

## **Manuela Cristina Caciula, PhD**

Tenure-Track Assistant Professor  
Department Chair  
Fitness, Exercise, and Sports Department  
New Jersey City University  
2039 Kennedy Boulevard, H-206  
Jersey City, NJ 07305  
E-mail: [mcaciula@njcu.edu](mailto:mcaciula@njcu.edu)  
Cell Phone: 404-285-0064

### **EDUCATION:**

- 2017 – 2019                    **Post-Doctoral Studies**  
Neurorehabilitation Lab, Teachers College,  
Columbia University  
New York, NY
- 2010-2014                    **Ph.D in Kinesiology – Exercise Science**  
University of Georgia  
Athens, GA  
Concentration: Motor Behavior
- 2008-2010:                    **Master of Science – Physical Education and Kinesiology**  
Babes-Bolyai University  
Cluj-Napoca, Romania,  
Concentration: Kinesiology
- 2008-2010:                    **Master of Science – Sport Management**  
Babes-Bolyai University  
Cluj-Napoca, Romania,  
Concentration: Sport Management
- 2004-2008:                    **Bachelor of Science – Physical Education and Sport**  
Transilvania University of Brasov  
Brasov, ROMANIA  
Concentration: Physical Education and Sport

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

### Current Position

September 2018- current:     **Tenure-Track Assistant Professor/ Chairperson**  
New Jersey City University  
Fitness, Exercise, and Sports Department  
Jersey City, NJ

### Previous Positions

July 2017 – current:           **Research Associate**  
Columbia University  
Teachers College, Neurorehabilitation Lab  
New York, NY

August 2014-July 2017:       **Assistant Professor of Exercise Science** (tenure-track)  
Georgia Southern University  
School of Health and Kinesiology  
Statesboro, GA

2010-2014                       **Graduate Teaching Assistant**  
University of Georgia  
Department of Kinesiology  
Athens, GA

2009-2010                       **Lecturer**  
Transilvania University of Brasov  
Department of Physical Education and Sport  
Brasov, Romania

2006-2008                       **K12 - Health and Physical Education Teacher**  
Andrei Mureseanu High School  
Brasov, Romania

## **PROFESSIONAL TEACHING ACTIVITIES**

### **Teaching: New Jersey City University**

- FES 320 Sports Nutrition (Spring and Summer 2019)
- FES 202 – Foundations of Physical Fitness (Fall 2018 and Spring 2019)
- FES 207 – Introduction to Exercise Science (Fall 2018)

### **Teaching: Felician University**

### Courses Taught

- EXSC 102 – Principles of Health, Nutrition and Weight Management (Spring 2018)
- EXSC 101 – Foundations of Exercise Sports Science (Spring 2018)

### **Teaching: Georgia Southern University**

#### Courses Taught

- KINS 3230 – Motor Control/ Coordination/ Skill (Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Summer 2015, Summer 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Summer 2017).
- KINS 3435 – Life Span Motor Development (Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016).
- KINS 7438 – Motor Behavior; (Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017)
- KINS 7899 – Directed Individual Study (Summer 2015)
- KINS 2535 – Intro to Exercise Science (Summer 2016, Summer 2017)
- KINS 4195 – Exercise as Medicine (Summer 2016, Summer 2017)

### **Teaching: University of Georgia**

#### Courses Taught as a TA

- KINS 4610/6610 - Adapted Physical Education;
- KINS 7640 – Developmental Motor Assessment;
- KINS 8210 – Neuro-bases Motor Control;
- KINS 7100 – Motor Development Across Lifespan;
- KINS 7610 – Therapeutic Exercises.
- Basic Physical Education classes (PEDB 1900-Dance Aerobic, PEDB1910-Indoor Cycling, PEDB1380- Beg. Volleyball, PEDB1400-Beg.Weight Training, PEDB1960-Weight Management, PEDB1950-FFL Walking, and PEDB 1350-Tennis);
- Basic Adapted Physical Education classes for students with disabilities (PEDB1010);
- Directed Study for professional athletes (PEDB1990).
- 

