

Enhance THERAPIES

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



2024 Q1 NEWSLETTER CONTENTS



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TEAM MEMBER

SPOTLIGHT

RACHAEL HARNETT BALLISH, OTD, OTR/L

BLUE SKY THERAPY

How long have you worked for Blue Sky Therapy?

I have been with Blue Sky for six months.

What do you like most about your job?

I love having the opportunity to help people return to the functional tasks they performed prior to their injury or illness. I also enjoy figuring out creative ways or compensatory strategies to increase their independence.

What is the best career lesson you have learned so far?

I have learned that it is really important to listen to our patients' wants and needs. For instance, I may feel that it's necessary for a patient to be able to put on his or her socks and shoes, but I may learn that the spouse has been performing this task for the last five years, so it really isn't important. If we hadn't had that discussion, I might be developing goals that aren't meaningful to the patient.

What do you like to do when you aren't working?

I am very family-oriented. I love spending time with my husband, dog, cat, and extended family. I also love to read.

What's a fun fact about you that many people may not know?

I grew up on a farm.

What is one thing you can't live without?

Coffee or my dog, Ellie.

What is your guilty pleasure?

Excessive amounts of caffeine or binge reading.

UNDERSTANDING THE INFORMATION BLOCKING RULE



LORI BLAIRE - CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER, ENHANCE THERAPIES

In July 2023, the Office of Inspector General published a final rule imposing civil monetary penalties for information-blocking violations. These penalties, which can reach up to \$1 million per violation, apply to healthcare providers, covered entities, and business associates. Examples of violations include providers delaying access to patient records or refusing to provide access to a software or interface upon request.

This rule is a crucial component of the Cures Act and defines information blocking as any practice that "interferes with, prevents, or materially discourages the access, exchange, or use of electronic health information ("EHI")." The primary objectives of this rule are to facilitate the sharing of EHI, enhance care coordination among providers, and reduce administrative burdens by ensuring EHI accessibility.

Under the information blocking rule, providers are required to release records in all circumstances, except for specific exceptions. These exceptions, when reasonably implemented, do not constitute information blocking and include:

1. Actions taken to prevent harm to a patient.
2. Measures to protect patient privacy.
3. Efforts to ensure the security of records.
4. Situations where access is not feasible.
5. Steps implemented to benefit the overall performance of the IT system.
6. Content limitations that fulfill certain conditions.
7. Setting fees with a reasonable profit margin.
8. Licensing interoperability elements under specified conditions.

It's important to note that the information blocking rule pertains only to electronic records, whereas HIPAA laws encompass both electronic and paper records. Exceptions are made for psychotherapy notes, substance abuse records, and genetic testing information, which cannot be shared.

In conclusion, it's vital to ensure that all release forms and authorizations are duly completed, maintaining compliance with both the information-blocking rules and HIPAA laws.

For further inquiries, please email the Chief Compliance Officer at lblaire@enhancetherapies.com



ROBOTIC REHAB AIMS TO HELP

STROKE PATIENTS REGAIN HAND DEXTERITY

JANUARY 8, 2024 | UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Research in URI Motor Control and Rehabilitation lab funded by \$460,000 grant from National Science Foundation

Every year, about 800,000 new stroke cases are reported in the United States, often causing patients problems with both neurological and physical motor control. Disruptions in the mobility of the arms and hands, in particular, can have devastating impacts on stroke patients' quality of life.

The restoration of arm extremity and hand dexterity are often the highest priority among stroke patients. A new robotic platform developed at the University of Rhode Island, which utilizes both a patient's brainwaves and muscle activity, aims to help post-stroke patients perform needed rehabilitation and regain critical motor skills, including complex tasks like reaching and grasping for an object.

Mariusz Furmanek, assistant professor of physical therapy and PI of the URI Motor Control and Rehabilitation Lab, is working with engineering professors Reza Abiri and Yalda Shahriari on the assistive planar robot, which includes a cutting-edge closed-loop feedback system to monitor the muscle and brain activity of the user in order to trigger the execution of reach and grab in an adaptive way.

"Numerous rehabilitation approaches such as muscular electrical stimulations, brain-computer interfaces, and transcranial magnetic stimulation have been investigated to assist the affected individuals. Only sparse research has been conducted to show the efficacy of assistive planar robots in offering affordable independent solutions to address this demand," the researchers write in a study summary, which is supported by a \$460,000 award from the National Science Foundation's Disability and Rehabilitation Engineering program.

“DESIGNING AND DEVELOPING SUCH ROBOTS WITH SATISFACTORY REHABILITATIVE OUTCOMES COULD BE CRUCIAL FOR HIGH DEMAND TASKS SUCH AS REPETITIVE MOTOR TRAINING AS AN INTERVENTION IN THE EARLY STAGE OF STROKE.”

The project, which aims to make significant strides in rehabilitation methodologies, will advance the rehabilitation of upper-extremity motor functions for post-stroke patients. User-generated feedback will tailor the device to each user. The use for post-stroke patients could be immediate. Users will be able to more quickly recover neural plasticity, improving their brain capacity to continue growing and evolving, adapting and changing through the creation of new neurons and networks. The user-centered robotic device can also provide occupational therapy in the patient’s own home. Having a device at home, outside of the clinical setting, would mean more integration into daily life and more physical therapy for patients.

