MADONNA
Rehabilitation Hospital

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APTA selects Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital for national study of physical therapist education

Lincoln, Neb.– After a national nomination process, the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) selected **Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital** as one of four exemplar sites to participate in a national study of physical therapist education: *Physical Therapist Education for the Twenty First Century (PTE-21): Innovation and Excellence in Physical Therapist Academic and Clinical Education*. The APTA, which is also funding the study, chose the four clinical and academic sites for their innovation and excellence in physical therapist education. A five-person research team, Drs. Gail Jensen, Jan Gwyer, Laurie Hack, Elizabeth Mostrom and Terry Nordstrom, will study Madonna's education programming during 2012-2013.

As Student Therapy Program Leader, Sonya Irons, PT, DPT, CCS, submitted the nomination and stated, "What a wonderful opportunity for Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital to share information about our student program, which draws both local students and students from across the nation."

Both inpatient and outpatient physical therapy, along with the Institute of Rehabilitation Science and Engineering, will take part in the study. The findings from these initial study sites will identify elements of excellence and innovation in physical therapist education and provide preliminary foundational evidence for a larger national survey study involving more institutions.

"We are proud to be a part of this study," said Judith Burnfield, PhD, PT, director of Madonna's Institute for Rehabilitation Science and Engineering. "It's an honor to help cultivate the next generation of physical therapists and improve the outcomes of their practice."

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Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital is one of the nation's foremost facilities for medical rehabilitation and research. Specializing in traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury and pediatric rehabilitation, Madonna offers hope and healing to thousands of patients from throughout the country each year.

Madonna's team of highly specialized physiatrists, therapists, rehabilitation nurses, clinicians and researchers work with the most advanced technology and equipment to help each person achieve the highest level of independence.

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital is located at 5401 South Street in Lincoln, Nebraska, 68506; 402-489-7102; www.Madonna.org.