

It was hard to find words due to my surprise and joy upon hearing Pat Wolfe's say,

"You are the Section on Women's Health 2011 Elizabeth Noble award winner".

I was Speechless, at the first realization that I had been given such an amazing honor, An honor given to me for my professional contributions to women and service to the APTA's Section on Women's Health.

Speechless, but as part of this honor I now need to speak to you, the membership, the board of the section on women's health and those who have come to celebrate this Joy!

So I will try to share a few words that hold great meaning to me....., Words that have helped this speechless soul:

Joyous Words!

Gratitude: thankfulness, gratefulness, or appreciation

I would like to first and foremost express my gratitude to all of you for honoring me with this award, I would also like to thank those who have supported me personally, my husband Richard who has always supported me personally and professionally, Washington University Program in Physical Therapy which has graciously provided me with a rich environment to learn, explore and develop my vision for entry level and post professional education including our newly established WH residency program. And most of all the women I have had the honor of treating I am very grateful for the lessons that they have taught me. Gratitude!

Providence: the foreseeing care and guidance that brought me to this point in my life: What joy it has been to find a purpose for my career;

My first CSM was the 20th anniversary of the section on women's Health. The president of the section at that time, Barb Bauman, called the leaders of the section at that time great Oak trees, and that the new members were the acorns that these trees were dropping to plant and grow, I was one of those acorns..... Providence!

Moral courage: the ability to put ethics in action, or act rightly in the face of popular opposition.

What joy it has been to muster the moral courage to advocate for women, whose pain is commonly misunderstood and explained away as mental health issue instead of a physical health issue. Moral courage!

Passion: unusual excitement, enthusiasm or compelling emotion towards a subject, idea, person, or object

What joy it has been to passionately pursue both clinical and scientific evidence to guide the treatment of gender related conditions in physical therapy.

In addition, I have passionately supported;

The pursuit for board specialization for women's health physical therapists.

The growth and development of residency training within the scope of women's health physical therapy

The use of diagnoses to guide interventions for the conditions we most commonly see in our clinical practices.

I passionately hope that in the future more members will champion these causes thus improving the quality of women's health education, the quality of communication amongst ourselves and other professionals and the quality of our research questions.
Passion!

Enthusiasm: an absorbing possession of the mind by an interest or pursuit; What joy it has brought me to enthusiastically teach others, students, colleges, physicians, nurses, and patients; Enthusiasm!

Noble: pertaining to persons so distinguished, Noble are the women who have achieved this award before me, Please come and stand with me at this time..... Noble are the women who will achieve this award in the future..... Noble!

I would like to end with a poem that was given to me when I first was on the board of the section on women's health and has sat on my dresser mirror since.....

I slept and dreamt that life was joy
I awoke and saw that life is service
I acted and behold service was joy
R tagore

Joy: is a state of mind or feeling characterized by contentment, love, satisfaction, pleasure
Thank you for bringing me this joy.
Joy!