

10-20-2019

## Enhancing Scholarly Productivity Among Physical Therapy Faculty through Professional Networks

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### Recommended Citation

Becker, Betsy J.; Willett, Gilbert; and Kennel, Victoria, "Enhancing Scholarly Productivity Among Physical Therapy Faculty through Professional Networks" (2019). *Posters and Presentations: Physical Therapy*. 20. [https://digitalcommons.unmc.edu/cahp\\_pt\\_pres/20](https://digitalcommons.unmc.edu/cahp_pt_pres/20)


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## Enhancing Scholarly Productivity Among Physical Therapy Faculty through Professional Networks

Betsy J. Becker, PT, DPT, PhD  
Victoria Kennel, PhD  
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Education Leadership Conference  
American Physical Therapy Association

October 20, 2019



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## Acknowledgements of funding



Academy of Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association




College of Allied Health Professions  
University of Nebraska Medical Center




Division of Physical Therapy Education  
University of Nebraska Medical Center




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**MANUSCRIPT**  
An Investigation of Professional Networks and Scholarly Productivity of Early Career Physical Therapy Faculty. J of PT Education. June 2019  
<https://tinyurl.com/ProjectLINK2019paper>



**DISSERTATION**  
Early Career Physical Therapy Faculty Networking and Scholarly Productivity: A Mixed-Methods Study  
Digital Commons  
University of Nebraska Medical Center  
<https://tinyurl.com/BJBBeckerDissertation>




**BOOK CHAPTER**  
Early Career Faculty Development: Maximizing Social Capital for Meaningful Clinical Reasoning In Musolino GM, Jensen GM, *Clinical Reasoning and Decision-Making in Physical Therapy: Facilitation, Assessment and Implementation*. Slack Publishing. In press.



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## Objectives

1. Describe an effective professional network for physical therapy faculty.
2. Identify strategies for modifying a professional network to maximize effectiveness



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## Background



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## Background

**2733** full time PT faculty      **250** PT Programs


Accreditation: All faculty must be active in scholarly activity

**45%** academic doctoral degrees

**21%** active in research

full time PT faculty  
**173 + 116 = 289**  
Current + Projected Vacancies

CAPTE Standards 2015, CAPTE Fact Sheet 2018-2019, Snyder-Mackler 2015, Hinman 2017



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## Background

### Network connections & scholarly activity

Publishing	Retention and Advancement	Career Satisfaction
Improved performance	Innovation	Collaborations
Increased awareness about power	Catalyze relationships & connections	Strengthen capacity of network

Stupnisky 2015, Thomas 2008, Warner 2016, Rodan 2004, Law 2016, Niehaus 2015, Anderson 2008, Steffen-Fluhr 2011, Katerndahl 2012, Becker 2019, Hoppe 2010.

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## Background

### Social Capital Theory

<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Brokering</p> <p><i>Facilitating flow of resources &amp; information</i></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Social Cohesion</p> <p><i>Strong support and aid in social integration</i></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Access to Resources</p> <p><i>Direct &amp; indirect flow</i></p>
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Crossley 2015, Rodan 2004, Ryan 2016, Warner 2016

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## Definition: Social Network Analysis

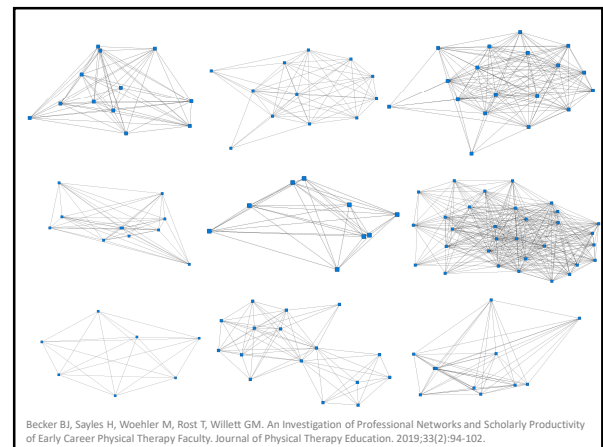
How individual connections form into social structures that influence outcomes of the group

STRUCTURE

COMPOSITION

Knoke 2008, Borgatti 2014

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## Purpose

The purpose of this mixed methods study was to explore agency and the professional network structure and composition of early career Physical Therapy faculty as they relate to scholarly activity.

