Dr. Emmanuel B. John Nominated Among World Physiotherapy's 75 Noteworthy Physiotherapists

Press Release, April 14, 2026



Dr. Emmanuel Babatunde John, PT, DPT, PhD, MPH, MBA, FAHA, FIMC, Dean and Professor at the Dr. Donald E. and Lois J. Myers School of Nursing and Health Professions, York College of Pennsylvania, has been nominated by the World Physiotherapy Africa Region for the prestigious "75 Noteworthy Physiotherapists" recognition — a global honour being conferred as part of World Physiotherapy's 75th Anniversary celebrations (1951–2026).

World Physiotherapy is recognising 75 physiotherapists from around the world who have made exceptional contributions to the profession at a national, regional, or international level at any point since 1951. A selection committee comprising representatives from World Physiotherapy's regions and the International Physiotherapy History Association (IPHA) will review nominations and make recommendations to the World Physiotherapy Executive Board, with the final 75 honourees to be announced later this year. The nominations closed on April 13, 2026.

Dr. John's nomination by the Africa Region highlights a career defined by building institutions, digital infrastructure, and educational pathways for physiotherapy across Nigeria and the African continent — largely at personal expense.

A Comprehensive Record of Contributions to Physiotherapy in Nigeria, Africa, and Globally

Nominee: Dr. Emmanuel Babatunde John, PT, DPT, PhD, MPH, MBA, FAHA, FIMC

Nominating Body: World Physiotherapy Africa Region

Opening Statement

Few physiotherapists can claim to have built the digital, educational, and regulatory infrastructure of an entire continent's physiotherapy profession — from personal funds and sheer conviction. Dr. Emmanuel B. John is one of them.

Since founding the Nigeria Physiotherapy Network in 1999, Dr. John has spent more than a quarter century building platforms, brokering international partnerships, shipping resources, proposing continental education standards, travelling to countries across Africa at personal expense, and serving every executive leadership team of the World Physiotherapy Africa Region — all while maintaining a distinguished academic career in the United States that took him from Assistant Professor at Howard University to Dean of the Myers School of Nursing and Health Professions at York College of Pennsylvania. His story is not one of a leader who served an institution; it is the story of a man who built institutions — and then paid for them himself.

I. He Built African Physiotherapy's Digital Backbone — and Paid for It Himself

The most quietly extraordinary aspect of Dr. John's career is the sheer scale of the digital infrastructure he personally created, deployed, and sustained — at his own expense — for the physiotherapy profession across Nigeria and Africa. He also provided a free online survey research tool to physiotherapists well before Google Forms or Qualtrics became mainstream.

The Nigeria Physiotherapy Network (1999–Present)

In 1999, while still practising as a physiotherapist in Kano, Nigeria, Dr. John founded the Nigeria Physiotherapy Network — the first-ever dedicated online platform connecting Nigerian physiotherapists at home and in the diaspora. The site first went live in the year 2000 as a free-hosted page (nigeriaphysionet.8m.com), later migrating to its own domain and paid server. For over 25 years, Dr. John has served as its Executive Editor and Director, transforming it into a comprehensive hub featuring a national physiotherapy database, the Nigeria Physiotherapy Hall of Fame, news archives, professional resources, migration guides for Nigerian PTs seeking international careers, and a repository documenting the history and founding fathers of Nigerian physiotherapy.

Source: nigeriaphysio.net – Our Mission

The World Physiotherapy Africa Region Website and Conference System (2008–2022)

From 2008 to 2022, Dr. John single-handedly designed, deployed, and maintained the official website of the World Physiotherapy Africa Region (formerly WCPT Africa Region). He also built and operated a full conference abstract management system — conf.wcptafrica.org — that handled abstract submissions, peer review, and scheduling for every Africa Region conference over that 14-year span. He provided conference planning and technical support to every Africa Region executive leadership team across this period.

Every element of this work — the website hosting, the development, the conference system, the ongoing maintenance — was funded entirely from Dr. John's personal resources, at zero cost to the Africa Region.

Source: APTA CV | WCPT Africa Region Conference System

The Medical Rehabilitation Therapists Board of Nigeria (MRTB) — Federal Government Digital Systems

Dr. John designed, deployed, and currently maintains the first-ever website for the Medical Rehabilitation Therapists (Registration) Board of Nigeria (MRTB) — the Federal Government of Nigeria's regulatory agency responsible for the education and practice of physiotherapy and allied rehabilitation professions in the country. Beyond the main website, he also built and deployed:

- The Registrant/Licensee Portal — enabling practitioners to manage their registration and licensing online
- The Continuing Professional Development (CPD) System — a digital platform for managing continuing education requirements

For several years, all of these systems were provided entirely free of charge. They are now offered at heavily subsidized rates — at a fraction of the millions of Nigerian Naira that other healthcare professional boards pay for comparable systems. The Registrar of the MRTB has noted with amazement the extraordinary value Dr. John provides relative to what other boards spend.

