

**Orthopaedic Section, APTA, Inc.  
Occupational Health Special Interest Group**

**Annual Business Meeting  
CSM San Diego, California**

**Thursday, February 2, 2006**

**Present:** Deborah Lechner, Margot Miller, Barb McKelvy, David Miller, Dee Daley, Jennifer Steiner, Jennifer Pollak

**Absent:** Drew Bossen, Linda Nicoli

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:15 PM by Deborah Lechner. She welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes of 2005 Annual Business Meeting Minutes:**

*Bonnie Kimmelman moved to approve the minutes as written. Miriam Joffre seconded the motion which was approved by unanimous verbal consent.*

**Farewell and Thanks to Past and Present Board Members : Deborah Lechner**

Deborah introduced herself and stated how much she has enjoyed being President of the OHSIG for the past 3 years. She stated that the OHSIG has an ambitious Strategic Plan that we will continue to guide us as we move forward in 2006.

She recognized current board members whose term continues in 2006: Vice President Kathy Rockefeller and Secretary Barb McKelvy. She also recognized current committee chairs whose term continues in 2006: Education Chair, Dee Daley; Research Chair, David Miller; and Practice Chair, Drew Bossen.

She then recognized Jennifer Steiner, for serving as the outgoing Nominating Committee Chair. And she thanked her for committing to serve as the new Membership Committee Chair, a position we have not filled for the past 3 years. She then congratulated our newly elected Treasurer, Nicole Matoushek, the newly elected Nominating Committee Chair, Linda Nicoli, and the new Nominating Committee member, Jennifer Pollak. Deborah concluded by recognizing and thanking Margot Miller for her contribution over the past 3 years as Treasurer and her numerous other functions, and congratulated her on being elected as the new OHSIG President. Margot addressed the membership and stated she was excited about the opportunities ahead for the OHSIG.

Deborah recognized several other members who had been instrumental in successful achievements of the OHSIG in the past and who continue to be instrumental in its success: Bonnie Kimmelman for her assistance in development of the Practice Guidelines; Gwen Simons who generated our first Home Study program; Frank Fearon, previous Research

Chair; Brad Wolter, previous Practice Chair; Karen Walz, previous Secretary; and Ken Harwood, now Chair of the APTA Department of Practice and Research who has and continues to be helpful in assisting us toward our objectives.

Kathy Rockefeller, Vice President, then came to the podium to recognize Deborah, as our outgoing President. She recognized some of the many initiatives that Deborah has been instrumental in leading and achieving through her persistence, her belief in evidence based practice, the completion of the practice analysis and much more. All members present applauded Deborah for her hard work and contributions.

## **Old Business:**

### **OSHA Alliance: Deborah Lechner**

Deb explained the OSHA Alliance as a partnership they are doing with a number of different associations—Indus Hygienist, Ortho Surgeons, Nurses  
Ours is with the entire APTA. We contacted the APTA Board and they approved and Ken is helping us move forward. Initial OSHA seemed to be reluctant to form an alliance with APTA. Ken and Mary Fran worked with them and they are now very interest in moving forward with APTA. Injury prevention among Health care professionals is our general topic. Our first focus will be on patient handling in a particular setting yet to be determined. Decided this d/t the White Paper APTA did with AARN and VA. What to do about patient handling and then going out to educate the settings to educate the workers and provide presentations for future use. Preventing injury and at the same time promote rehab of the patients to incorporate therapy with safety. We have asked for volunteers for task force to develop template and have established criteria to determine the choices for Task Force members. Increase visibility in prevention and help both patients and healthcare providers. Kathy is the chair and Drew Bossen is helping as well. And we will determine the 4 task force members. Miriam stated this was a good idea as this is the first time we are using equipment to transfer and rehab patient and this will show that we are now embracing the use of new technology and the development of equipment. We can partner with the engineers to share with them what works and doesn't work for product improvement.

### **OSHA Alliance: Mary Fran Delaune, APTA Liaison**

Deb introduced a guest, Mary Fran Dulaune from APTA Department of Practice. Mary Fran Opened the floor for questions. She stated that the OSHA Alliance was her first mission once she joined the Department of Practice. She stated how surprised they were that OSHA didn't seem to be interested in working with APTA initially. But since the first meeting and learning more about our organization and our objectives, it has been very different and we have a good working relationship with them. OSHA now seems to be excited about working with us. There goal is to be a catalog of resources for industries that are working on safety and hygiene. OSHA is also looking for collaboration with numerous groups who have the same goals. Mary Fran described on such industry as the Airlines which had a problem with

numerous baggage area injuries. OSHA looked at alliances and went to one or 2 of them to work with airlines to address this problem.