The study used an explanatory sequential mixed methods design in which qualitative and quantitative data were collected in series, analyzed separately, and merged.

Becker BJ, Sayles H, Woehler M, Rost T, Willett GM. An Investigation of Professional Networks and Scholarly Productivity of Early Career Physical Therapy Faculty. Journal of Physical Therapy Education. 2019;33(2):94-102.

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## Mixed Methods Study

<p><b>Survey 1 (QUAN)</b></p> <p>Scholarly Activity Score Developed</p> <p>July-Sept 2016</p>	<p><b>Survey 2 (QUAN)</b></p> <p>July-Sept 2017</p>	<p><b>Interviews (QUAL)</b></p> <p>Oct - Dec 2017</p>	<p><b>Integration (Mixing)</b></p> <p>Jan - Aug 2018</p>
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QUAN

→

QUAL

→

Mixing

Becker BJ, Sayles H, Woehler M, Rost T, Willett GM. An Investigation of Professional Networks and Scholarly Productivity of Early Career Physical Therapy Faculty. Journal of Physical Therapy Education. 2019;33(2):94-102.

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**Research Question:**  
 Does the network structure and composition at baseline predict scholarly activity one year later?

↓

**QUAN** → **QUAL** → **Mixing**

Becker BJ, Sayles H, Woehler M, Rost T, Willett GM. An Investigation of Professional Networks and Scholarly Productivity of Early Career Physical Therapy Faculty. Journal of Physical Therapy Education. 2019;33(2):94-102.

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**Methods**

**Study Participants**

<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>EXCLUSION</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Working full time</li> <li>✓ Accredited physical therapy program</li> <li>✓ Within their first five years</li> <li>✓ Workload of primary teaching and service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Changed jobs during the study</li> </ul>

Recruitment goal: 42

Becker BJ, Sayles H, Woehler M, Rost T, Willett GM. An Investigation of Professional Networks and Scholarly Productivity of Early Career Physical Therapy Faculty. Journal of Physical Therapy Education. 2019;33(2):94-102.

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**Participant Activity**

- 1 Consented to participate
- 2 Completed questionnaire - agency, scholarly activity, professional network, submitted CV
- 3 Received mid-year individualized report
- 4 Completed questionnaire - agency, scholarly activity, professional network, submitted CV (1 yr later)

Becker BJ, Sayles H, Woehler M, Rost T, Willett GM. An Investigation of Professional Networks and Scholarly Productivity of Early Career Physical Therapy Faculty. Journal of Physical Therapy Education. 2019;33(2):94-102.

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**Methods: data collection**

<b>Independent Variables</b>	<b>Outcome Variable</b>
<b>Network measures</b>	<b>Scholar Score</b>

**Statistical Analysis**  
 Descriptive analysis  
 Single independent variable ordinary least squares regression  
 and Multivariable ordinary least squares regression models

Becker BJ, Sayles H, Woehler M, Rost T, Willett GM. An Investigation of Professional Networks and Scholarly Productivity of Early Career Physical Therapy Faculty. Journal of Physical Therapy Education. 2019;33(2):94-102.

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**Methods**

**Outcome Variable: Scholarly Activity**

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**CAPTE Reporting Scholarly Activity**  
COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION IN PHYSICAL THERAPY EDUCATION

- 0 → no scholarly involvement
- 1 → active, but no products yet
- 2 → less than 5 disseminated products
- 3 → 5 to 10 disseminated products
- 4 → more than 10 disseminated products

CAPTE Position Paper

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# Scholar Score

## Scholar Score Study Participants

- ✓ Program Directors from the early career PT study participants' institutions
- ✓ PT faculty with experience on Promotion and Tenure Committees

Becker BJ, Sayles H, Woehler M, Rost T, Willett GM. An Investigation of Professional Networks and Scholarly Productivity of Early Career Physical Therapy Faculty. *Journal of Physical Therapy Education*. 2019;33(2):94-102.