Source: mrtb.gov.ng | my.mrtb.gov.ng | mycpd.mrtb.gov.ng

Supporting the Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy (2003–Present)

Dr. John has provided the Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy with website design, deployment, and maintenance, as well as conference management systems, from 2003 through the present — all at no cost to the Society, funded entirely from personal resources.

He also designed and maintains the website for the Journal of the Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy (JNSP) and the Nigerian Journal of Medical Rehabilitation (NJMR) (now hosted on the .gov.ng domain after the Nigerian government mandated all government parastatals to migrate to that domain), providing the profession's scholarly outlets with a digital presence.

He also created and supported the Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy Conference Abstract and Conference Management System — enabling the NSP to manage its own national conference submissions and review processes.

Source: APTA CV

Free Online Survey Research Tool for Physiotherapists

Well before Google Forms or Qualtrics became mainstream, Dr. John provided a free online survey research tool — surveys.nigeriaphysio.net — to physiotherapists across Africa and globally. This democratised research capacity, enabling physiotherapists in resource-limited settings to conduct quantitative research without costly software licenses.

Source: surveys.nigeriaphysio.net

Supporting Physiotherapy Students Across Nigeria and Africa

Dr. John built and maintains the website for the Nigerian Association of Physiotherapy Students (NAPS) — at no cost and on personal funds — from 2003 to the present. He extended the same support to the Africa Association of Physiotherapy Students (AAPTS) from

2010 onward.

Source: APTA CV

The Full Platform Count

In total, Dr. John has personally designed, deployed, and sustained the following nine major digital platforms for the physiotherapy profession:

#	Platform	URL	Service Period
1	Nigeria Physiotherapy Network	nigeriaphysio.net	1999–present
2	World Physiotherapy Africa Region Website	wcptafrica.org	2008–2022
3	WCPT Africa Region Conference System	conf.wcptafrica.org	2008–2022
4	Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy	nigeriaphysio.org	2003–present
5	Nigerian Journal of Medical Rehabilitation	njmr.mrtb.gov.ng	2006–present
6	Journal of Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy	jnsp.org	2009–present
7	Nigerian Association of Physiotherapy Students	nigaps.org	2003–present
8	Africa Association of Physiotherapy Students	aapts.org	2010–present
9	MRTB Website + Licensing Portal + CPD System	mrtb.gov.ng / my.mrtb.gov.ng / mycpd.mrtb.gov.ng	Ongoing
10	Africa Physiotherapy Network	africaphysio.net / physiolink.org	2014–present
11	Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy Conference Management System	nspconf.nigeriaphysio.org	2014–present
12	Free Online Survey Research Tool for Physiotherapists	surveys.nigeriaphysio.net	Ongoing

Twelve platforms. Sustained for decades. On personal sacrifice alone.

II. He Brought Doctoral Education Home to Nigeria — and Changed National Policy

The UM-Flint-Nigeria Transitional DPT Programme (2011–Ongoing)

The seeds of Dr. John's most transformative contribution were planted at the 2010 WCPT Africa Region Congress in Accra, Ghana, where he presented on the potential of international long-distance education to upgrade physiotherapy training across Africa. That same year, he received what he calls "the Macedonia Call" — an email on March 28, 2010, from a Nigerian physiotherapist pleading for help in accessing doctoral-level education.

Dr. John responded by conducting a formal needs assessment survey to gauge interest among Nigerian physiotherapists, then spent months consulting with stakeholders in Nigeria and the United States and negotiating partnerships. He connected with Dr. Cynthia (Cindy) Pfalzer, head of UM-Flint's Doctor of Physical Therapy programme, and as UM-Flint's Christina Wixson told the Flint Journal/MLive: "It was just a matter of Emmanuel John wanting to give back to Nigeria and having the resources within Cindy to do it."

By 2011, he had brokered the first-ever online Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy (tDPT) programme between the University of Michigan-Flint and 16 top students from seven West African universities — delivered 100% online, with periodic in-person intensives. As Dr. John told MLive: "This program won't just help the physical therapy practice, it is helping the nation." The first cohort began studies in Fall 2011 and were awarded their DPT degrees at a historic UM-Flint commencement ceremony on May 5, 2013.