### **PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIP ACTIVITIES**

#### **Publications:**

##### Articles in Peer Reviewed Journals

1. Colquitt, G., Keagan, K., **Caciula, M.**, Morea, N., Vogel, R. Community-Based Upper Extremity Power Training for Youth with Cerebral Palsy: A Pilot Study. (2019). *Physical & Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics (1-16)*
2. Schaible. B., Colquitt, G., **Caciula, M. C.**, Carnes, A., Li, L. Moreau, N. G. Comparing Impact on the Family and Insurance Coverage in Children with Cerebral Palsy and Children with Another Special Health Care Need. (2018). *Child: Care, Health, and Development (1-8)*.

3. Schaible. B., Colquitt, G., Li, L., **Caciula, M. C.**, Moreau, N. G. Urban versus rural differences in insurance coverage and impact on employment among families caring for a child with cerebral palsy (2017). *Cogent Medicine-Public Health* (1-16).
4. **Caciula, M.C.**, Horvat, M., Tomporowski, P., Nocera, J. The Effects of Exercise Frequency on the Executive Function in Individuals with Parkinson's Disease (2016). *Mental Health and Physical Activity* 10 (18-24).
5. **Caciula, M.C.**, Horvat, M., Nocera, J. Exercise Frequency and Physical Function in Parkinson's Disease (2016). Bulletin of the *Transilvania University of Braşov, Romania*, Series IX: Sciences of Human Kinetics • Vol. 9 (58) No. 2. 27-35
6. Colquitt, G., Kiely, K., **Caciula, M. C.**, Li., L., Kendall, K., Moreau, N., & Vogel, R., L. Community-Based Upper Extremity Power Training for Youth with Cerebral Palsy: Results of a Feasibility Study (2018). *Physical Therapy Journal* (in review).
7. **Caciula, M.C.**, Horvat, M., Tomporowski, P., Nocera, J. Correlation of Physical Function with Cognition in Individuals with Parkinson's Disease without Dementia. (2018). *Movement Disorders* (in review)
8. **Caciula, M.C.**, Horvat, M. High-Frequency Exercise Benefits Executive function in individuals with Parkinson's Disease (2015). Bulletin of the Transilvania University of Braşov, Romania, Series IX: Sciences of Human Kinetics • Vol. 8 (57) No. 1. 65-72
9. Horvat, M., Croce, R., Tomporowski, P., **Barna, M.C.** (2013). The influence of dual-task conditions on movement in young adults with and without Down syndrome. *Research in Developmental Disabilities. Elsevier Journal*, 34 (3517-3525).
10. Horvat, M., Croce, R., **Barna, M.C.** (2013). Gait deficiencies in individuals with Down syndrome: a motor control perspective with implications for pedagogical intervention. *Conference of the International Journal of Arts and Sciences*, 6 (3):57-65.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Peer Reviewed Presentations at Professional Meetings**

#### **International**

1. **Caciula, M. C.**, Horvat, M., Croce, R., Troutman, K. (June 2015). High-frequency exercise improves executive function in individuals with Parkinson's disease. Paper presented at the 19 International Congress of Parkinson's disease and Movement Disorders. San Diego, CA.

2. **Caciula, M. C.**, Horvat, M., Croce, R., Troutman, K. (June 2015). Walking speed and switching attention in individuals with Parkinson's disease. Paper presented at the 19 International Congress of Parkinson's disease and Movement Disorders. San Diego, CA.
3. Barna, L.C., **Barna, M. C.** (May 2007) – The implementation of the Olympic Philosophy to youth and its reflection in their life style's improvement. Tg. Jiu, Romania.
4. Barna, L.C., **Barna, M. C.** (October 2008) – Comparative study case regarding the influence of diet and aerobic exercise on overweight high-school girls. Bucharest, Romania.
5. Barna, L. C., **Barna, M. C.** (November 2008) – The body mass index dynamics in overweight high-school girls, through preferential application of aerobics and diet. Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