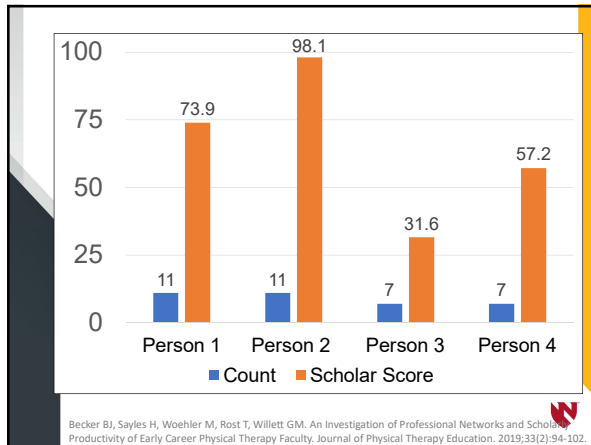
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# Scholar Score

Publication
Grant
Presentation

Becker BJ, Sayles H, Woehler M, Rost T, Willett GM. An Investigation of Professional Networks and Scholarly Productivity of Early Career Physical Therapy Faculty. *Journal of Physical Therapy Education*. 2019;33(2):94-102.

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# Scholar Score

Welcome to the Scholar Score.

What is the true value of your participation in presentations, publications, patents, and grants? Scholarly activity is complicated. The Scholar Score isn't. Let this one simple tool calculate the value and show your Scholar Score.

[Calculate My Score](#)

**About Scholar Score**  
 There are no published comprehensive scoring systems for quantifying academic health professions faculty scholarly productivity which consider the complexity, quality, and degree of involvement beyond a simple item count. Consultations with experienced health professions academic faculty and administrators in conjunction with a pilot and iterative process were used to create the Scholar Score. It incorporates a unique, weighted scale of six activities including grants (2 items), publications (13 items), and presentations (11 items) to calculate a single scholar score. Types of scholarly activity included in the scale were based on expert definitions of scholarship, discovery, integration, application, and teaching.

**Contact**  
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 College of Allied Health Professions  
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**Privacy Policy**  
 UNMC: Policies & Procedures

Becker BJ, Sayles H, Woehler M, Rost T, Willett GM. An Investigation of Professional Networks and Scholarly Productivity of Early Career Physical Therapy Faculty. *Journal of Physical Therapy Education*. 2019;33(2):94-102.

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## ADD CONTENT

Click and icon to add content

publication

grant

presentation

patent

Degrees, certifications & other (score not affected)

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# Scholar Score

Are you interested in trying out the web application?

Contact Betsy for more information  
 BetsyJ.Becker@unmc.edu

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# Network

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## Name GENERATOR Questions

*Who is an important source of work-related information such as teaching, scholarly activity, and service and administration?*

Ronda Johnson	Jacyee Walker
Brad O'Dell	DJ Roberts
Karen Newberg	Brit VonSteven
Quin Do	Matt Deigo
Mieo Wo	Joe Smith

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## Name INTERRELATOR Questions

Who does **Joe Smith** know and could share information or ask a question?

Ronda Johnson	Jacyee Walker
Brad O'Dell	DJ Roberts
Karen Newberg	Brit VonSteven
Quin Do	Matt Deigo
Mieo Wo	

Becker BJ, Sayles H, Woehler M, Rost T, Willett GM. An Investigation of Professional Networks and Scholarly Productivity of Early Career Physical Therapy Faculty. Journal of Physical Therapy Education. 2019;33(2):94-102.

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## Your Professional Network

Complete **Part 1 & 2** on the worksheet

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## INFORMATION about each Contact

Closeness	mentor	expertise in scholarly activity
primary work responsibilities (PT non-PT)	age	gender
race/ethnicity	academic rank	tenure status
highest academic degree	experience with presentations	publishing and grants

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## Methods: Social Network Analysis

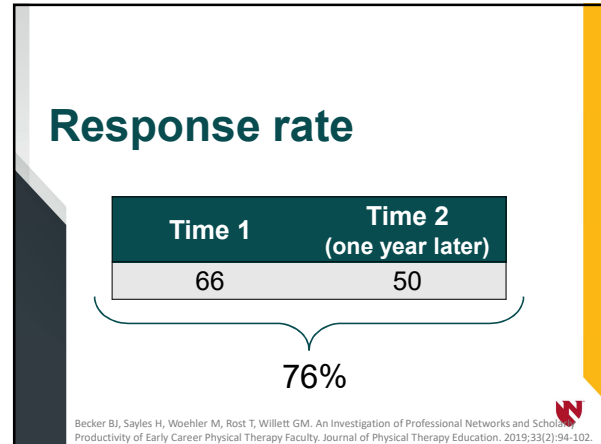
<b>STRUCTURE</b>	<b>COMPOSITION</b>
Shape Size Density	Homophily Heterophily