By the sixth cohort (commencing Fall 2016), at least 28 Nigerian physical therapists had earned or were earning their doctoral degrees through this collaboration — without leaving their country. Dr. John arranged a Memorandum of Understanding between

Nnamdi Azikiwe University (Nigeria) and UM-Flint to formalize the institutional partnership.
The impact was historic: because of Dr. John's efforts, the Federal Government of Nigeria adopted the DPT as the entry-level education model for physiotherapy nationwide — a national policy change directly attributed to the momentum his programme created.
Sources: UM-Flint News | Journal of Physical Therapy Education 2012 Paper | Genesis of the tDPT Program | University of Kansas Early Career Alumni Award

Fulbright Faculty Exchange

Dr. John facilitated a 2013–2014 Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence grant for **Dr. Olubusola Esther Johnson**, an orthopaedic physical therapy specialist from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, to be hosted at UM-Flint's Department of Physical Therapy. Dr. Johnson — one of approximately 800 outstanding foreign faculty and professionals selected for the Fulbright programme that year — conducted a comparative study of professional physical therapy curricula between Nigeria and the United States, participated in teaching, faculty meetings, curriculum review, and attended state and national PT conferences. She returned to Nigeria to help adapt a doctoral-level curriculum for Nigerian universities — a direct transfer of academic capacity from the United States to Nigeria, brokered entirely by Dr. John.
Sources: UM-Flint Fulbright Scholar News | ebjohn.net

Secretary, Nigeria DPT Curriculum Design Committee (2013–2014)

Dr. John served as Secretary of the Nigeria DPT Curriculum Design Committee, charged by the Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy to design the national entry-level DPT curriculum for Nigeria. This was the formal mechanism through which Nigeria's physiotherapy education system transitioned to doctoral-level entry.
Source: APTA CV

Establishing a BSc Physiotherapy Programme in Cameroon

Beyond Nigeria, Dr. John played a central role in developing the Bachelor of Physiotherapy (BPT) programme at the **Baptist Institute of Health Sciences (BIHS)**, Mbingo Baptist Hospital, Bamenda, Cameroon — extending his education-building mission into francophone West Africa.
Dr. John worked closely with **Oliver Haumann**, a German physiotherapist serving as Programme Director of the developing BPT programme, and **Dr. Dennis Palmer, DO, FACP, FWACP (Int Med)**, Dean of the Baptist Institute of Health Sciences. Beginning in early 2022, Dr. John undertook several concrete actions to strengthen the programme:

- **Faculty Recruitment:** He advertised across US national physiotherapy networks to identify American physiotherapists willing to teach in the Cameroon BPT curriculum in areas where BIHS lacked faculty. He screened and vetted candidates, then connected the most qualified, and who are willing to donate their teaching time (*probono*) with the programme. Among the faculty he recruited was **Dr. Dennis Fell, MD, PT** — a physician-physiotherapist who had retired in 2018 as Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of South Alabama and who served as Vice-President of the Neurologic Physical Therapy Academy of the APTA. Dr. John connected Dr. Fell with Oliver Haumann to teach BPT 204 (Neurological Disorders and Rehabilitation) in Spring 2023. Dr. John himself also offered to teach BHS 302 (Research Methodology and Biostatistics).
- **Book, Journal, and Equipment Donations:** Dr. John coordinated the donation of physiotherapy textbooks, journals, and equipment from the United States to the Cameroon programme. Shipments were arranged through a container system operated by White Cross / Bismarck Baptist Church in North Dakota, which shipped donated medical items to Cameroon approximately every six months.
- **Emory University Connection:** He connected the BIHS programme with Emory University's Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, which shipped additional textbooks and educational resources to support the fledgling programme.

This contribution exemplifies Dr. John's pattern: identify a need, build the connection, recruit the people, ship the resources, and ensure everything flows to where it is needed most.

The "Giving-Back Programme" — Textbooks, Equipment, and Libraries

Under the auspices of the Nigeria Physiotherapy Network, Dr. John coordinates the "Giving-Back Programme" to support entry-level physical therapy programmes across Nigeria and Africa. His most notable contributions include:

- **Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nnewi, Nigeria:** The relationship began when Dr. John served as a member of an onsite international accreditation review team to the university's physiotherapy

programme. That visit birthed a lasting partnership through which Dr. John arranged the free shipment of physical therapy textbooks, journals, and equipment from the United States to the new Physiotherapy Programme at NAU. In 2009, in recognition of this generosity, the departmental library was named **"The Dr. E.B. John Department of Medical Rehabilitation Library"** — a rare honour for a living physiotherapist. (Source: ebjohn.net | APTA CV)

- **University of Lagos:** Dr. John donated an e-library valued at over 1.5 million Naira to the physiotherapy department at the University of Lagos — his own alma mater (B.Sc. Physiotherapy, 1994). (Source: ULAPS News | Official CMUL News Report with Photo Gallery)
- **University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria (2016):** Dr. John shipped 18–20 boxes of physiotherapy textbooks and journals — significant portions from his personal library — to the Department of Physiotherapy at the University of Benin, coordinated with Dr. Kayode I. Oke (Head of Department). The shipment was sent by ocean freight from two US locations (Irvine, CA and Levittown, PA) to Nigeria. UNIBEN reimbursed only the domestic US shipping cost of $378.29.
- **Cameroon (Mbingo):** Recruited US faculty, coordinated book/journal/equipment donations via the White Cross container system, and connected the Baptist Institute of Health Sciences with Emory University for additional resource support (see expanded Cameroon section above).