“Through cutting-edge technology, we envision a transformative impact on the rehabilitation journey for post-stroke individuals,” Furmanek said. “The project focuses on developing a user-friendly wearable exoskeleton for adaptive assistance. Through a portable robotic training platform, we aim to overcome barriers, accelerate recovery, and advance the understanding of poststroke upper arm extremity rehabilitation.



The researchers are also working with and consulting with stroke specialist and Massachusetts General Hospital neurologist David Lin. In the future, the technology could be used for patients with other categories or neurological diseases.

“Despite technological advancements, the intricate nature of the brain poses a significant challenge,” Furmanek said. “Neuroscience remains one of the frontiers due to numerous fundamental questions that await answers.”



INSIDE THE RECRUITING DEPARTMENT

A LOOK AT OUR RECENT ADVANCEMENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Want to know what the recruiting team has been up to over the last couple of months? Our team of excellent recruiters filled 150+ positions over the last eight weeks! There have been numerous improvements in recruitment processes, communication, marketing, job postings, candidate experience, recruitment strategy, and utilizing AI for our chatbot and text-to-apply features. One key area of focus for recruiting was to optimize our job board activity with marketing experts that allow us to track our jobs with leading programmatic technology. Over the last month, we have more than doubled our candidate activity, which led to a significant increase in hires for our organization!

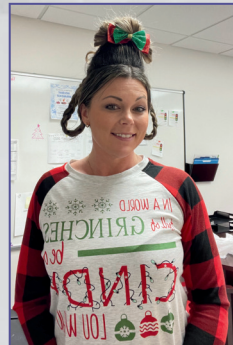
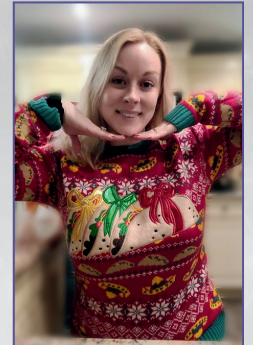
How can you be a part of our overall recruiting efforts? Submit referrals! We are always looking for exceptional team members to join our organization. We serve patients across 28 states and have opportunities for great team members across the country. If you know a talented professional who could fill one of our open positions, you could be eligible to receive a referral bonus of up to **\$1,000!** We offer referral bonuses for full-time and part-time positions. For more details regarding our referral program, please visit <https://enhancetherapies.com/refer-a-friend/>.

We are hiring!

HOLIDAY TEAM PHOTOS

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY SEEING THESE AS MUCH AS WE DO!





WE REALLY ENJOY SEEING OUR TEAM IN ACTION AND WOULD LOVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE AND SHARE MORE OF THOSE MOMENTS! IF YOU HAVE ANY TEAM PHOTOS YOU'D LIKE US TO FEATURE, PLEASE SEND THEM TO MARKETING@ENHANCETHERAPIES.COM



OUR TOP Podcast PICKS

WHAT WE'RE LISTENING TO

Dive into our world of audio wonders! We are excited to highlight the podcasts that have us hooked - from intriguing mysteries and captivating stories to enlightening discussions. Discover what your colleagues are tuning into and find your next podcast obsession!



On Purpose with Jay Shetty: Elevate your life with Jay Shetty's transformative podcast. Featuring insightful interviews with global celebrities and experts, "On Purpose" delves into personal growth, mental wellness, and spirituality. With episodes on breaking social media habits, improving relationships, and stress reduction, this podcast provides practical advice for self-improvement. Join Jay twice a week for a dose of inspiration and actionable wisdom to guide you on your journey of self-discovery and fulfillment.

Listen on





HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



FUN WAYS TO CELEBRATE

As Valentine's Day approaches, there's a buzz of excitement and love in the air! Discover some delightful activities to celebrate love with your partner, friends, or the whole family. Check out our favorite ways to make this Valentine's special.



PAINT NIGHT

Unleash your inner artist and create your own masterpiece! Whether you're a beginner following YouTube tutorials at home or opting for a guided Paint and Sip class, grab a paintbrush and let your creativity flow!



PLAY TOURIST

Rediscover your own city or town by approaching it as if you were tourists. Explore the main street, visit quirky shops, explore local landmarks, or simply take a leisurely stroll through an unfamiliar area to gain a new perspective!



HAVE A VALENTINE'S BAKE-OFF

Have a friendly competition in the kitchen to see who can make the best (and most festive) Valentine's Day desserts (extra points for anything heart-shaped, of course)!



WATCH YOUR WEDDING VIDEO TOGETHER

Watch your wedding video together and reminisce about the big day. Nothing gets you in the romantic Valentine's Day mood more than looking back on that momentous day when you said, "I do!"



SLOW DANCE TO YOUR FAVORITE SONG

Cue up the song that you danced to at your wedding or a ballad that you absolutely love and let the music move you!



HOST A GAME NIGHT

For individuals with a competitive nature, or for those who simply enjoy some classic, entertaining fun, engaging in a thrilling evening of board games will create lasting memories on Valentine's Day!



SEND US A PHOTO OF YOURSELF DOING ONE OF THESE ACTIVITIES ON VALENTINE'S DAY!



NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

We would love to know what you thought about our newsletter!
Please submit your feedback via the link below!

FEEDBACK



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

