

Mary “Mollie” McMillan (1880-1959) is remembered as one of the pioneers of our profession and as the founding president of the American Physical Therapy Association. Born in Hyde Park, Massachusetts, she grew up and was educated in England, where she decided upon a career in physical therapy. As the first physical therapy aide to be sworn into service in World War I, she supervised the training of reconstruction aides and came to be known as “The Mother of Physical Therapy” in the US Army. Mary McMillan organized one of the first courses in physical therapy in this country at Reed College in Oregon, and she established the first physical therapy training center in China at Peiping Union Medical College. Her book, *Massage and Therapeutic Exercise*, was the first comprehensive text on physical therapy written by an American physical therapist. During World War II, she treated prisoners of war while enduring the rigors of Japanese internment camps in Manila and Shanghai. Not only did she devote her life to furthering the profession, but she bequeathed a large part of her estate to its future, providing for the establishment of scholarship funds for students in the field of physical therapy. Mary McMillan’s selfless devotion to the profession has served as the inspiration for generations of physical therapists, and the ideals and standards she envisioned at the founding of the Association are still the goals we seek today.

The Mary McMillan Lecture Award, established by the Board of Directors in 1963 to pay tribute to Mary McMillan, acknowledges and honors an APTA member who has made a distinguished contribution to the profession. The award provides an opportunity for the recipient to share his or her achievements and ideas with the membership through a special lecture at the APTA Annual Conference. Nominations for the award may be submitted by individual members and components of the Association. Recipients of the award are selected by the APTA Awards Committee, with members representing the APTA Committees on Practice, Education, and Research.

Mary McMillan Lecture Award Recipients

Mildred O Elson, PT	1964
Catherine A Worthingham, PT, PhD, FAPTA	1965
Ruby Decker, PT	1966
Col Emma E Vogel, PT	1967
Helen Kaiser, PT	1968
Margaret Rood, PT	1969
None	1970
Lucy Blair, PT	1971
Margaret Knott, PT	1972
Lucille Daniels, PT	1973
None	1974
Helen J Hislop	1975
E Jane Carlin, PT, DSc	1976
Mary Clyde Singleton, PT, PhD	1977
Margaret L Moore, PT, EdD	1978
Helen Blood, PT, EdD, FAPTA	1979
Florence P Kendall, PT, FAPTA	1980
Susanne Hirt, PT, PhD	1981
Dorothy E Voss	1982
Nancy T Watts, PT, PhD, FAPTA	1983
Eugene Michels, PT, FAPTA	1984
Geneva R Johnson, PT, PhD, FAPTA	1985
Dorothy Pinkston, PT, PhD, FAPTA	1986
Charles M Magistro, PT, FAPTA	1987
None	1988
Ruth Wood, PT, FAPTA	1989
L Don Lehmkuhl, PT, PhD, FAPTA	1990
Robert C Bartlett, PT, FAPTA	1991
Marylou R Barnes, PT, EdD, FAPTA	1992
Gary L Soderberg, PT, PhD, FAPTA	1993
None	1994
None	1995
Bella Jay May, PT, EdD, FAPTA	1996
None	1997
Shirley A Sahrman, PT, PhD, FAPTA	1998
Suzann K Campbell, PT, PhD, FAPTA	1999
Ruth B Purtilo, PT, PhD, FAPTA	2000
Jules M Rothstein, PT, PhD, FAPTA	2001