Uzair Hammad, PT, DPT, NCS, ATP

Neurologic Physical Therapy Expert Witness | Spinal Cord Injury | Stroke | TBI | Assistive Technology

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EXPERT WITNESS SUMMARY

Dr. Uzair Hammad is a Doctor of Physical Therapy with dual board-level credentials: Board-Certified Neurologic Clinical Specialist (NCS) through the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties, and Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) through RESNA. He serves as a Rehabilitation Clinical Specialist at Orlando Health's nationally recognized, CARF-accredited Advanced Rehabilitation Institute and is one of only three clinicians in this role with primary focus on medically complex neurologic patients including those with spinal cord injury, stroke, and traumatic brain injury.

In addition to his clinical role, Dr. Hammad is a national clinical trainer for gait rehabilitation technology, adjunct faculty at two DPT programs (UCF and Graceland University), continuing education faculty at Evidence in Motion, and host of the ANPT SCI SIG podcasts DISCIS and CHATs featuring leading SCI researchers from around the world. He has received the APTA Outstanding PT Resident Award, ANPT Early Career Professional Award, and ANPT Outstanding Service to the SCI SIG Award. His expert opinions are grounded in peer-reviewed evidence, accepted clinical practice guidelines, firsthand clinical expertise, and objective outcomes data. He provides independent, non-advocacy-based opinions within the scope of physical therapy practice.

AREAS OF TESTIMONY

Dr. Hammad can provide expert opinions on:

- Standard of care in neurologic PT and rehabilitation
- Spinal cord injury rehab: prognosis, functional mobility outcomes
- Stroke and TBI rehabilitation, especially gait and mobility recovery
- Traumatic vs. non-traumatic SCI: expected functional trajectories
- Complex gait disorders and locomotor training (evidence base and indications)
- High-intensity gait training: protocols, contraindications, progression
- Rehabilitation technology: body-weight–supported systems, robotic exoskeletons (EksoNR, ReWalk, ZeroG 3.0, LiteGait)
- Assistive technology and complex wheelchair seating systems
- Patient selection criteria and risk mitigation in rehabilitation interventions
- Functional electrical stimulation (FES/XCITE) and wide pulse current therapy
- Rehabilitation documentation, outcome measures, and clinical decision-making
- Life care planning support: therapy intensity, equipment, long-term mobility needs
- Standard of care for transfer equipment and mobility devices (parallel bars, SARA Steady, standing frames, hemi rails)
- Causation and apportionment of functional impairment (within PT scope)

CREDENTIALS & LICENSURE

Degrees

- Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) — University of Central Florida, 2021 (High Honors)
- Neurologic Physical Therapy Residency — Orlando Health / UCF, 2022
- Bachelor of Science, Human Performance — University of Central Florida, 2016

Board Certifications & Specialty Credentials

- Board-Certified Neurologic Clinical Specialist (NCS) — ABPTS | Certificate #NE230643 | 2023–2033
- Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) — RESNA | Valid through August 2028
- Florida Physical Therapy License #PT37657

Technology & Advanced Certifications

- EksoBionics EksoNR Robotic Gait Device — Level II Certified Clinician (2022)
- ReWalk Robotics — Advanced Skills Clinician (2023)
- Wide Pulse Current / FES Advanced XCITE Certified — Restorative Therapies (2022)
- Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS) — NSCA (2016)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Healing Innovations — National Clinical Specialist, Gait Rehabilitation Technology

Dates: January 2025 – Present | National Role

One of a small number of national clinical trainers for the Rise-N-Walk gait training system. Travels to inpatient rehabilitation facilities across the United States (Indianapolis, Utah Valley, South Texas, Denver, Prescott Mountain Valley) to train interdisciplinary rehabilitation teams. Each two-day training results in 24 CEU credits; certified clinicians become authorized to train additional staff at their sites. Instruction covers evidence-based gait training principles, neuroplasticity, patient selection, contraindications, risk mitigation, documentation, and quality assurance; all aligned with accepted rehabilitation standards of care.

Orlando Health Advanced Rehabilitation Institute — Rehabilitation Clinical Specialist

Dates: February 2023 – Present | Inpatient CARF-Accredited Facility

One of three Rehabilitation Clinical Specialists at Orlando Health's nationally recognized Advanced Rehabilitation Institute, a 54-bed CARF-accredited inpatient rehabilitation facility. Primary clinical focus on the most medically complex neurologic patients across spinal cord injury (SCI), stroke (CVA), and traumatic brain injury (TBI) service lines.

Selected responsibilities relevant to expert witness work:

- Chair, Orlando Health Spinal Cord Injury Special Interest Group — leads interdisciplinary standardization and protocol development across rehabilitation disciplines
- Technology Superuser: ZeroG 3.0 and LiteGait body-weight–supported gait training systems — responsible for staff competency validation, safety oversight, and advanced clinical application
- Principal and Co-Investigator on multiple IRB-approved research projects evaluating locomotor training outcomes
- Maintains and oversees longitudinal outcomes database for all SCI admissions — supports objective analysis of functional change, discharge outcomes, and program effectiveness
- Associate Faculty and Clinical Mentor, UCF/Orlando Health Neurologic PT Residency Program
- Participates in SCI program quality initiative committee, facility design planning, and operational committees

Orlando Health Advanced Rehabilitation Institute — Staff Physical Therapist, Outpatient

Dates: November 2021 – February 2023

Evaluated and treated individuals with SCI, stroke, TBI, vestibular disorders, and other neurologic conditions. Led development and implementation of the system-wide locomotor training program with standardized clinical protocols across multiple outpatient sites. Served as clinical preceptor and delivered interdisciplinary education sessions on neurologic rehabilitation standards and evidence-based practice.