III. He Gave Africa a Roadmap — and Built the Movement to Deliver It

Keynote Address: "From Advocacy to Action Against Non-Communicable Diseases Through Physiotherapist Education" (Zambia, 2014)

At the 10th WCPT Africa Region Congress in Lusaka, Zambia (May 19–24, 2014), Dr. John delivered the keynote address that would define his legacy as a continental thought leader.

He confronted the audience with a stark reality: Africa carried 25% of the world's disease burden, yet the entire continent had only approximately 6,200 physiotherapists — a ratio of one physiotherapist per 143,871 people. Non-communicable diseases were rising rapidly, and the workforce was woefully inadequate to meet the challenge.

His answer was bold and specific:

- **Vision 2020:** Upgrade all diploma-level physiotherapy education programmes across Africa to bachelor's degree level by 2020.
- **Vision 2030:** Upgrade 80% of Africa's physiotherapy education programmes to doctoral entry-level (DPT) by 2030, positioning physiotherapists as first-contact practitioners capable of leading the fight against NCDs.

Both Vision 2020 and Vision 2030 were formally adopted by the WCPT Africa Region — the first continent-wide aspirational standards for physiotherapy education ever adopted by the regional body.

At that same keynote, Dr. John launched two initiatives to drive implementation:

- **The Africa Physiotherapy Network** (also at physiolink.org) — a continental platform extending the model of the Nigeria Physiotherapy Network across all of Africa
- **The "Adopt-a-Physiotherapist" Mentorship Programme** — pairing experienced physiotherapists with emerging professionals across the continent

Source: WCPT Africa Region Congress 2014 – Presentations | Keynote Abstract

INPTRA Plenary Address (Cape Town, 2017)

Dr. John delivered a plenary address at the 2017 Conference of the International Network of Physiotherapy Regulatory Authorities (INPTRA) in Cape Town, South Africa, titled "Challenges of Regulating the Scope of Practice of Physiotherapists in Africa When Multiple Entry-Level Education Co-exist." This presentation brought the regulatory implications of Africa's fragmented education system to the attention of the global regulatory community — the same regulatory bodies whose standards shape licensure and practice worldwide.

Source: APTA CV

Co-Chair, Scientific Committee, WCPT Africa Region Conference, Cotonou (2022)

Dr. John served as Co-Chair of the Scientific Committee for the WCPT Africa Region Conference in Cotonou, Benin Republic,

originally scheduled for July 10–13, 2020, but postponed to October 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In this role, he oversaw the scientific programme — abstract review, session design, and quality assurance — for the continent's most important physiotherapy gathering.

Source: WCPT Africa Region Conference Contact

Brokering APTA-Africa Region Cooperation

Dr. John initiated and brokered cooperation between the APTA Neurology Section and the WCPT Africa Region for post-professional education programming for African physiotherapists — creating a direct bridge between the world's largest national physiotherapy association and Africa's regional body.

Source: ebjohn.net

Landmark Publication: Physiotherapy Workforce in Sub-Saharan Africa

In 2017, Dr. John co-authored a landmark paper in *Human Resources for Health* — "Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy Education and Workforce in Anglophone Sub-Saharan Africa Countries" — that systematically documented the physiotherapy and occupational therapy workforce gap across Anglophone sub-Saharan Africa. This paper provided the evidentiary foundation upon which policy advocacy for increased training capacity and workforce investment could be built.

Source: Human Resources for Health 2017 – PMC5469184

Crusader Across the Continent — Country by Country

Dr. John did not confine his advocacy to conference podiums and journal pages. He personally traveled to countries and regions across Africa — at his own expense — to help develop and upgrade physiotherapy education and practice on the ground. This hands-on, personally funded crusade across the continent is among the most distinctive features of his career — a level of personal investment in continental development that is virtually unmatched in the profession.

Ethiopia — Jimma University (2002–2003): While still a PhD student at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Dr. John designed a complete Bachelor of Physiotherapy curriculum for Jimma University, Ethiopia. The curriculum was approved by the university leadership for implementation — making this one of the earliest examples of his commitment to building physiotherapy education infrastructure across Africa, before he had even completed his own doctoral training.

Kenya — Great Lakes University of Kisumu (May 2014): Dr. John was invited by the Vice-Chancellor of the Great Lakes University of Kisumu (GLUK), Kenya, to consult for their physiotherapy programmes. GLUK operated a BSc Physiotherapy degree and a Diploma-to-BSc PT bridge programme, and aspired to launch an MSc in Physiotherapy. Dr. John provided curriculum consultation and upgrading recommendations during his May 24–26, 2014 visit.