Knoke 2008, Borgatti 2014

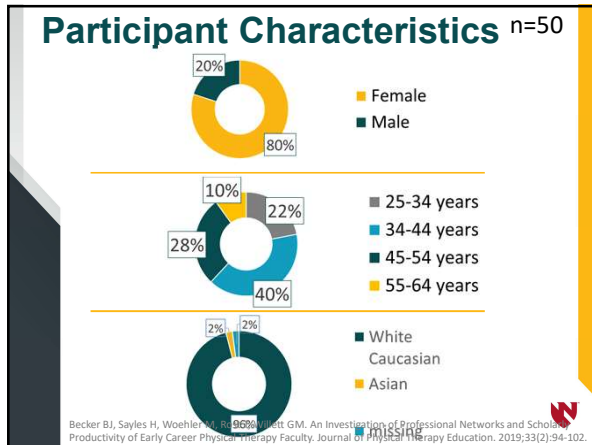
30

# Results

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## Participant Characteristics n=50

	N (%)
Director of Clinical Education	12 (24%)
With an Academic Doctoral Degree	9 (16%)
Academic Rank	
Assistant Prof	45 (90%)
Instructor	5 (10%)

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## Participant's Institution Carnegie Classification

39 institutions | 24 states

	N (%)
Special Focus	6 (15%)
Doctoral	13 (33%)
Masters	17 (44%)
Baccalaureate	3 (8%)

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## Mean Scholar Score

Baseline: 32.7 (SD 46.5)  
One Year Later: 66.6 (SD 77.6)

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## Mean Size

**25.4 contacts**  
(SD=13.4, range 4-62)

---

## Mean Density

**40.2%**  
(SD=16.6, range 18.6-100%)

n=50

**NETWORK STRUCTURE**

Becker BJ, Sayles H, Woehler M, Rost T, Willett GM. An Investigation of Professional Networks and Scholarly Productivity of Early Career Physical Therapy Faculty. Journal of Physical Therapy Education. 2019;33(2):94-102.

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## Your Professional Network

Complete **Part 3 Density** on the worksheet

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## STRUCTURE

density

interconnectedness

LESS interconnected

MORE interconnected

OPEN

CLOSED

Knoke 2008, Borgatti 2014

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## Shape

**NETWORK STRUCTURE**

*Image shown at conference*

**QUAN**

Becker 2019

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## COMPOSITION

heterogeneity

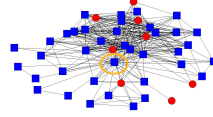
Diversity among the network people

Crossley 2015

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**COMPOSITION**  
**Heterogeneity**  
 Diversity among the network people



**0**  
**No Diversity**  
 Only connect with people in same relational group

↔

**1**  
**Diversity**  
 Same number of connections to those in each relational group

Crossley 2015

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**COMPOSITION** **Heterogeneity**  
**0 = no diversity**

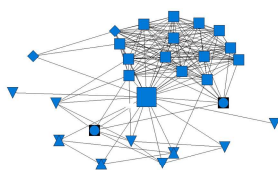
Work location & PT (not PT)	Expertise in grants, presentations, or publishing
Job Role-Teaching	Clinical specialty + Work location + Grants + Presenting + Publishing + Job Role-Teaching + Scholarly Activity + Administration and Services
Job Role-Scholarly Activity	Academic Rank + Tenure + Academic Degree + Race + Age + Gender
Job Role-Clinical Practice	Academic Rank + Tenure + Academic Degree
Academic Degree	Race + Age + Gender
Academic Rank	
Clinical Specialty	
Age	
Tenure	
Race	
Gender	

Range: 0.15-0.78      Range: 0.56 – 0.76

Becker BJ, Sayles H, Woehler M, Rost T, Willett GM. An Investigation of Professional Networks and Scholarly Productivity of Early Career Physical Therapy Faculty. Journal of Physical Therapy Education. 2019;33(2):94-102.

