



University of Colorado
Anschutz Medical Campus

Physical Therapy Program

School of Medicine
Department of Physical Medicine
& Rehabilitation

Mail Stop C244
13121 E. 17th Ave, #3108
Aurora, CO 80045

o 303 724 9170

f 303 724 9016

www.medschool.ucdenver.edu/pt

Oct 20, 2017

Institute of Translational Health Sciences
850 Republican St
Seattle, WA 98109

**RE: Mentor Statement for Ryan L. Mizner, PT, PhD
ITHS Translational Research Scholars Program**

Dear Scholars Application review team,

It is my pleasure to write a letter of support and mentor statement for Ryan Mizner's application for the ITHS Translational Research Scholars Program. I have known Dr. Mizner for 15 years now since our time together in PhD training at the University of Delaware. I have particularly enjoyed working with Ryan because he is a tremendously talented and innovative clinical scientist. I can confidently state that his work and efforts have helped to optimize modern clinical practice for patients with total knee arthroplasty and anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction.

One of his strengths in research stems from his active engagement in clinical practice. As such, has served as an incredible resource to many like me because of his keen clinical insights that have helped design meaningful research questions. He consistently demonstrates a remarkable aptitude to apply his clinical experience to help better develop our collaborative science efforts. I have seen how his imaginative yet pragmatic approach is well received by clinicians in translational activities as we have taught continuing education courses together.

Dr. Mizner and I have collaborated on several clinical research studies and we already communicate regularly about his ongoing scholarly endeavors. In particular, we recently published work focused on methods to quantify muscle recruitment and coordination patterning during physical performance tasks following joint arthroplasty using electromyography. Dr. Mizner's practical and informative insights shaped the foundation of the interpretation of our results. He consistently has shown remarkably strong writing skills with a growing number of manuscripts and presentations at national conferences. He has a reputation for consistently producing a wide breadth of quality publications when he receives extramural grant support that spans multiple disciplines and garners a high rate of citations.

My clinical research focuses on identifying, integrating and advancing innovative evidence-based medicine rehabilitation solutions for older adults through highly effective research methods and partnerships. My research uses a multifaceted approach to evaluate intervention strategies designed to enhance the effectiveness of rehabilitation in adult patient populations. More specifically, I have participated in the design, implementation, and publication of a variety of clinical research studies involving patients before and after joint arthroplasty. I have successfully completed numerous randomized clinical trials with patients following joint arthroplasty (e.g. NIH R01 HD065900, NIH R03 AR054538, NIH K23 AG029978). These studies have explored whether innovative surgical and rehabilitation strategies improve physical function after joint arthroplasty. I have also recently completed

an investigation exploring distinct phenotypes with knee osteoarthritis (NIH R21 AG044710) I am currently funded through 9 multi-year extramural grant awards that focus on clinically relevant rehabilitation paradigms in medically complex, older adult patient populations. A complete list of my 100 publications listed within PubMed can be found at: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/1XcQ1I_WY_YAH/bibliography/46164738/public/?sort=date&direction=descending

I am deeply committed to mentoring Ryan Mizner in his proposed career development work, especially in the areas of pragmatic trial methodologies and grant writing. I have been primary mentor for 6 PhD students and 5 post-doctoral fellow trainees who have all secured academic appointments and have all demonstrated a history of productivity (publications, presentations, grants, etc). Evidence of my experience as a mentor is supported by a record of accomplishment of my trainees securing over 40 mentor grants. I am both honored and humbled to receive the Outstanding Research Mentor Award for the Clinical Science Program (2009) and an Excellence in Doctoral Mentoring Award from the University of Colorado (2016).

I believe Dr. Mizner has a unique and novel means to ask clinical research questions when applying his custom unweighting system to enhance motor learning and alleviate fear when retraining injured athletes. My favorable opinion of Ryan's research acumen is shared by several physical therapy research foundations. He received the only research grant out of a pool of over 30 application for the Foundation for Physical Therapy's grant cycle. Dr. Mizner has developed favorable and sound preliminary data from these investigations which will serve him well in his future pursuit of R-level grant funding with the NIH.

To help Dr. Mizner achieve his development goals, I agree to regular meetings with him at our annual scientific conferences such as the February Combined Sections Meeting of the APTA. I also agree to a monthly Skype meeting as described by the Scholars Core program materials on the ITHS website. I agree to help guide his work by reading and commenting on his grant submission materials to help Ryan successfully obtain R-level grants from the NIH. In addition, Dr. Mizner has dedicated resources in his budget to visit us in Denver for face-to-face meeting as part of an on-site grant retreat in 2018. Two years ago, I invited Ryan to help share his expertise as an external reviewer for a scientific innovations retreat. He provided excellent contributions and left a positive impression with all who attended our retreat. My students and trainees were particularly impressed with his keen intellect and insightful questions and comments.

In summary, it is clear to me when I appraise Dr. Mizner's accomplishments and proposal idea that he will be an ideal candidate to receive support from the ITHS Scholars Program. I am confident that his work will enhance clinical practice to better patient outcomes. Therefore, I give him my highest overall recommendation, and I encourage you to take advantage of his application to include him into the incoming cohort of new Scholars. I am confident that Ryan will successfully obtain R-level funding with his research agenda.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Stevens-Lapsley, PT, PhD
Professor
University of Colorado
Physical Therapy Program