Nigeria — Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka (Accreditation Site Visit): Dr. John served as a member of an onsite international accreditation review team to Nnamdi Azikiwe University's physiotherapy programme. It was this accreditation visit that birthed the relationship leading to the Giving-Back Programme's book and equipment shipments — and ultimately to the department library being named in his honour.

Nigeria — University of Nigeria, Nsukka and Enugu Campus (July 2013): At the personal invitation of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bartholomew Okolo, Dr. John conducted a comprehensive consultation visit to the Department of Medical Rehabilitation at the University of Nigeria (Nsukka and Enugu campuses) from July 29–31, 2013. He was tasked with reviewing the programme, recommending capacity-building changes, identifying diaspora physiotherapy scholars willing to take up positions, and brokering international institutional partnerships. His detailed report assessed curriculum, faculty, students, and educational infrastructure, and critically recommended the immediate implementation of a Senate-approved 5-year BMR (Bachelor of Medical Rehabilitation) curriculum that had been stuck for years at the University Council. Following his report, the curriculum was released and implemented — unblocking a years-long institutional bottleneck.

Nigeria — University of Benin, Benin City (2016): Dr. John shipped 18–20 boxes of physiotherapy textbooks and journals — significant portions from his personal library — to the University of Benin's Department of Physiotherapy through the Giving-Back Programme. The shipment was coordinated with Dr. Kayode I. Oke (Head of Department, Physiotherapy, University of Benin) via ocean freight from two US locations (Irvine, California and Levittown, Pennsylvania) to Nigeria. UNIBEN reimbursed only the domestic US shipping cost of $378.29.

Source: nigeriaphysio.net Gallery – Dr. John's Africa Visits | Gallery – WCPT Africa Region Activities | Gallery – Giving-Back Programme

Mentorship of Colleagues Across Nigeria and Africa

Across all of these decades, Dr. John has quietly mentored physiotherapy colleagues in Nigeria and Africa — both remotely and in person. A compelling example is his long-term mentorship of **Dr. Ngozi Florence Onuegbu**, whom he supported from her PhD research at the College of Medicine, University of Lagos, through her career as Senior Lecturer at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana, to her current position as Senior Lecturer in Physiotherapy and Practice Education Lead at London Metropolitan University. Dr. John facilitated the shipping of research instrumentation from the United States to Nigeria and

Ghana to support Dr. Onuegbu's research, which contributed to the following 2025 publication in the MDPI journal *Children*:

- Moses MO, **Onuegbu NF**, Deku PD-G, Nyarko MA, Owusu LB, Emikpe AO, Soangra R, **John EB**, Yifieyeh AC, Titiloye NA. "Joint Angular Kinematics and Gross Motor Function in Typically Developing Healthy Children." *Children* 2025;12(3):280. PMC11941133 | MDPI

This pattern of investing personal resources to enable colleagues in Africa to conduct research — by shipping instrumentation, providing technical guidance, and co-authoring publications — exemplifies a form of mentorship that goes far beyond advice.

IV. Early Leadership in Nigeria — Before the Diaspora

Before emigrating to the United States in 2002, Dr. John had already established himself as a leader in Nigerian physiotherapy:

- **National President, Nigerian Association of Physiotherapy Students (NAPS), 1992–1994:** He led the national body of physiotherapy students across five Nigerian universities — University of Ibadan, Obafemi Awolowo University, University of Lagos, University of Nigeria (Enugu Campus), and the Federal School of Physiotherapy at Bayero University, Kano.
- **National Assistant General Secretary and Pioneer Editor, National PhysioNews, Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy, 2000–2002:** He launched the first national news magazine of the Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy, creating a communication backbone for the profession at home. A sample issue of the National PhysioNews (Vol. 1, No. 3, 2001) is archived online.
- **General Secretary, Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy, Kano State Chapter, 1999–2002:** He served in state-level professional leadership while simultaneously practising clinically and teaching at the university level.
- **Associate Lecturer and Clinical Instructor, Federal School of Physiotherapy, Bayero University, Kano, 1996–2002:** He taught, mentored, and supervised undergraduate physiotherapy students on ward rounds, and mentored BSc dissertation research projects.
- **Physical Therapist, National Orthopaedic Hospital, Dala, Kano (NOHDK), 1997–2002:** He provided clinical physiotherapy services at one of Nigeria's premier orthopaedic hospitals.