### **National**

1. Sturges, Diana, Jody L. Langdon, **Manuela C. Caciula**, Amy Jo Riggs, M. Syno, J. Mutchler. "An Exploration of Metacognitive Strategies Efficacy in Upper Level Health and Kinesiology Students." Health and Kinesiology Faculty Presentations at Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Commons Annual Conference (SOTL). Savannah, GA  
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/health-kinesiology-facpres/51>
2. Sturges, Diana, Jody L. Langdon, **Manuela C. Caciula**, Amy Jo Riggs, M. Syno, J. Mutchler. 2017. "Metacognitive Strategies and their Effectiveness in Kinesiology Classes." Health and Kinesiology Faculty Presentations. Presentation 59 at Interdisciplinary STEM Conference  
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/health-kinesiology-facpres/59>
3. Quinn, L., Marder, K., **Caciula, M.C.**, Friel, C., Busse, M. (November 2017). Feasibility and acceptability of implementing a clinic-based physical activity coaching intervention in people with pre-manifest and early stage HD. Poster presented at Peter Como HD Research Symposium at HSG 2017, Denver, Colorado.
4. Schaible, B., Colquitt, G., Li, L., **Caciula, M. C.**, Moreau, N. G., (August 2016). Predictors of Activity Limitations and Participation Restrictions among Children with Cerebral Palsy. Paper presented at NCPEID 2016 National Consortium, Washington D.C.

5. Schaible. B., Colquitt, G., Li, L., **Caciula, M. C.**, (November 2016). Adequacy of Insurance Coverage and Impact on Employment among Families Caring for a Child with Cerebral Palsy. Paper presented at APHA 2016 Annual Meeting & Expo, Denver, CO.
6. Schaible. B., Colquitt, G., Li, L., Moreau, N. G., **Caciula, M. C.**, (September 2016). Urban versus rural differences in the effects of providing care to children with Cerebral Palsy on family member's employment. Paper presented during the AACPD 70th Annual Meeting in Hollywood, FL.
7. **Caciula, M. C.**, Horvat, M., Tomporowski, P., (March 2015). The effects of exercise on executive function in Parkinson's disease. Paper presented at the 2015 SHAPE America National Convention, Seattle, WA.
8. **Caciula, M. C.**, Horvat, M., Nocera, J. (March 2015). Exercise, Cognition, and physical function in individuals with Parkinson's disease. Paper presented at the 2015 SHAPE America National Convention, Seattle WA.
9. **Barna, M.C.**, Horvat, M., Croce, R. (April 2013) Spatial and Temporal Variability of Gait Parameters in Down syndrome. Research Consortium Conference of the 2013 AAHPERD National Convention and Exposition. Charlotte, NC.

### **Regional**

1. **Caciula, M. C.**, Horvat, M., Nocera, J. (February 2015). Correlation between walking speed and executive function in Parkinson's disease. Paper presented at the 2015 SHAPE Southern District Convention, Atlanta GA.

### **Grant Proposals**

#### **Extramural**

Co-I: National Institutes of Health: Academic Research Enhancement Award (Parent R15) (under review). (\$417,475.00) for *The Effects of a Community-Based Power Training Intervention on Pain and Spasticity among Individuals with Cerebral Palsy*. Submitted Spring 2016. Grant submitted with Gavin Colquitt (PD/PI), Li Li (Co-I), Noelle Moreau (Co-I), and Robert Vogel (Co-I).

Co-I: National Institutes of Health: Academic Research Enhancement Award (Parent R15) (not funded). (\$375,399.00) for *The Effects of a Community-Based Power Training Intervention on Pain and Spasticity among Individuals with Cerebral Palsy*. Submitted Spring 2015. Grant submitted with Gavin Colquitt (PD/PI), Li Li (Co-I), Noelle Moreau (Co-I), Moya Alfonso (Co-I), and Robert Vogel (Co-I).