Orlando Regional Medical Center — Acute Care / Level I Trauma Center

Dates: August 2021 – April 2022

Served as the primary neurologic physical therapist in the Neurological and Medical ICU units at a Level I Trauma Center. Managed 40–50 patients per week. Gained extensive critical care experience across TBI, SCI, multi-trauma, and complex neurological diagnoses. Participated in spinal cord injury and brain injury team protocol development.

CLINICAL VOLUME & CASE EXPERIENCE

Documented case experience from residency and subsequent clinical practice:

- Traumatic Brain Injuries: 80+ cases (residency alone)
- Cerebrovascular Accidents (Stroke): 170+ cases
- Spinal Cord Injuries: 65+ cases (residency); ongoing as SCI specialist
- Sport-Related Concussions: 50+ cases
- Vestibular Disorders: 50+ cases
- Degenerative Neurologic Diseases: 30+ cases
- Pediatric Neurologic Cases: Treated ages 12 to centenarian
- Spectrum of care: ICU/trauma, inpatient rehab, outpatient rehab

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- APTA Outstanding PT Resident Award — American Physical Therapy Association (2024)
- Outstanding Service to the SCI SIG — Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy (2024)
- Early Career Professional Award — Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy (2023)
- UCF 30 Under 30 Alumni Award — University of Central Florida Alumni Association (2022)
- Keynote Speaker, UCF DPT Hooding Ceremony (2022)
- Keynote Speaker, Ascend WebPT National Conference
- PT Residency Scholarship — Inaugural Recipient, Rizing Tide Foundation (2022)
- Tenets of Excellence Award — UCF DPT Program (2021)

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Publication

Hammad U, Anderson AW, Scammon E, et al. Balance and Walking Speed Outcomes in Individuals Receiving Inpatient Rehabilitation for Acute Cerebellar Stroke. Nursing Reports. 2024;14(4):2935–2945. doi:10.3390/nursrep14040214

Selected Presentations (National & Regional)

- Balancing Prognostic Tools and Clinical Judgment in Rehabilitation for Incomplete Spinal Cord Injuries — APTA Combined Sections Meeting (CSM), Neurology/SCI SIG, February 2025
- Neuroplasticity and Rehabilitation Principles — Nicholas Dellamonico Trauma Conference, August 2024
- High Intensity Gait Training with Severe Motor Incomplete SCI: A Case Series — APTA Combined Sections Meeting, February 2023
- White Cord Syndrome: A Case Study Across the Continuum — APTA Combined Sections Meeting, February 2023
- Evidence Based Management of Individuals with Multiple Systems Atrophy — FPTA Neurology SIG Webinar Series, 2022
- Cerebellar Disorders Made Ridiculously Simple — FPTA Annual Conference, September 2021

Active Research

- Effectiveness of Inpatient Rehabilitation on Functional Outcomes in Cerebellar Strokes vs. Neoplasms — Principal Investigator (Retrospective Study, IRB-approved)
- White Cord Syndrome: A Case Study Across the Continuum — Principal Investigator
- High Intensity Gait Training with Severe Motor Incomplete SCI — Principal Investigator (Case Series)

Grant Activity

- Orlando Health Foundation — $50,000 grant recipient (2023): Adaptive fitness curriculum and community wellness program for individuals with SCI
- Craig Neilsen Foundation — Co-author, virtual adaptive fitness grant application: $30,000
- Orlando Health Foundation — Co-author, adaptive sports grant for community reintegration: $30,000

TEACHING & FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

University of Central Florida — DPT Program, Adjunct Faculty (2021–Present)

Courses: Neuroanatomy & Neuroscience (lecture & lab), Neurological Rehabilitation I, II, & III (lecture & lab), Advanced Neurological PT (lecture & lab), Neuroplasticity & Rehabilitation, Clinical Integrations.

Graceland University — DPT Program, Adjunct Faculty (2022–Present)

Courses: Clinical Neuroscience II, Neuromuscular Practice I & II, Management of Complex Patients.

Evidence in Motion (EIM) — Continuing Education Faculty (2022–Present)

Instructs CE courses on spinal cord injury, vestibular disorders, CVA management, outcome measures in neurologic practice, high-intensity gait training, and subcomponents of gait.

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP & ORGANIZATIONS

- Chair, Orlando Health SCI Special Interest Group (2023–Present)
- Host, ANPT SCI SIG Podcasts: DISCIS (Discussions in SCI Science) & CHATs (Clinical Hints and Tips) — interviews leading SCI researchers and clinicians worldwide (2021–Present)

- ANPT SCI SIG Board Member (2021–Present)
- FPTA Neurology SIG — Executive Board Member / Treasurer (April 2022–Present)
- FPTA Neurology SIG — Membership & Communications Committee Chair (July 2021–December 2022)
- ABPTS Residency & Fellowship Financial Fact Sheet — Task Force Member, Appointed (November 2022–Present)
- FPTA East District Assembly Representative (2024, 2025)
- UCF 30 Under 30 Awards Committee (2024, 2025)
- Rizing Tide Beachcomber Scholarship Review Board (2024, 2025)
- ANPT Residency Fair Ambassador (2021)

CONSULTING & ADVISORY EXPERIENCE

- Marketing Consultant, Orlando Health Advanced Rehabilitation Institute (2023–Present)
- Neurologic PT Consultant for private clinics in Orlando, FL (B Physical Therapy, Horizons PT)
- Provides private clinical services to patients in rural areas without access to evidence-based neurologic rehabilitation

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Co-Coordinator, Annual SCI Reunion — Orlando Health (2022–2024)
- Organizer, Stroke Support Group — Orlando Health (2021–2022)
- Hosted 10+ community support group meetings for stroke, TBI, and SCI patients