Source: APTA CV

V. Academic Career in the United States

Dr. John's academic career in the United States has been marked by steady ascent and consistent achievement:

Years	Position	Institution
2022–present	**Dean and Professor**, Dr. Donald E. and Lois J. Myers School of Nursing and Health Professions	York College of Pennsylvania
2015–2022	**Tenured Associate Professor and Chair**, Department of Physical Therapy	Chapman University, Irvine, CA
2014–2015	**Associate Professor and Director of Research**, School of Physical Therapy	Touro University Nevada, Henderson, NV
2011–2014	**Associate Professor (Tenure-track)**, Department of Physical Therapy	Radford University, Roanoke, VA
2006–2011	**Assistant Professor (Tenure-track) and Director**, Motor Control and Neuromuscular Performance Laboratory	Howard University, Washington, DC

At **Chapman University**, he led the oldest continuously accredited Physical Therapy education programme in the United States — founded in 1926, first accredited in 1928 — overseeing 19 full-time faculty, 61 part-time faculty, 6 administrative staff, and 240

students.

At **York College of Pennsylvania**, he currently serves as Dean of a comprehensive school comprising over 20 programmes across undergraduate, graduate, and certificate levels in nursing and the health professions, with a $5M+ operating budget and $12M+ in annual revenue.

Sources: York College Dean Announcement | nigeriaphysio.net Chapman Appointment | ebjohn.net

VI. Awards, Honours, and Recognition

Year	Award	Awarding Body
2024	**Cerasoli Lecturer** — the highest honour in US physical therapy education	APTA Academy of Physical Therapy Education (CSM, Boston, MA)
2023	**Lynda D. Woodruff Lecturer**	APTA, APTE, and ACAPT
2023	**Nwuga Physiotherapy Foundation Lectureship**	Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy
2020	**Fellow of the American Heart Association (FAHA)**	American Heart Association
2020	**Fellow of the Institute of Management Consultants (FIMC)**	Institute of Management Consultants, Nigeria
2019	**Early-Career Achievement in Health Professions Alumnus Award**	University of Kansas Medical Center
2013	**Most Outstanding Nigerian Physiotherapist in the Diaspora**	Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy
2012	**WCPT Africa Region Service Award** — for selfless service as Regional Webmaster and online Technical Support for conferences and abstract management	World Physiotherapy Africa Region
2010	**Alumni Merit Award**	Department of Physiotherapy, College of Medicine, University of Lagos
2009	**Department Library Named in His Honour** — "The Dr. E.B. John Department of Medical Rehabilitation Library"	Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nnewi, Nigeria

The **Cerasoli Lectureship** is given in memory of Pauline "Polly" Cerasoli, PT, EdD, and acknowledges an individual who has distinguished themselves as an educator, administrator, practitioner, and/or mentor. Dr. John's 2024 Cerasoli Lecture is available on YouTube.

The **University of Kansas Medical Center**, in presenting its 2019 Early-Career Achievement Award, specifically noted that "because of his efforts, the Federal Government of Nigeria adopted the DPT as the entry-level education model" — attributing a national policy change directly to his work.

Sources: APTA Education – Past Award Recipients | YouTube – Cerasoli Lecture | KUMC Alumni Awards | ebjohn.net

VII. Professional Leadership at National and International Levels

Organization	Role	Period
American Council on Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT)	Secretary, Executive Committee, and Board of Directors	2018–2022
International Association of Nigerian Physical Therapists (IANPT)	President, North America (USA and Canada)	2023–2026
Nigeria Physiotherapy Network	Founder and Executive Director	2002–present
Africa Physiotherapy Network	Founder and Executive Director	2014–present

Nigeria Physiotherapy Network Foundation, Inc.	President/CEO	Ongoing
APTA Neurology Section, Stroke Interest Group	Chair	2011–2014
APTA Neurology Section, Telecommunications Committee	Member and Co-Chair	2010–2017
Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy	National Assistant General Secretary and Pioneer Editor	2000–2002
Nigerian Association of Physiotherapy Students	National President	1992–1994
Journals of the American Heart Association	Editorial Board Member	Ongoing
Memorial Health Fund (York County Community Foundation)	Board Member	Ongoing
UPMC York Memorial Hospital Advisory Board	Board Member	Ongoing

Source: APTA CV | Chapman Blogs – ACAPT Election | LinkedIn – IANPT Election

VIII. Research and Scholarly Contributions

Research Focus Areas

1. Effects of age, gender, and neurological lesions on the sense of motor effort
2. Effects of virtual reality and robotic rehabilitation interventions on the sense of motor effort
3. Effects of discharge destinations and socioeconomic factors on motor function recovery after stroke
4. Impact of brain-drain on physical therapy education in developing countries

Selected Publications (Physiotherapy and Global Health)

- Agho AO, **John EB**. "Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy Education and Workforce in Anglophone Sub-Saharan Africa Countries." *Human Resources for Health* 2017;15:37. PMC5469184

- **John EB**, Pfalzer CA, Fry D, Glickman L, Masaaki S, Sabus C, Okafor UAC, Al-Jarrah M. "Establishing and Upgrading Physical Therapist Education in Developing Countries: Four Case Examples of Service by Japan and United States Physical Therapist Programs to Nigeria, Suriname, Mongolia, and Jordan." *Journal of Physical Therapy Education* 2012;26(1):29-39. PDF

- **John EB**, Liu W, Gregory RW. "Biomechanics of Muscular Effort: Age Related Changes." *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise* 2009;41(2):418-25.