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**COMPOSITION**  
**Homophily**  
 Similarity between network contact & early career faculty



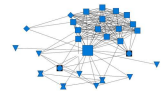
**Internal Tie** {  
 ■ 16 PT faculty at institution X  
 ▲ 6 PT at different institutions

**External Tie** {  
 ● 2 non-PT at the institution X  
 ✕ 3 non-PT at different institutions

Crossley 2015

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**COMPOSITION**  
**Homophily**  
 Similarity between network contact & early career faculty



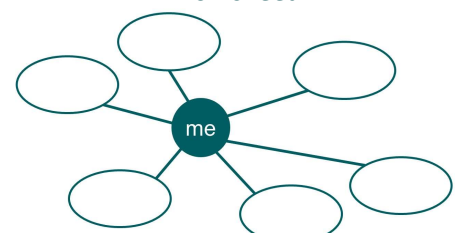
**EI Index** =  $\frac{\text{External Ties} - \text{Internal Ties}}{\text{External Ties} + \text{Internal Ties}}$

$\frac{(\blacktriangle + \bullet + \times) - \blacksquare}{(\blacktriangle + \bullet + \times) + \blacksquare} = \frac{(6 + 2 + 3) - 16}{(6 + 2 + 3) + 16} = -0.2$

Crossley 2015

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**Your Professional Network**  
 Complete **Part 4 Homophily (in-group & out-group)** on the worksheet



Crossley 2015

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**-1** **Perfect Homophily** Only connects with people with the same characteristic

↔

**1** **Perfect Heterophily** Only connects with people with different characteristic

**-0.2**

**Homophily**  
 A measure of similarity between characteristics of members in a network compared to you.

Crossley 2015

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**NETWORK COMPOSITION**

**Homophily** (EI Index) n=50

-1.0 ← → +1.0  
perfect homophily      perfect heterophily

Description	Mean (SD, range)
Academic Rank	+0.94 (0.11, +0.57 - +1.00)
Work location & PT or non-PT	+0.32 (0.26, -0.43 - +0.73)
Academic Degree	+0.32 (0.33, -0.43 - +1.00)
Age	+0.32 (0.19, +0.00 - +1.00)
Clinical Specialty	-0.22 (0.54, -1.00 - +0.96)
Gender (male, female)	-0.30 (0.34, -0.83 - +0.69)

Becker BJ, Sayles H, Woehler M, Rost T, Willett GM. An Investigation of Professional Networks and Scholarly Productivity of Early Career Physical Therapy Faculty. Journal of Physical Therapy Education. 2019;33(2):94-102.

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**Multivariate Analysis** n=50

Final Model		
	B	Sig.
(constant)	52.864	0.062
Duration as a faculty member	26.962	0.002
Academic Doctoral Degree	92.527	0.000
Network Structure: Density	-1.099	0.048

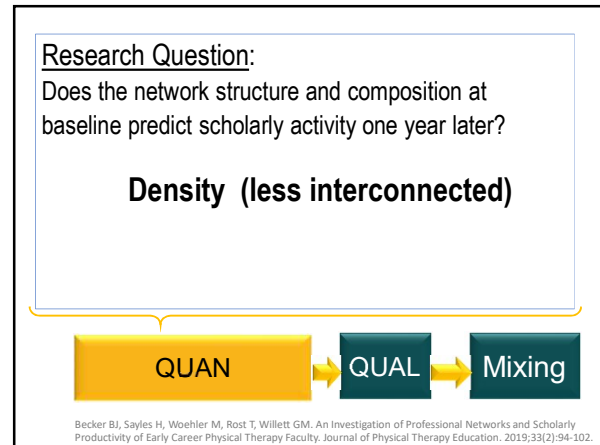
≤.05 for significance

Becker BJ, Sayles H, Woehler M, Rost T, Willett GM. An Investigation of Professional Networks and Scholarly Productivity of Early Career Physical Therapy Faculty. Journal of Physical Therapy Education. 2019;33(2):94-102.

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## Discussion

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- ## Study Limitations
- a) Individual professional networks only – other factors impact productivity
  - b) Short duration to study scholarly activity productivity
  - c) Errors of omission and commission for network contacts
  - d) Bias – Betsy named in some networks
  - e) Recruitment limited
- Becker BJ, Sayles H, Woehler M, Rost T, Willett GM. An Investigation of Professional Networks and Scholarly Productivity of Early Career Physical Therapy Faculty. Journal of Physical Therapy Education. 2019;33(2):94-102.

