



Board of Directors

AJ Nanayakkara (President):

AJ Nanayakkara is the co-founder of Global Abilities with a Master of Arts in International Disability Policy. He is a dynamic motivational speaker and counselor experienced in mentoring students, health care professionals, and individuals with disabilities. AJ's professional career and community work are dedicated to creating a more inclusive world for persons with disabilities. He has developed adapted recreation programs across the country, and his many awards include being named a Philadelphia Hometown Hero and receiving the special citation from the Mayor of Philadelphia. He serves on Philadelphia's Mayor's Commission on People with Disabilities and numerous Boards of agencies that address disability issues. He is a community advocate and business leader advising organizations on how to foster climates of inclusion. AJ mentors patients at numerous hospitals and nursing homes. He teaches undergraduate and graduate students in Psychology, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Therapeutic Recreation and advises the Department of Defense on how to promote Inclusive Recreation for Wounded Warriors.

Kelly Fisher Ph.D. (Vice-President):

Dr. Fisher is the co-founder of Global Abilities. She is a Developmental Psychologist and a specialist in education and organizational development. She has earned a master's degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology and a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology. Kelly has extensive experience in education program development and evaluation, climate and culture change, strategic planning and construction and validation of assessment instruments. Dr. Fisher has published articles and book chapters on the impact of informal and formal learning activities on children's cognitive, social, and emotional development. She has given numerous presentations and seminars on topics related to learning, education, and healthy development to specialized (teachers, parents, patients) domestic and international scientific conferences.

Nora Kramer, MSN, CNRN (Treasurer):

Nora Kramer has been a nurse at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital (TJUH) for twenty-three years. She is currently the Nurse Manager of the Neurological intensive care unit (NICU) and the Intermediate Neurological Intensive Care Unit (INICU). Prior to her tenure at TJUH, Nora performed outreach work in the United States and in developing countries. She served as a social worker and youth group coordinator in Chile from 1981 to 1984, and as a nurse in a refugee camp in El Salvador from 1986 to 1988. Before volunteering her services abroad, Nora worked with at-risk youth in Chicago and on a migrant farm in South Carolina. She has also coached volleyball and basketball since 1999.



Amy Crouse, DPT:

Amy Crouse is Rehab Director and Physical Therapist for a continuing care retirement community in Lafayette Hill, PA. She graduated from Lebanon Valley College with a Bachelor in Health Science and earned a Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Widener University. Amy has worked in acute hospital, outpatient, rehab, and retirement communities. Amy has pursued additional study in the treatment of stroke, foot biomechanics, falls and balance, vertigo, lymphedema management and osteoporosis. Since 2003, Amy has been a volunteer with the Magee Eagles wheelchair rugby team. Her interests are in wellness in the disabled and geriatric population. Amy spent 2000 studying abroad in London England where she was also able to travel throughout Great Britain, Ireland, Scotland, France, Germany, Switzerland and Holland. Amy has also traveled to Spain and Italy.

Marie Protesto, RN

Marie Protesto has been the coordinator for the spinal cord injury and amputee peer mentoring programs at Magee Rehabilitation Hospital for the past sixteen years. She has spoken at the local and national level on the benefits of mentoring in successful adjustment to a disability. Marie has also educated undergraduate and graduate medical, OT, PT, nursing and pharmacy students at local universities. After an accident left her with a spinal cord injury, Marie became actively involved in a disability awareness organization in the 1990's, speaking to local schools and businesses about attitudinal and physical barriers that can inhibit people with disabilities. She has been involved in the disability community for over 30 yrs.

Erin Spaniol, MOT

Erin Spaniol is an occupational therapist and assistive technology specialist who has worked at multiple hospital systems over the past decade, including Penn Institute of Rehab Medicine and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. During the 2013 American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference, Erin presented *The Wounded Warrior and the Art of Independence*, which discussed rehabilitation strategies for patients with upper extremity limb loss. As the a Certified Assisted Technology Professional (ATP), Erin has a passion for promoting the health and well-being of people with disabilities by increasing access to technology solutions. She is a Senior Research Associate at the Institute on Disability and Public Policy where she supports global health initiatives that address the disability community. She earned her Master's of Public Health from Columbia University, Masters of Occupational Therapy from Wayne State University, and Bachelors in Speech Pathology and Audiology from Michigan State University



Stanley Yoo, MD:

Stan Yoo is an attending physician in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Moss Rehabilitation Hospital in Elkins Park, PA. He is a graduate of Columbia University, Tufts University School of Medicine, and Temple University Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Residency Program. Stan is an avid athlete believes in the power of physical fitness to help individuals lead healthy and socially active lives. His extracurricular activities include gymnastics, tae kwon do, and CrossFit. In 2008, Stan sustained a spinal cord injury due to a gymnastics accident and credits CrossFit as a major factor in helping him recover physically and return to medical practice. For Global Abilities, Stan created the Ability Workout of the Day (WOD) to make CrossFit gyms and training methods accessible to persons with disabilities. Beginning in Philadelphia, PA, Stan plans to expand the Ability WOD to additional CrossFit gyms throughout the Northeast United States.

Global Abilities Advisory Board

Karalyn Anderson, DPT:

Karalyn Anderson is a Senior Physical Therapist on the acute rehab unit of Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital. Prior to this she worked in a skilled nursing facility, outpatient physical therapy clinic and on the wound care team at a long-term acute care facility. She graduated from Lebanon Valley College with her bachelor's degree in health sciences followed by earning her Doctorate of Physical Therapy from Widener University. She has pursued added coursework in the treatment of patients with stroke, lymphedema, bariatric ergonomics, osteoporosis, balance and falls, leadership, and anxiety disorders. Her interests include treating neurologic conditions and health in the geriatric population. Karalyn has studied abroad in London, England and had the opportunity to explore Ireland, Scotland and England. She has recently spent time in Spain, Switzerland, and Italy. Since 2003 Karalyn has volunteered as part of the support team for the Magee Eagles wheelchair rugby team and is married to a wheelchair rugby athlete.

Linda Peyton, JD:

Linda Peyton has been the Executive Director of the Legal Clinic for the Disabled since 2008. She began work at the Legal Clinic in 2003 as the Director of the anti-Violence Initiative. Prior to joining the Legal Clinic, Linda was a trial and appellate attorney with the Defender Association of Philadelphia. A graduate of Arizona State University and the Antioch Law School in Washington, D.C., Linda teaches at Arcadia University and serves as faculty for the American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence.



Javier Robles

Mr. Javier Robles is currently President of Thisabled, LLC, a disability run organization. After Javier sustained a spinal cord injury at the age of 16 that left him with C5-level quadriplegia, he dedicated his life to achieving personal independence and performing community service. He is a graduate of Seton Hall Law School and served as the Deputy Director of the New Jersey Division of Disability Services (DDS) until March 2010. Robles also worked as the Project Officer for the NJ Medicaid Infrastructure Grant, which sought to change employment outcomes for people with disabilities. In addition, he oversaw the Personal Assistance Services Program (PASP), the NJ Modular Ramp and Low-Riser Step Program, and the Personal Preference Program. He was a member to the New Jersey Governors Blue Ribbon Panel on Immigration. Javier is the Past Chair of the Drug and Alcohol Advisory Council for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Disabled and a past member of the Governor's Working Group on Latino Issues.