### **Hooked on Evidence: David Miller and Kathy Rockefeller**

Kathy introduced the information David prepared for the OHSIG Board Meeting. David shared the tutorial and background information he compiled regarding Hooked on Evidence. He stated that he has agreed to be the point person for this initiative. So, if we identify an article David will ensure that someone else isn't working on it, to avoid redundancy. We are interested in articles associated with all components of Occupational Health, Ergonomics, etc. Of particular interest are articles in journals the physical therapists don't routinely see. David emphasized this was a grass roots benefit. The criteria; must be human subjects, must deal with interventions, must have outcomes. If anyone is interested in being an abstractor to send him their name as it appears on the APTA membership card and their APTA membership number to [djmiller47@comcast.net](mailto:djmiller47@comcast.net).

### **Occupational Health Educational Manual: Kathy Rockefeller**

The information obtained from the practice analysis is being utilized as a basis for the investigation of the potential need for this. Kathy stated that the Manual Therapy Education Manual is an example of the format we are investigating, although the rationale for this one is different. The Petition for Certification in Occupational Health is the first priority prior to development of the Education Manual. The Practice Analysis identified a wide range of information being taught in the schools regarding occupational health, showing the need for an education manual. In addition, since many schools are going to DPT programming now, this is a good time for this since there will be more time for new material in education program.

### **Website Updates and Newsletter Articles: Barb McKelvy**

Barb reviewed the numerous updates to the OHSIG web site in the past year. There is now a direct link from the web site to the Occupational Health Guidelines. We have a membership directory and occupational health therapists can now be located by state for networking and/or development of business relationships. Recent Email Blasts are available in the News Section. The Strategic Plan is posted so therapists can see the initiatives and objectives on which we are focusing our efforts. All board meeting minutes and membership meeting minutes are posted. There is also an Occupational Health Blackboard. There is also a comprehensive listing of resources and web sites for this specialty. If a therapist is a member of the Orthopaedic Section, it is free to join the OHSIG, simply by completing the membership form on the web site. We welcome new members.

Barb then recognized the therapists who have written articles for OHSIG newsletter in *The Orthopaedic Magazine* over the past year:

Angela Dolder, PT, MA, CRC and Elizabeth Bollman, MPT

Drew Bossen, PT  
Gwen Simons, PT, JD, OCS, FAAOMPT  
Deborah Lechner, PT MS

She presented those authors in attendance, certificates of appreciation for sharing information with their peers. And the others will receive their certificate by mail. We are always looking for new ideas and programs in occupational health for the prevention and management of work related injuries.

#### **Email Communication to Members: Margot Miller,**

Margot explained that the purpose of the Email Blasts is two-fold. We want to keep our membership aware of the activities of the OHSIG and to increase interest in joining the OHSIG. She asked that the members give us feedback as to its effectiveness. She also described the PR Email Blast which was sent to the entire Orthopaedic Section specifically to increase membership in the OHSIG. She shared that we did get a positive response, resulting in several new members. If you have ideas for membership let us know. We have been a bit flat in increasing members the last couple of years. We want to entice members to join us.

#### **OHSIG Educational Programming 2007: Dee Daley**

Dee thanked Miriam Joffre, Drew Bossen, and Wayne Rath for the educational programs they presented at CSM this year. Dee is now working on the programs for APTA 2007. We are looking at developing a combined section program for a larger audience draw. We can only do 3 hours. But hopefully we will have a larger response next year. She discussed the APTA Concentrated Education Series (CES). APTA wants evidence based programming with a level even beyond a CSM level. To comply with this, we are fine tuning the programming now. We are pleased that we could come through with a level of programming high enough to qualify for Pre Conference. She noted that we need to look at a wider variety of topics and collaborate with other professionals for optimal results. The group discussed reasons it may be difficult to attract therapists to programs associated with workers' compensation patients and programs and the stereo typing of WC patients. Deb suggested that this stigma could be addressed through utilization of the Education Manual. Dee stated that we could have a half day next year at CSM for round tables to update the Occupation Health Guidelines.

#### **Occupational Health Specialization Certification: Deborah Lechner**

Deborah reviewed the process for development of justification for ABPTS Certification in Occupational Health. A Task Force was formed to develop the rationalization position paper. Margot Miller will chair the committee. Committee members include David Miller, Jennifer Steiner, Deborah Lechner and Barb McKelvy. ABPTS requires there be some form of evidence that a minimum of 300 PTs would take the Certification Exam within a 5 Year period of its availability. We would also need 100 letters or signatures, stating that certification would be beneficial and is something therapists need. This would demonstrate the demand, the need, and the number of therapists interested in the specialization. We need to show that

occupational health requires specialized knowledge; there are continuing education programs for this area; and there is information and research that supports it.

**New Business:**

**Elections:**

*Dee Daley moved to elect Jennifer Pollak as a member of the Nominating Committee by affirmation. The motion was seconded by David Miller. The motion carried by unanimous consent.*

**The 2006 Occupational Health Special Interest Group Executive Committee:**

Margot Miller, President  
Kathy Rockefeller, