

Brian J. McKiernan, PT, PhD



Teaching / Research / Service

I am a Professor and the Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy Education. My clinical background is in treatment of neuromuscular disorders and I have been involved in physical therapist education for the last 21 years. I currently teach neuroscience and physical therapy management of neuromuscular disorders in our entry-level DPT program and I try to follow the lead of Socrates who said, "Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel."

Although my doctoral research focused on how the brain organizes and controls functional movements, my most recent research has focused on using computers and new electronic technology to enhance student and patient learning. My newest project involves the use of affordable video analysis software to enhance clinical assessment of functional activities.

I'm involved in a number of community activities. The most fun is "balance class" with stroke survivors at the American Stroke Foundation (Mission, KS). Every Friday I travel with a small group of PT students to the American Stroke Foundation building. We engage a group of stroke survivors in an hour of exercises and activities designed to improve stability and reduce falls. We follow two simple rules, 1. Nobody falls; 2. Everybody has fun!

Recent Publications / Presentations

Brain Rules!, Kansas Physical Therapy Association Student Conclave, Kansas City, KS, September 12, 2009. (Invited Presentation)

Cowart IW, Webb M, & **McKiernan BJ**. The Effects of an Audience Response System on Exam Scores in a Physical and Occupational Therapy Neuroscience Course. Poster presentation at Missouri Physical Therapy Association spring meeting, Lake Ozark, MO, April 2009. (Poster Presentation)

Using a Wiki to Organize Department Policies, Procedures and Shared Information. Rockhurst University Fall Faculty Assembly, Kansas City, MO, August 17, 2009. (Invited Presentation)

Survey Says...Audience Response Systems in the Classroom. Rockhurst University, Center for Excellence in Teach and Learning, Kansas City, MO, March 26, 2009. (Invited Presentation)

Griffin, D.M., Hudson, H.M., Belhaj-Saif, A., **McKiernan, B.J.**, Cheney, P.D. (2008). Do Corticomotoneuronal Cells Predict Target Muscle EMG Activity? *Journal of Neurophysiology*, 99(3):1169-986.

Santos, M., Zahner, L.H., **McKiernan, B.J.**, Mahnken, J.D., Quaney, B. (2006). Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation Improves Severe Hand Dysfunction for Individuals With Chronic Stroke: A Pilot Study. *J. Neurol. Phys. Ther.*, 30(4): 175-183.

Pohl, P.S., Froelich-Grobe, K., **McKiernan, B.J.**, Vacek, K.M., Donnelly, M., Gilmore Gaughan, J. (2006). Access to polling places in the 2004 Presidential Election: the experience of one metropolitan midwest city. *Am J Occupational Ther.*, 60(4).

Education

B.S., Journalism, University of Kansas, 1978

B.S., Physical Therapy, University of Kansas, 1985

Ph.D., Physiology, University of Kansas, 1998

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