



**Lynda D. Woodruff, PT, PhD, FAAPT**

For over 47 years, Dr. Woodruff selflessly gave of her time, resources, and tireless energy to personally impact the physical therapy profession in a positive manner. She received her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science in the first physical therapy graduate program at Case Western Reserve University in 1971 and her Ph.D. from Georgia State University in 1984.

Dr. Woodruff made history as the first African American to join the physical therapy department as an assistant professor of physical therapy in the Division of Physical Therapy School of Medicine at the University of North Carolina.

Dr. Woodruff accepted a position in 1978 as an assistant professor of physical therapy at Georgia State University, where she directed the award-winning programs for minority student recruitment and retention implemented by Dr. Pat Yarbrough before being promoted to associate professor with tenure.

Dr. Woodruff served as a full professor with tenure at North Georgia College and State University in Dahlonega, Georgia, from 1991 to 2005, the state university system's first post-baccalaureate physical therapy education program. Dr. Woodruff served as the founding chairperson of the physical therapy department at North Georgia College from 1991 to 1996.

Dr. Woodruff was a visiting professor at Alabama State University and began the transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy program there in 2003. She continued as a visiting professor until 2008.

Dr. Woodruff has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, including the APTA Lucy Blair Award, the Kellogg Fellowship for International Leadership, and the Distinguished Service Award for the Section on Clinical Electrophysiology; received a gubernatorial appointment to the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy on which she served for more than ten years, and designated as a Fellow of the American Academy of Physical Therapy in 2000.

Dr. Woodruff's leadership, enthusiasm, and passion for the profession are most reflected in the organizations of which she is a founding member, including the Foundation for Physical Therapy, the American Academy of Physical Therapy, the Georgia Student Physical Therapy Organization, the North American Association of Laser Therapy, the Physical Therapy Learning Institute, and the American Congress on Electromyography.

Georgia Foundation for Physical Therapy President, Dr. Barney Poole, PT, DPT, FAPTA spoke highly of Dr. Woodruff, stating, "She was an educator and friend and a trailblazer in physical therapy. Friends, colleagues, and all her "Woodie Babies" (and I am one) will miss her across the country and the world."

APTA President Dr. Sharon Dunn, PT, PhD, mentioned, "I was only in her presence a few times, but wow, what a presence it was! Her spirit was BIG, and from all she touched, she had a magnificent impact. She will leave a void in so many hearts. Our profession has lost a booming voice, a stalwart advocate for our professional conscience for diversity and inclusion, and a matriarch for others' pursuit of opportunities within the profession and beyond."