Donna M. Hitt, PhD

Clinical Professor | Clinical Exercise Physiology MS Program Director | Affiliate Faculty, ASU School of Medicine and Medical Engineering

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Executive Profile

Clinical Professor and graduate program director with deep expertise in clinical exercise physiology, cardiopulmonary rehabilitation, chronic disease management, and learner-centered curriculum design. Current Affiliate Faculty in the ASU School of Medicine and Medical Engineering, contributing to foundational sciences curriculum development for SOMME through case-based course design, active-learning preparation, and integration of medical education platforms. Experienced academic leader with sustained responsibility for graduate program oversight, assessment, clinical internship placement, faculty mentoring, and student success.

Core Expertise

Domain	Relevant Strengths
Medical Education	Foundational sciences curriculum, active learning, case-based instruction, assessment design, learner transition support.
Clinical Exercise Physiology	Cardiopulmonary rehabilitation, chronic disease management, ECG interpretation, clinical placements, certification-aligned graduate preparation.
Program Leadership	Graduate program direction, curriculum governance, admissions, assessment plans, academic program review, clinical internship coordination.
Faculty and Student Development	Graduate mentoring, faculty mentoring, peer review, honors advising, promotion packet review, professional pathway coaching.

SOMME Curriculum and Medical Education Contributions

- Affiliate Faculty, ASU School of Medicine and Medical Engineering, Apr 2025-present.
- Homeostasis I, Apr 2025-present: participate in weekly course development meetings and contribute to content and case study design for a 16-week SOMME foundational sciences course using Lecturio, Osmosis, ScholarRx, and Case Creator.
- Department of Foundational Sciences, Apr 2025-present: participate in monthly faculty meetings focused on program development and instructional alignment.
- 2025 SOMME faculty development and planning: participated in faculty sessions supporting school launch, instructional alignment, and shared expectations for foundational sciences education.
- Shufeldt School Faculty Active Learning Retreat, Jan 9, 2026: completed 5-hour active learning retreat focused on medical education pedagogy.
- Professional preparation directly relevant to SOMME teaching: AI-enabled syllabus and transcription tools, course accessibility, inclusive learning services, ScholarRx, Lecturio, Osmosis, Canvas/Ally accessibility, health equity, and active learning.

Clinical Exercise Physiology and Program Leadership

- Clinical Exercise Physiology MS Program Director, 2014-present; lead graduate program operations, curriculum coordination, student advising, assessment, admissions review, clinical internship coordination, and program reporting.
- Clinical Professor, Kinesiology Program, Arizona State University, 2017-present.

- Coordinate annual Academic Program Review and Annual Assessment Plans, including data analysis, report drafting, revision, and implementation follow-through.
- Provide faculty teaching assignment recommendations and coordinate semester scheduling, course revisions, major map updates, catalogue review, and curriculum approvals.
- Serve as primary student contact and clinical coordinator for CEP MS students, supporting high-quality internship placements, site communication, student concerns, and clinical competency documentation.
- Represent CEP MS program to CHS marketing, advising, community college partners, and other university units to support recruitment, alignment, and student progression.
- Maintain current professional affiliations with ACSM, SWACSM, ASCVPR, and CEPA.

Graduate Education, Mentoring, and Learner Development

- Fall 2025: Developed and delivered EXW 591 CEP Seminar, a 16-week transition curriculum for incoming CEP graduate students outside assigned workload.
- Fall-Spring 2025: Mentored 11 new CEP graduate students and 8 continuing students through coursework, clinical rotation placement, poster preparation, cumulative exam preparation, and research commitments.
- Summer-Fall 2025: Directed EXW 592 Independent Study with Danyelle King; updated the CEP MS comprehensive exam to align with the ACSM CEP certification exam and refined clinical project requirements.
- Spring 2025: Thesis committee member for Kyla Galdos, 'Acculturation as a Determinant of Physical Activity and Memory in Aging Latinos: A Secondary Analysis of the Health & Aging Brain Study - Health Disparities (HABS-HD).'
- 2024: Mentored 15 new CEP students and 9 second-year students across coursework, clinical rotation placement, AACVPR poster presentations, comprehensive exam preparation, and research commitments.
- Fall 2025-present: Barrett Honors Thesis Advisor for Trinity Bouchal, 'The Impact of the Menstrual Cycle on Weight Cutting in Female Combat Athletes.'
- Fall 2025: Honors Contracts for Ruth Cox and Adriana Anduaga-Arias.

