



# **Welcome to CenterIMT Facial Paralysis Recovery Program**

**CenterIMT has a dynamic, aggressive, and very unique program focusing on optimal recovery for children and adults diagnosed with Facial Paralysis.**

**You are encouraged to explore further.**

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- **Structural Integrative Manual Therapy**
- **Functional Integrative Manual Therapy**

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# CenterIMT Facial Paralysis Recovery Program

## Mission Statement / Philosophy

The **GOAL** of the Facial Paralysis Recovery Program:

To restore health, hope and optimal function to all children and adults diagnosed with Facial Paralysis.

Our CenterIMT **MISSION** is two-fold:

- 1) To educate the children and adults diagnosed with Facial Paralysis and their family about the body's ability to heal, thus working to restore hope in their potential for recovery.
- 2) To provide the Facial Paralysis population with the most recent and advanced diagnostic, structural and functional manual therapies available throughout the world.

### **PHILOSOPHY:**

The Facial Paralysis team strongly believes all clients diagnosed with Facial Paralysis have the potential for recovery, past the traditional predictors of outcome. We believe there is no one single answer for Facial Paralysis; however, with a combined approach of treating the entire body, we know recovery is possible. Because it is vital for the children and adults diagnosed with Facial Paralysis to play an active role in their recovery process, we feel it is empowering for the client to participate in the goal setting process, functional rehabilitation, and nutritional wellness programs. Our team is committed to providing ongoing support to clients and their families throughout their recovery process. We are dedicated to further advancement of techniques through ongoing clinical research.



# CenterIMT Facial Paralysis Recovery Program

## Developers

Centers for Integrative Manual Therapy is a world wide healthcare organization offering therapy for children and adults with Facial Paralysis. Our multi-disciplinary team consists of professionals from around the world.



### **Sharon Weiselfish-Giammatteo, Ph.D., P.T., I.M.P.,C.**

Dr. Sharon Giammatteo is the developer of Integrative Manual Therapy which is an important aspect of the Facial Paralysis Recovery Program: Integrative Manual Therapy™, the Integrated Systems Approach™, and Integrative Diagnostics™. She is founder and President of CenterIMT and Dialogues in Contemporary Rehabilitation (DCR).

Dr. Giammatteo graduated from Wingate Institute of Physiotherapy in Israel in 1970. She received her undergraduate degree in Advanced Health Sciences and Medicine and later earned her graduate degree in Clinical Neurosciences from University of Hartford in Connecticut. Dr. Giammatteo has done extensive clinical research in the field of neurology, with her Ph.D. thesis on manual and cranial therapies for the neurologic client. Her list of publications includes articles on developmental manual therapy, manual and craniosacral therapy for cerebral palsy and more. Her books include: *Manual Therapy for the Autonomic Nervous System and Related Disorders with Advanced Strain and Counterstrain Technique*.

Dr. Giammatteo currently practices IMT in CentersIMT across the country where she facilitates ongoing clinical research for the Facial Paralysis population. She teaches throughout the United States, Canada, Asia, Europe, and Israel on topics such as: Manual Therapy for the Neurologic Patient, Cranial Therapy, and Neural Tissue Tension Techniques.



**Dr. Sue Leger, D.Sc., P.T., I.M.P.,C.**

Sue Leger is the Director of Neurologic IMT for all CentersIMT, worldwide, and has her home base at CenterIMT Atlanta. She is a Neuroscience Specialist with a Doctor of Science in Healthscience and Nutritions from Westbrook University. She received her B.S. in Physical Therapy from the University of Florida in 1979 and her M.S. in exercise physiology from Louisiana State University in 1985.

Sue has worked with children and adults with Facial Paralysis since 1981. Sue has taught over 200 continuing education workshops, focusing primarily on biomechanical and neurological assessment; handling and movement; lower extremity biomechanics; gait; and the fabrication and function of lower extremity serial casts, splints and orthoses. She has been a speaker at numerous state, regional, and national conferences. Sue is faculty for The Connecticut School of Integrative Manual Therapy and Dialogues in Contemporary Rehabilitation, where she teaches courses in IMT. She is a co-developer, with Dr. Sharon Giammatteo, of IMT courses on stroke, a pediatric-neuro series, as well a series of certification courses on the ankle and foot.

Along with extensive training in IMT techniques, Sue has received in-depth training in many areas, including Neurodevelopmental Treatment (NDT), Acupressure, Cranial Sacral, Manual Lymphatic Drainage, Motor Control and Learning, Proprioceptive Neuromuscular Facilitation (PNF), Sensory Integration and Praxis, Mechanical Link, and Visceral Manipulation. Her publications include: *Significant Functional Gains Using Integrative Manual Therapy With a Patient Diagnosed With Cerebellar Ataxia and Peripheral Demyelination*, *Lower Extremity Biomechanical Checklist for the Neurologically Involved*, and *Taping Applications for the Neurologically Involved*.



