

Thank you to all of you who attended CSM in February! We had some great programming and a very productive board meeting and business meeting. The board is continuing to work on specialty certification, the OSHA alliance, education manual, and educational opportunities at the national conference and at CSM 2007. We appreciate all feedback from our members and encourage you to send any comments, suggestions or questions to jennifer.steiner@healthsouth.com or to any board member.

Occupational Health Specialization Certification Update

The OHSIG Board agreed to create a task force to develop the justification to support certification in Occupational Health for ABPTS. ABPTS requires evidence that a minimum of 300 PTs would take the Certification Exam within 5 years of its availability. We also need 100 letters or signatures, stating that certification would be beneficial and something therapists need. This would demonstrate the demand, the need, and the number of therapists interested in this specialization. Our goal is to complete a petition to recognize occupational health as a specialty area for certification in Occupational Health Physical Therapy by the September 2006 ABPTS meeting.

Margot Miller will chair the Task Force as the board representative, with Deborah Lechner as the lead non-board member. Deborah was instrumental in completion of the Practice Analysis, the foundation for proceeding with certification in OH. David Miller, Barb McKelvy and Jen Steiner will also be part of the task force.

Watch for updates in future newsletters.

Introduction of new board member

Linda Nicoli – Nominating committee chair

Linda has been involved with occupational health for over 20 years, which started with taking a FCE course. Since then she has started her own business offering onsite care and ergonomic consultations. She has also created training videos which have been used on the company website. Her onsite business involved working with both injured and non-injured workers in the employee fitness center.

Linda believes the OHPTSIG is an important group to recruit, train and support PTs who can be a resource for both management and workers in promoting safer work conditions and more productive employees.

Nicole Matoushek – Treasurer

Nicole has been working in occupational health since 1993 and has completed her MPH, three ergonomic certifications and a certification in functional assessment. She has been published in several different rehabilitation management magazines with articles on ergonomics, clinical management and ethics, marketing, FCEs, return to work, and work certification in functional assessment. Her work in a utilization review company helped bring an understanding of the role of the insurance industry, reimbursement, worker rehab programs and effective clinical management.

Nicole is passionate about how physical therapists can offer clinical expertise to the management of work-related injuries with return to work programs, FCEs, ergonomics and effective clinical management.

Jennifer Steiner – Membership chair

Jennifer has been working with the OHPTSIG for the past 2 years on the nominating committee and is now on the task force for the occupational health specialty certification. She has worked in occupational health for the past 10 years both onsite and in the clinic.

As membership chair she would like to work to increase the membership of the OHPTSIG and to serve its members by helping to create an important resource for clinicians in the occupational health field.

OSHA Alliance Update



The OHPTSIG is continuing to move ahead with starting an alliance with OSHA. We are in the process of developing a task force to work on this project. We have had many qualified volunteers from our members and are in the process of picking 3-4 people to serve on the task force. The task force will be led SIG vice president Kathleen Rockefeller. Thank you to everyone who volunteered.

Hooked on Evidence



The OHSIG recently formed a Hooked on Evidence group. Hooked on Evidence is a grass-roots APTA initiative designed to provide physical therapists with access to an online database of research related to physical

therapy interventions. Volunteers read a research article, then abstract it by completing an online input form. Details about the initiative are available at the APTA website (www.APTA.ORG, then under Research) or at www.hookedonevidence.com. The intent of the OHSIG group is to contribute to the database abstractions of research that addresses occupational health physical therapy interventions. Please contact David Miller, the Research Chair of the OHSIG at djmiller47@comcast.net if you would like more information or consider joining the HOE group.

In Recognition



Don't miss the Occupational Health SIG article in the next issue of *Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Practice*. Michael Eisenhart, PT has written the article entitled, "The Evolving Role of the Physical Therapist as the Workplace Injury Prevention Expert". Michael shares the expertise he has developed in his role as partner with Pro-Activity Associates, LLC, a Physical Therapy and Health & Wellness consulting firm located in Annandale, NJ. He has gained this knowledge first hand as the primary work-injury prevention consultant for New Jersey's largest electric and gas utility since 1999, in addition to consulting with many other companies. He also appreciates and addresses the important role that APTA is playing in promotion of the role of the physical therapists in health and wellness. This article should provide valuable information regarding this specialty and renewed enthusiasm to investigate its potential. We appreciate Michael's talent and the time he has taken to highlight this important issue.

We would also like to thank and recognize, once again, all of the therapists who have published articles for the Occupational Health SIG in *Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Practice* throughout 2005.

Angela Dolder, PT, MA, CRC and Elizabeth Bollman, MPT
"Designing an Evidenced Based Work Conditioning Program
for a Client with Chronic Low Back Pain"

Drew Bossen, PT
"A Smarter Way to Sit"

Gwen Simons, PT, JD, OCS, FAAOMPT
"PT Documentation in Controverted Workers' Compensation Claims:
A Critical View from the Outside"

Deborah Lechner, PT MS
"Post-Offer Screening: Is There An Opportunity In Your
Neighborhood?"

Looking for Authors



One of the goals of the OHPTSIG is to assist practicing physical therapists in managing work-related issues. One effective method to achieve this goal is for you to share your expertise. The next article for *Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Practice* is due in mid April. It is a special issue of Case Reports. Take advantage of this opportunity to share one of your success stories. This will help other therapists, who are unfamiliar with occupational health, better understand the importance of the specialty and the difference it can make for the patient, the employer, and the community. Contact Barb McKelvy at barbmckelvy@aol.com or (614) 496-7996 to discuss your ideas.

Learn more about the Occupational Health SIG

Go directly to the website at http://www.orthopt.org/sig_oh.php. This list includes some of the information available on the website.

- A summary of the OHSIG activities and focus
- Contact information for the entire OHSIG Board
- OHSIG news with posting of recent Email Blasts
- A direct link to the Occupational Health Guidelines
- Minutes of the Board meetings and the Annual Business Meeting at CSM
- Occupational Health resources and websites
- Occupational Health Specialist Locator
- The OHSIG Strategic Plan
- The OHSIG Bulletin Board

If you are a member of OHPTSIG, make sure your information is current. If you are not a member join today!

There is no extra charge, once you are a member of the Orthopaedic Section.