age. Her study will inform how interventions like constraint-induced movement therapy might impact early upper extremity and reach development in infants with neonatal stroke.

**Dr. Kimberley Scott's** study advised by Jill Heathcock, PT, PhD is entitled "The impact of parental engagement on enacting a parent coaching intervention for upper extremity function in very young children with congenital hemiplegia." This international, multi-site, randomized controlled trial will investigate the efficacy of a parent coaching intervention for infants with hemiplegia. Her work will focus on comprehensive assessment of intervention fidelity, including parents as participants which has never been studied before.

**Dr. Christin Zwolski's** study advised by Laura Schmitt, PT, MPT, PhD is entitled "The impact of anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction on the physical activity profile of young athletes." This study will investigate the physical activity profiles and factors that influence physical activity following anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction (ACLR) among the population of young, active patients. Her research will test the hypothesis that components of physical literacy, including knee-related physical competence, psychological readiness, and motivation contribute to the quality and quantity of physical activity following ACLR among young athletes.

**Dr. Rachel Bican's** study advised by Jill Heathcock, PT, PhD is entitled "High intensity Rehabilitation to improve Postural Performance in very young children with moderate-to-severe cerebral palsy (HAPPY study)." Children with severe cerebral palsy (CP) have deficits in postural control that prevent them from meeting important developmental milestones, such as sitting independently and reaching. The aims of this research are to characterize segmental postural control in children <2 years old with severe CP and to establish the efficacy of targeted, high intensity therapeutic interventions to improve mobility, play, self-care and quality of life for these children and their families.