Utah Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Residency Program

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

To whom it may concern:

__________________________ is applying for the Utah Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Residency Program in Salt Lake City. This residency program is a collaboration of the University of Utah Department of Physical Therapy, University Orthopaedic Center, and the Salt Lake City VA Medical Center. The resident will be an employee of one of these health care organizations and will participate in a rigorous program intended to rapidly progress a novice PT to an advanced orthopaedic clinician, which will include focused mentoring, advanced orthopaedic physical therapy didactics, clinical research, and community education and service. The resident will qualify to sit for the Orthopaedic Certified Specialist board examination upon successful completion of the program. We expect to have many well qualified applicants and, as much as possible, we wish to determine in advance which of our applicants is most likely to succeed in a program of this intensity. With that in mind, please address the questions below honestly. Please add to your letter any other insight that could help us make this difficult decision. Letters must be received by Feb 1.

Thank you,

Misha Bradford, PT, DPT, OCS
Director, Utah Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Residency Program

Questions to address:
1. How do you know this applicant?
   a. How well do you know this applicant; how well can you judge his or her qualifications?
2. Please rate the applicant on the following characteristics on a scale from 0-10 in comparison to expectations of an entry-level PT (0 is poor, 5 is average, 10 is high / exceeds entry-level expectations); please include specific examples or explanation as appropriate or note whether you’ve had insufficient exposure to the applicant to make a judgment about a particular characteristic
   a. Likelihood of succeeding in a rigorous didactic and clinical education orthopaedic PT residency program?
   b. Self-awareness? Ability to self-correct?
   c. Ability to accomplish tasks without supervision?
   d. Academic and/or clinical performance in comparison to his or her peers?
   e. Clinical reasoning?
   f. Entry level skill in performing orthopaedic manual examination and treatment?
   g. Response to feedback?
   h. Understanding and application of the principles of evidence-guided clinical practice?
   i. Ability to get along with peers, supervisors, and patients?
   j. General professionalism (behavior, language, dress, timeliness, self-motivation, dedication to the profession, etc)?

Please submit your letter of recommendation on official institution letterhead by Feb 1 to:

Utah Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Residency Program
C/O Misha Bradford, University of Utah, Department of Physical Therapy
520 Wakara Way
Salt Lake City, UT 84108-1213

OR

submit via email from your institution email address to misha.bradford@hsc.utah.edu

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