January 29th, 2020

Dr. Michele Battie:

I am writing to express my interest for the Assistant Professor position within the Faculty of Health Sciences at Western University. It has always been my ambition to become an educator and a clinician scientist. I would value sharing my clinical expertise, critical thinking and commitment to professional excellence with trainees, as I think my career pathway has provided a rich array of experiences that could enhance their training. I believe that as a highly motivated and diligent individual I would make an excellent team member at Western University. I am committed to being to the student experience and the contributing to professional service at Western and the London community.

I have been a clinician for over 18 years and have worked in multiple areas and types of physical therapy practice . and.

I recently completed my doctoral degree at McMaster University, which I undertook to enhance my research and critical appraisal skills, and to support my goal of a career shift into academia.

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Currently I am a part-owner of three private practice clinics in the Newmarket area and act as the clinic director and educator to 7 practicing physiotherapists. However, my biggest teaching and mentoring accomplishment was with a group of therapists from London, UK that travelled to shadow and learn my practice model and subsequently opened a clinic based on my teachings in August of 2019. This clinic has flourished, and I have since been teaching throughout clinics in London, UK (Spectrumhealthuk.com).

I have also recently opened a (first of its kind) non-profit chronic disease management program for the Newmarket area that has received funding from Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP). This program gives education programs, exercise and physiotherapy to those diagnosed with a chronic diseases approved by licensed physicians. This program took extensive work for developing evidence based education strategies for patients and the physicians/therapists administering the program. It allowed be to gain the experience for working collaboratively with all disciplines including surgeons/pain physicians, nurses, therapists and their assistants.

My research experience has been mostly within the musculoskeletal area (MSK). In early 2019 I published a systemic review entitled “Comparison of CPG’s for the diagnosis, prognosis and management of non-specific neck pain: a systematic review” with Dr. Santaguida, Dr. Macdermid and Anita Gross. I am a member of the Cervical Overview Group and finalizing “Manipulation and mobilization for non-specific neck pain, A Cochrane Review” with Anita Gross. This review led to my continued involved in that review group where I continue to contribute. I would be comfortable supervising students completing multiple types of evidence synthesis. My thesis has consisted of 4 manuscripts focusing “Factors affecting outcomes of distal biceps ruptures” which allowed me to examine one MSK condition in-depth. Therefore, my research interests have been dedicated to musculoskeletal disorders particularly focused upon the spine and upper extremity.

Having a long history in clinical practice, I have been thinking about new challenges for the past few years. This motivated my enrollment in a PhD program at McMaster to support my transition from full-time practice into new pursuits teaching and research. While my experience in academic teaching is limited, I have been highly engaged in post-professional teaching and have had positive experiences teaching in multiple contexts. I am excited about the opportunity to help the faculty prepare Western students for today’s practice. . My expertise in MSK research are aligned with the programs mission and vision, to provide exemplary educational programs as well as provide outstanding leadership in rehabilitation science at the national and international levels. I would look forward to the opportunity to meet to further discuss my experience and answer any questions you may have.

Paul Parikh, PT, PhD