Selected Conference Presentations (Africa/Global Physiotherapy)

- **John EB** (Keynote). "From Advocacy to Action Against Non-Communicable Diseases Through Physiotherapist Education." 10th WCPT Africa Region Congress, Lusaka, Zambia, 2014. Abstract

- **John EB**, Akanle OT, Useh U, Amosun SL. "Challenges of Regulating the Scope of Practice of Physiotherapists in Africa When Multiple Entry-Level Education Co-exist." Plenary Session, INPTRA Conference, Cape Town, South Africa, 2017.

- **John EB**. "International Long Distance Education for Physiotherapists." WCPT Africa Region Congress, Accra, Ghana, 2010. Presentation PDF

- **John EB**, Okafor UC, Creps J, Fry D, Pfalzer L. "UMFlint-Nigeria Distance Transition DPT Collaboration – Changing Physical Therapists Education and Practice in a Resource Limited Country." *Physiotherapy* 2015;101(S1).

Multidisciplinary Research in Surgical Ergonomics and Wearable Sensor Technology

Beyond his global health and education work, Dr. John has contributed to a notable multidisciplinary research programme at the intersection of physiotherapy, biomedical engineering, and surgical education. His collaborative research group at Chapman University produced two widely cited publications on using surface electromyography (sEMG) and inertial measurement units (IMUs) to objectively evaluate surgical skill levels during minimally invasive and robotic surgeries — work with direct implications for surgical training, ergonomics, and patient safety:

- Soangra R, Jiang P, Haik D, Xu P, Brevik A, Peta A, Tapiero S, Landman J, **John EB**, Clayman RV. "Beyond Efficiency: Surface Electromyography Enables Further Insights into the Surgical Movements of Urologists." *Journal of Endourology* 2022;36(10):1355-1361. PubMed

- Soangra R, Sivakumar R, Anirudh ER, Reddy Y SV, **John EB**. "Evaluation of Surgical Skill Using Machine Learning with Optimal Wearable Sensor Locations." *PLoS ONE* 2022;17(6):e0267936. PLoS ONE | PMC9165861

This body of work has been cited over 40 times and has generated significant attention in the surgical education and biomedical engineering communities. The research line has continued to grow, with a 2026 follow-up paper published in *Scientific Reports* (Nature) introducing an explainable machine learning (XAI) framework for surgical skill classification.

Source: Google Scholar – Soangra Lab | Chapman Digital Commons

Manuscript Reviewer Roles

- European Journal of Physiotherapy (2013–present)
- Journal of Physical Therapy Education (2013–present)
- Gait & Posture Journal (2013–present)
- Journal of Rehabilitation Research & Development, VA (2007–2016)
- Conference Abstracts Reviewer, WCPT Africa Region (2010–present)
- Conference Abstracts Reviewer, Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy (2009–present)

Source: Google Scholar | APTA CV

IX. Education and Credentials

Year	Degree	Institution
1994	B.Sc. Physiotherapy	College of Medicine, University of Lagos, Nigeria
2006	PhD, Rehabilitation Science	University of Kansas Medical Center, KS
2015	Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)	Alabama State University, AL
2016	Master of Business Administration (MBA)	Louisiana State University – Shreveport, LA
2017	Credentialed Fellowship Graduate, Educational Leadership Institute	APTA
2020	Master of Public Health – Global Health (MPH)	Liberty University, VA

Five earned degrees. Two fellowships. A career of never stopping learning.

X. The Pattern That Defines His Career

What makes Dr. Emmanuel B. John's candidacy for the 75 Noteworthy Physiotherapists extraordinary is not any single achievement — it is the pattern.

He does not wait for institutions to act. He builds them. He does not wait for funding. He pays for it himself. He does not confine his impact to one country. He crosses borders — Nigeria, Cameroon, Zambia, Ghana, Benin, South Africa, the United States — carrying the same mission: to elevate physiotherapy education and practice wherever the need is greatest.

