

## Education Committee Report February 2008- January 2009

Chair: Beth M. Jones, PT, DPT, OCS

This has been a very busy year with many changes and challenges to the education committee. The largest changes occurred in our programming at Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) and in the policies and the makeup of the entire committee.

After the 2007 CSM, all section education program chairs were faced with a global change in policy that affected the orthopedic section in a very large way. The changes included:

- 1) a reduction of hours to 45 program hours with business meetings, platforms and all education programs lumped in to this figure.
- 2) a new programming grid that dictated the hour configurations of the conference and the start and stop times for each portion of the 3 days that all sections agreed to adhere to.

Because of the reduction in hours of allowable programming and the new grid I was forced to come up with more creative ways to schedule our programming at CSM 2008.

CSM changes in 2008 included the following:

1. Moving all business meetings to outside of program time (either before 8 am or after 4 pm)
2. Putting all Ed SIG programming together in the 2 hour slot time and all SIG programming together in the 3 hour time slots
3. To accommodate the need to have the SIG business meetings before or after their programming this forced us to have morning business meetings with breakfast, followed by their programming from 8-11 am.
4. Offering a "First Timers" breakfast to encourage networking with our new members or those new to CSM. We had over 150 in attendance.
5. Moving our business meeting to the 2<sup>nd</sup> day in combination with our social gathering and awards (it was the last thing on the last day at CSM 2007 and people were not attending).
6. Putting the social hour before the business meeting vs. after the business meeting. Food and drinks were served and attendance was over 400.
7. Co-sponsoring with many other sections as the secondary sponsor to allow us to gain an additional 20 hours of orthopedic programming outside of our 45 hour limit.
8. Moving our platforms to one afternoon in rooms with close proximity to allow patrons to better locate and attend our platforms. With the new schedule the platforms would have been up against other programming and limited in availability.
9. For the first time a committee was put together to review programming for 2009 and a ranking system was established to help in future selection of programming.
10. The start of an ortho only spread sheet of programming that will be offered at future conferences to help our members easily see our programming day to day.

I am happy to report that we had a very successful conference in 2008 with over 7200 in attendance. We were only forced to close one class due to crowd control. The biggest problem we faced was not anticipating the number of attendees at our breakfast and social hour. Luckily we were able to add more food, we just were not able to increase the size of the room. All of these problems have been addressed for CSM 2009.

Another problem that occurred in 2008 was the backing up of time in the platforms. In 2008 we had 8 platforms at 15 minutes a piece covering 120 minutes. To address this concern we limited the number of platforms to 7 in the 120 minutes and added another room of platforms for 2009. This will allow for a little time cushion as we transition from one platform to the other.

Policy changes have occurred this year based on changes in the ED and SIG policies. We have implemented a true committee (not just members from the SIG and ED groups) and I am pleased to say that we now have 4 other members to this committee. Three of these members will be at CSM 2009 and will be assisting me in program coordination and moderating rooms. They will also be tasked with reading and grading all program submissions for 2010. I am hopeful that we will be able to find a Vice Chair from this new crew.

As committee chair I attended and participated in the Section Program Education Chairs committee meeting with APTA in April 2008. The only significant changes that were voted on for 2009 CSM included a better regulation of stop times with classes being listed as 1:45 mins instead of 2 hours. This will hopefully allow better control of our time and room management. We also all agreed to start our pre-conference courses at noon on Sunday to allow people a chance to fly in on Sunday morning if needed.

An internal section change that was made at our committee meeting at CSM 2008 was to allow all pre-conference classes a chance to “go”. That is, if the class was educationally worthy, and the SIG would pay the fee regulated by the APTA to list the course (\$150 per conference day) then we would allow the class to run and see if it would attract enough participants. We also elected to run more ortho section classes if there were indeed classes that fit our strategic plan. For 2009 CSM we ended up offering 5 pre-conference classes. One class was sponsored by Foot & Ankle SIG and one class was sponsored by the OcHealth SIG. The other three courses were offered by the orthopedic section addressing our strategic goal. The section pre-conference classes included one on “How to Start An Orthopedic Residency program”, the other two relate to Vision 2020 –autonomous practitioners, including a course on manipulation. All but the OcHealth class made the necessary numbers in registrants by the December 2008 cut off.