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National Training Center physical therapist earns orthopaedic board certification

Clermont, Fla. – National Training Center physical therapist, John Scandura, PT, MSPT, CSCS, recently earned board certification as an orthopaedic certified specialist (OCS) from the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA).

The APTA is a national professional organization that represents more than 72,000 members. Its goal is to foster advancements in physical therapy practice, research and education. The APTA specialist certification is a process by which the physical therapist builds on a broad base of professional education and practice to develop a greater depth of knowledge and skills related to a particular area of practice.

To earn the certification, applicants must pass a seven and a half hour test to demonstrate their knowledge. Along with a year and a half of studying, Scandura had to have a minimum of 2,000 hours in an orthopaedic setting. The certification lasts for 10 years, at which time therapists must take a new test to recertify.

“I always knew I wanted to be in outpatient rehabilitation,” commented Scandura. “When I finished physical therapy school, I set my next goal to become board certified in orthopaedic physical therapy.”

Scandura earned his graduate degree from the University of Central Florida’s Physical Therapy program and worked in skilled nursing, subacute and acute care for four years as a physical therapy assistant. In 2003, he joined Orlando Regional Medical Center, where he worked in acute care until joining the National Training Center’s Outpatient Rehabilitation in January of 2006.

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“John has provided leadership in clinical expertise, championed our clinical education program and has been a consistent mentor for new staff members,” said South Lake Hospital Outpatient Rehabilitation Manager Leah Dearman, PT, MS, SCS. “He also serves on the employee retention committee, volunteers at National Training Center events and is always a perfect example of exemplary customer service.”

Dearman also holds a board certification from APTA as a sports certified specialist (SCS), which she received in 2006. She is the only SCS registered in Lake County according to the APTA website and Scandura is only one of two orthopaedic certified specialists in Lake County.

“The National Training Center is the perfect place for me to utilize my board certification,” Scandura added. “We see such a variety of orthopaedic patients from young athletes to professional water skiers to those receiving total knee and hip replacements. Our goal for each person is the same, to get them back to being healthy and active, whether that’s competing professionally or playing a leisurely round of golf.”

South Lake Hospital’s Outpatient Rehabilitation is located in the National Training Center and at a second location across from the main hospital. For more information on outpatient rehabilitation, please call 352.241.7144, ext. 4600 or visit www.southlakehospital.com.

South Lake Hospital is a not-for-profit acute care community hospital, in partnership with Orlando Health. South Lake Hospital has been providing quality healthcare services to the South Lake County for over 60 years. For additional information about South Lake Hospital visit www.southlakehospital.com.

For more information on the APTA, please visit www.apta.org.

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