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## Future Study

Scholar Score  
 Subsets of Professional Networks

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## Key Implications

- a) Scholar Score was a good measure for capturing a variety of scholarly activities
- b) Faculty can be productive in their first five years regardless of “days on the job”
- c) Those without an academic doctoral degree can be successful with scholarly activity
- d) High agency perspective and agency behavior scores indicate high interest in career advancement
- e) Practical strategies can make networks more effective (i.e. less interconnected and open).

Becker BJ, Sayles H, Woehler M, Root T, Willett GM. An Investigation of Professional Networks and Scholarly Productivity of Early Career Physical Therapy Faculty. *Journal of Physical Therapy Education*. 2019;33(2):94-102.

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## What does this mean for YOU moving forward?

Early Career Faculty      Mentor      Administrator

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57 See last page of this handout for references in larger print.

## Question & Answer Session

Enhancing Scholarly Productivity Among Physical Therapy Faculty Through Professional Networks

Betsy J. Becker, PT, DPT, PhD  
Victoria Kometis, PhD  
Gilbert Williams, PT, PhD

Education Leadership Conference  
American Physical Therapy Association

October 20, 2019

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The worksheet is on the next page

# Enhancing Scholarly Productivity Among Physical Therapy Faculty through Professional Networks

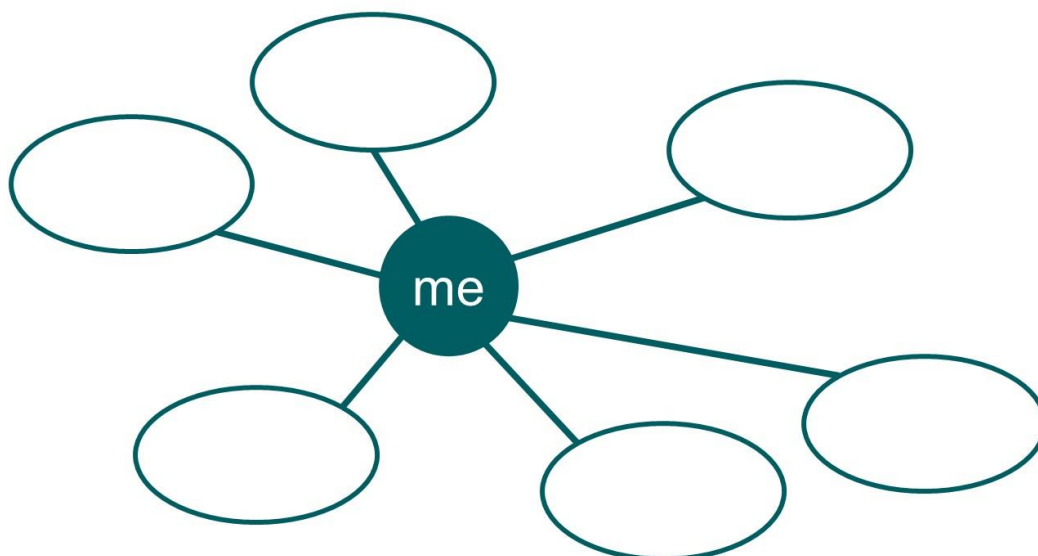
Worksheet | APTA Educational Leadership Conference | 10/20/19 | Bellevue, WA

Betsy J. Becker, PT, DPT, PhD | Victoria Kennel, PhD | Gilbert Willett, PT, PhD

[Betsyj.becker@unmc.edu](mailto:Betsyj.becker@unmc.edu) | @bjbecko

Part 1: *Who is an important source of work-related information to support your efforts in teaching, scholarly activity, and service and administration? List six people by putting one name in each circle, and ensure at least 1 of these people is a person outside the PT profession.*

Part 2: Draw a line between the circles where the individuals know each other and could share information or ask a question.



Part 3: Calculate network measures – instructions given during the presentation

Network Measure	Calculation
<b>Size</b> (excluding “owner” of the network)	6
<b>Density</b> – A measure of interconnectedness between individuals in the network. A proportion of people who are also connected with each other.	Total number of lines (ties) between people: _____ divided by Total number of possible connections: 42  Calculate Density: My total ties / 42 = _____ x100
<b>Homophily</b> - Similarity between individuals in the network and me for a given characteristic (e.g. PT profession). Measured by the External – Internal Index (EI Index).	Internal ties (I): total people in PT profession ____ External ties (E): total people not in PT profession ____  Calculate the EI Index: $I - E / I + E =$ _____

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