

November 16-17, 2017

ITEM 177-1004-R1117

Request for authorization to confer the title of Professor Emeritus of Physical Therapy on Charles T. Leonard – University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Charles T. Leonard from the faculty of the University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 26 years of dedicated and valued service by requesting that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of Higher Education.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Leonard received his master's degree from Duke University in Physical Therapy, and a Doctorate in Neuroscience from The Medical College of Pennsylvania. He received a National Institutes of Health post-doctoral fellowship to study at The Nobel Institute of Neurophysiology in Stockholm, Sweden. Prior to his academic career, Professor Leonard founded and directed Tri-County Rehabilitation Centers, a series of out-patient physical rehabilitation centers located in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware that employed over 20 therapists and consulting physicians.

Dr. Leonard joined the faculty of the School of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Science in 1990 and quickly rose to the rank of Associate Professor in 1994 and then Professor in 2000. Dr. Leonard was among the most popular of instructors within the school throughout his tenure at UM. He provided instruction across the DPT curriculum with specialties including statistics, neurology, and psychology. During his tenure, he also pioneered well received trends courses including Equine Physical Therapy. His student evaluations consistently ranked him as an excellent teacher, noting him as knowledgeable, engaged, challenging, and articulate.

Dr. Leonard's research focused on the use of clinical neurophysiological techniques such as electromyography and transcranial magnetic stimulation to examine neural mechanisms in the human that control muscle and joint coordination. He developed several treatment interventions for neurological injury including a unique upper extremity robotic device with telerehabilitation capabilities that was built in collaboration with Montana State University engineering faculty and students. He patented a computerized electronic device that quantifies muscle properties and began a University spinoff medical device company, Neurogenic Technologies, Inc. in 2001. His work has been funded by the Murdock Charitable Trust Foundation, NIH, NSF and NASA. Towards the end of his career, Dr. Leonard served as the first director of the Neural Injury Center. During this time, he led a team of researchers that gave rise to many initiatives resulting in technologic advancements in translational sciences. This work has brought the University of Montana into the national spotlight for work with traumatic brain injury.

The School of Physical Therapy is pleased to nominate Professor Leonard for emeritus status.

ATTACHMENTS

No attachments