**John Alegi, P.T., I.M.P.,C.**

John Alegi began working at Regional Physical Therapy in February of 1998. He graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1988 with an education degree concentrating in Sport biomechanics. In 1991, he graduated from the University of Connecticut with a degree in Allied Health with a concentration in Physical Therapy. Upon graduation, John worked in an acute care setting at Waterbury Hospital in Connecticut. He gained valuable experience from various experts and experienced clinicians in the areas of inpatient and outpatient rehab, wound care, and ICU intervention. John also worked in the Sports Medicine arena that allowed him to learn skills in the areas of orthopedics, neurologic, and geriatric rehab, and clinical biomechanics focusing on foot orthotics and gait analysis using computerized motion analysis equipment. This setting also exposed John to management of an outpatient physical therapy setting.

Currently, John lives in Fayetteville, Georgia, with his wife Carol and sons Matthew and Christopher, where he is the Practice Manager for Center for Integrative Manual Therapy of Atlanta. John has been teaching faculty for DCR and has taught a wide variety of courses in Integrative Manual Therapy. He has worked at various CenterIMTs throughout the country.

John continues to study and gain expertise in all aspects of IMT. He is successful in achieving client satisfaction and functional outcomes across many types of diagnoses, including back pain, headaches, spinal cord injury, stroke, autism, and more. John's current interests include the field of clinical biomechanics. John's clinical research includes the application of regulatory mechanisms applied to biomechanics, sacral mechanics and dysfunctions; the application of consciousness driven systems with clinical biomechanics; and multi-system biomechanics including the organ system and the immune system. John is also interested in the field of quantum physics and the study of circulation and the cardiovascular system. In the future, John plans to obtain his PhD in advanced clinical biomechanics. This will foster contributions toward improved client satisfaction and functional outcomes for all patient populations, published research, and the development of curriculum for DCR and for the Connecticut School for Integrative Manual Therapy.

John is a licensed physical therapist in the states of Connecticut, Georgia, and North Carolina. He is a member of the American Physical Therapy Association and plans on future participation in legislation and government pertaining to health, education, and awareness.



**Jim Sullivan, OTR/L**

Jim Sullivan earned his B.S. in Health Care Administration from Stonehill College in 1990 and his Masters in Occupational Therapy from UNC Chapel Hill, NC in 1995. For five years, he served on the Neurological Rehabilitation team at Thoms Rehabilitation Hospital working with people suffering from brain injury, stroke, and spinal cord injury. Jim has years of experience in providing both structural and activity-based therapies including Independent Living and Safety Evaluations in home settings. He continually pursues training in visual rehabilitation for neurological and low vision clients, combining structural and functional vision therapy. He has been studying Integrative Manual Therapy since 1997.

Jim Sullivan, OTR/L is the Director of the Facial Paralysis for CenterIMT worldwide and the Director of the Facial Paralysis Center of Asheville which provides a comprehensive rehabilitation program including IMT for people with facial paralysis. Visit the Facial Paralysis Program section of this webpage for more information.



**Kris Albrecht, M.A., P.T., I.M.P.,C.**

Kris Albrecht is Director of Total Quality Management for Patient Care Results for CenterIMT, as well as Director of the Cranial Therapy Program for DCR. She holds a B.S. in Biology and Chemistry, M.S. in Physical Therapy. Kris has been Involved in Integrative Manual Therapy since its inception in 1984. Prior to joining Regional Physical Therapy in Bloomfield, CT in 1988, Kris was a Teaching Fellow in Gross Anatomy at Boston University, helped implement an outpatient Cardiac Rehab program and developed an orthotic/podiatric rehab program. She began teaching Integrative Manual Therapy for DCR in 1990.



# CenterIMT Facial Paralysis Recovery Program

## Specifics

CentersIMT are successfully assisting with the optimal habilitation of children and adults with Facial Paralysis from around the world. All children or adults with Facial Paralysis begin with a thorough initial evaluation utilizing Integrative Diagnostics and The Integrated Systems Approach. Assessment is pivotal and on-going throughout the Facial Paralysis recovery program. Immediate short term goals and long term goals are outlined on an individualized Quadrennial Plan. This individualized plan includes goals, a home program, and quarterly tracking of efforts and progress. It is reviewed and updated with the client, and all support persons, on a quarterly basis.

An individualized treatment plan of Structural Integrative Manual Therapy is drafted and begun. Structural techniques for all systems of the body (The Integrated Systems Approach) lead to changes in orthopedic restrictions, sensory deficits, postural alignment and balance, spasticity, and overall strength and function. *Structure dictates function.* Whenever there is an area of the body that is dysfunctional and limited in function, it is always important to begin the treatment process by addressing the structural problems of that area. Once the structure has begun to normalize, function can be addressed optimally.

Nutritional support and education is given to clients and families as well as testing of foods and supplements. Sensory enhancement, reduction of synergic spasticity, and strengthening of muscle weakness are assisted with a home program of Threshold Electrical Stimulus (TES) and Neuromotor Electrical Stimulation (NMES).

*Function allows ownership of structure.* Once the client has begun treatment with Structural Integrative Manual Therapy, Functional Integrative Manual Therapy is implemented. The client begins extensive functional rehabilitation which is progressed throughout the Center-based and home-based program. A personal Pre/Post Video Functional Record is completed initially and repeated every six months. Clients and families appreciate the rewarding digital photographs and video documentation of the rapid performance changes.