#### **Intramural**

CO-I: Georgia Southern University Faculty Service Committee Award. (\$ 1,500.00) Submitted Fall 2015 (funded). Grant submitted with Bridget Melton (PI), Jody Langdon, Amy Jo Riggs, Stephan Rossi, Adam Wells, Drew Zwald, Justine Coleman, Rob Clause, Rebeca Collins.

PI: The University of Georgia, The Innovative and Interdisciplinary Research Grant of the UGA Graduate School, \$1000, 00 (not funded). *The Effects of Aerobic Exercise on Working Memory and Physical Function in PD. 5/1/ 2013 – 8/1/2013*

CO-I: The University of Georgia, Department of Kinesiology, Pediatric and Motor Development Clinic Fund. *The Influence of Dual-Tasking Conditions on Movement in Young Adults with and without Down syndrome. 08/01/2011-07/31/2012*

Goal: The purpose of this study was to identify changes in walking patterns while performing a secondary task in young adults with and without Down syndrome, using the GAITRite.

CO-I: The University of Georgia, Department of Kinesiology, Graduate Studies Research Funds. *The Effects of Exercise on Cognitive and Physical Functions in Individuals with Parkinson's Disease.* Goal: To identify if 12 weeks of multi-modal group exercise intervention has an effect on executive and physical functions in individuals with idiopathic Parkinson's disease without dementia.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS & SERVICE**

### New Jersey City University

- *Chairperson* - Fitness Exercise and Sports Department
- *Executive Council Member* - College of Professional Studies
- *Curriculum Committee Member* - College of Professional Studies
- *Senator* – NJCU Senate

### Georgia Southern University

#### Faculty/ Senate

- Faculty Senate Alternate Committee Member, Georgia Southern University, 2014-2015; 2015-2016; 2016-2017;
- Graduate Committee Member, Georgia Southern University - Alternate. 2014-2015; 2015-2016; 2016-2017;

#### College

- Director of the Pediatric Exercise and Motor Development Clinic for children with disabilities, The University of Georgia, 2010 - 2014 (duties: register children in the clinic, assign kids to clinicians, conduct education and study sessions for clinicians, grade lesson plans and teaching evaluations, supervise clinic activities);

#### School

- Search Committee Member for Exercise Science Position – Spring 2017

#### Professional

- Session Chair, “SoTL Commons Conference”, Savannah GA, 2015.

### **PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS**

American College of Sports Medicine (in progress)  
 Certified Exercise Physiologist (in progress)  
 American Heart Association  
 CPR/ AED Certification  
 American Fitness and Aerobic Association (Group Fitness Instructor – recertification in progress).

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

#### Editorial Board

- Annals of Medical Case Reports

#### Reviewer

- Journal of Obesity
- Journal of Sport Sciences
- BMJ Open

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

2013-present	American Parkinson’s Disease Association (APDA);
2014-present	Society of Health and Physical Educator (SHAPE);
2014-present	Movement Disorders;
2015-present	Cerebral Palsy Academy

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- WORKSHOPS at the Centers for Teaching and Technology, Georgia Southern University

1. Folio Foundations – Web Accessibility Workshop, February 15, 2016



2. Folio Foundations – Audio/ Video Workshop, September 9, 2015
3. Folio Foundations – Build a Learning Module, August 19, 2015.
4. Folio Foundations – Gradebook and Grading, August 19, 2015.
5. Developing and Teaching Online Courses (online), Summer 2015
6. Independent Applying the QM rubric (APPQMR), April 23, 2015.

**PROJECTS:**

Horvat, M., **Barna, M.C.**, Mason, R.C. (2013). *Beijing Fitness Test: A Training Manual*. Beijing, China. This is a battery designed to measure physical fitness in Chinese children and youth with intellectual disability. My responsibility included reviewing the literature, developing the test, performing test retest validity and reliability, and writing the manual

**ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS**

**AND SOFTWARE SKILLS:** NeuroCom; GAITRite; EMG; TriFIT; SuperLab, RedCap