Faculty Leadership and Institutional Service

- Spring 2026: Ad Hoc Clinical Faculty Annual Review Committee reviewer.
- Fall 2024-present: Faculty Assembly coordinator for Fall and Spring meetings; coordinate agenda, speakers, faculty/staff logistics, and leadership communication.
- Fall 2025-present: Program Director Evolution group participant, focused on graduate program director roles and responsibilities.
- Fall 2020-present: Clinical Programs Director group participant, supporting collaboration among clinical program leaders, shared resources, and clinical partnership development.
- Spring 2025-Fall 2021: Personnel Committee member; collaborated with 14 CHS faculty members, reviewed 8 promotion packets, and drafted promotion letters for clinical faculty advancement.
- 2019-present: Committee Lead Chair overseeing eight college-level faculty standing committees and supporting committee chairs through monthly executive meetings.
- 2020-present: Clinical Exercise Science BS program committee member.
- 2011-present: Kinesiology Curriculum Committee member; review exercise physiology course equivalency requests and participate in curriculum decisions.
- 2012-present: Kinesiology Honors Society faculty liaison; mentor undergraduate students preparing for graduate and professional programs.

Peer and Faculty Mentoring

- Current-Fall 2024: Faculty Mentor for Sarah Everman, AT Still University.
- Current-Fall 2022: Faculty Mentor for Traci Grgich; supported promotion packet review before submission.

- Fall 2025-Fall 2022: Faculty Mentor for Rodin DeWeese; met monthly and reviewed promotion packet before submission.
- Fall 2025-Fall 2020: Faculty Mentor for Rachel Hollingsworth.
- Spring-Fall 2025: Faculty Mentoring for Susan Racette, including course topics, assignment format, and lab integration.
- Summer 2025: Peer Review for Tiffany Lemon.
- 2024: Faculty Mentoring for Jordan Miller and Rachel Larson regarding clinical internship coordinator responsibilities and workload expectations.

Scholarly and Professional Contributions

- ASCVPR, May 2025: Submitted 3 posters with CEP MS graduate students, Phoenix, AZ.
- ASCVPR, May 2024: Submitted 5 posters with CEP MS graduate students, Phoenix, AZ.
- Fall 2025: Edson College of Nursing Pilot Award reviewer.
- Fall 2024: Edson College of Nursing Pilot Award reviewer.
- 2025: Guest speaker in KIN 101 sections for Chestiny Fair, Rachel Hollingsworth, and Jeremy Fransen, discussing exercise physiology and professional pathways.
- 2024: Guest speaker for KIN 101 sections and 'Interview with an Expert' on clinical exercise physiology and future directions in the field.

Selected Professional Development: SOMME, Medical Education, and Clinical Expertise

- Jan 2026: Shufeldt School Faculty Active Learning Retreat; Common Errors Made During 6MW Test and Alternative Tests in Cardiopulmonary Rehab.
- 2025: AI Spotlight: AI Transcription + Build a Syllabus Assistant with Create AI; Access Zone Training Parts 1 and 2; Canvas/Ally accessibility; ScholarRx, Lecturio, and Osmosis training; HPEN Health Equity continuing education.
- 2025: CEPA Annual Online Conference; ASCVPR Annual Conference; Best Practices for Standardizing and Optimizing Clinical Placements; ACSM ExSci Careers Explored Series.
- 2025: Clinical and cardiometabolic topics including exercise oncology, cardiopulmonary rehabilitation coaching, liver transplant preparation/recovery, GLP-1 adherence, pharmacology and cardiometabolic disease, and health behavior change.
- 2024: ASCVPR Annual Conference; systematic review/meta-analysis; composite risk prediction; propensity score adjustment; program evaluation/project management; CEP careers; inclusive excellence; autism and exercise.
- Current certifications/training: CITI Human Subjects Training, CPR/First Aid/AED, FERPA, information security, and fire safety/prevention.

Current Teaching Portfolio

Course/Area	Executive Relevance
EXW 560: Cardiac Rehabilitation	Clinical graduate preparation in cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation, chronic disease treatment, case-based learning, and practicum application.
EXW 565: Cardiopulmonary Physiology	Cardiopulmonary pathophysiology and treatment of chronic disease with applied clinical case studies and assessment rubrics.
EXW 568: Management and Treatment of Chronic Disease	Graduate instruction in metabolic, immunologic, neuromuscular, orthopedic, and musculoskeletal conditions.
EXW 591: CEP MS Seminar	Graduate student transition, professional preparation, comprehensive exam readiness, and program orientation.
EXW 584: Clinical Exercise Physiology Internship	Clinical placement oversight, competency documentation, site communication, and student support across Fall, Spring, and Summer placements.
KIN 447: ECG Interpretation	Applied ECG interpretation with clinical scenarios, lab application, and practice-based assessment.
KIN 443: Exercise Endocrinology	Evidence-based learning and practical application through online research assignments.

EXW 590/592 and CHS 492/493/494	Independent study, graduate research, undergraduate research, honors thesis, and advanced undergraduate teaching assistant mentorship.

Recognition

- 2006-present: Barrett Honors College, Honors Disciplinary Faculty.