He designed a physiotherapy curriculum for an Ethiopian university while still a PhD student. He built twelve digital platforms for the profession and sustained them for decades on personal funds. He brokered a programme that produced 28 Nigerian doctors of physical therapy. He proposed education standards that an entire continental body adopted as policy. He shipped textbooks across oceans to four universities and recruited American faculty to teach in a developing Cameroon programme. He had a library named after him. He designed the digital systems for his country's federal regulatory board. He changed national education policy. He traveled to Ethiopia, Kenya, Cameroon, Zambia, Ghana, Benin, South Africa, and across Nigeria to consult, accredit, and upgrade physiotherapy programmes. He mentored colleagues across Africa, shipping research instrumentation to enable their scholarly work. He unblocked a university curriculum that had been stuck for years with a single consultation report. And through it all, he held a full-time academic career that took him from Assistant Professor to Dean of a School of Nursing and Health Professions — all while serving, at his own expense, as the unpaid backbone of African physiotherapy's digital and conference infrastructure.

This is not a career of service. This is a career of sacrifice — and the impact speaks for itself.

Behind this career of sacrifice stands an even deeper foundation: a faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that sustained every step, and a family — led by his wife, Toyin — who gave up their own time with him so that he could give his to the profession. The countless evenings, weekends, and holidays spent building platforms, writing proposals, and mentoring colleagues across time zones were hours borrowed from a family that never once asked him to stop. As Dr. John has said: "What we can see looking back 25 years is a direct result of my wife releasing me to follow and work my passion, especially during the early years of our marriage." This recognition belongs to them as much as it does to him.

Supporting Documentation and URLs

Resource	URL
Nigeria Physiotherapy Network	nigeriaphysio.net
Nigeria Physiotherapy Network – About/Mission	nigeriaphysio.net/About-Us/Our-Mission
Africa Physiotherapy Network	africaphysio.net / physiolink.org
World Physiotherapy Africa Region	wcptafrica.org
WCPT Africa Region Conference System	conf.wcptafrica.org
MRTB Website (Federal Government of Nigeria)	mrtb.gov.ng
MRTB Registrant Portal	my.mrtb.gov.ng
MRTB CPD System	mycpd.mrtb.gov.ng
Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy	nigeriaphysio.org
Nigerian Journal of Medical Rehabilitation	njmr.mrtb.gov.ng
Journal of Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy	jnsp.org
Nigerian Association of Physiotherapy Students	nigaps.org
Africa Association of Physiotherapy Students	aapts.org
Dr. John's Personal Website	ebjohn.net
Dr. John's APTA CV (PDF)	APTA CV
Dr. John's Chapman University CV (PDF)	Chapman CV
UM-Flint Nigeria DPT Collaboration News	UM-Flint News
MLive/Flint Journal Article on Nigeria-UM-Flint DPT	MLive
UM-Flint Fulbright Scholar from Nigeria	UM-Flint News
Genesis of the tDPT Program	nigeriaphysio.net
Journal of PT Education 2012 Paper	PDF
Human Resources for Health 2017 Paper	PMC5469184
WCPT Africa Region Congress 2014 – Presentations	conf.wcptafrica.org

WCPT Africa Region Congress 2014 – Keynote Abstract	Paper View
York College Dean Announcement	YCP News
York College Office Space Profile	YCP News
Chapman University Appointment News	nigeriaphysio.net
ACAPT Board Election	Chapman Blogs
APTA Education Past Award Recipients	APTA Education
Cerasoli Lecture 2024 (Video)	YouTube
IANPT Election	LinkedIn
LinkedIn Profile	LinkedIn
Google Scholar	Google Scholar
KUMC Alumni Awards	KUMC
ULAPS E-Library Donation News	ULAPS
Gallery: Giving-Back Programme	nigeriaphysio.net
Gallery: WCPT Africa Region Activities	nigeriaphysio.net
Gallery: Africa Visits	nigeriaphysio.net
Gallery: Book Shipments	nigeriaphysio.net
Gallery: Conference Support	nigeriaphysio.net
Gallery: MRTB / Additional	nigeriaphysio.net
Free Online Survey Research Tool	surveys.nigeriaphysio.net
NSP Conference Management System	nspconf.nigeriaphysio.org
National PhysioNews (Vol. 1, No. 3, 2001)	PDF Archive
CMUL E-Library Donation Photo Gallery	PDF
WCPT Africa 2010 Accra Presentation	PDF
UM-Flint tDPT Needs Assessment Survey	PDF
UNN Consultation Visit Report (July 2013)	Attached PDF (from Dr. John's files)
MDPI Children – Joint Angular Kinematics (2025)	PMC11941133
Dr. Ngozi Onuegbu – London Metropolitan University	Profile
GLUK Kenya Visit Photo Gallery	nigeriaphysio.net
Surgical Ergonomics Paper 1 – Journal of Endourology	PubMed
Surgical Ergonomics Paper 2 – PLoS ONE	PLoS ONE
Surgical Ergonomics Paper 3 – Scientific Reports (2026)	Chapman Digital Commons

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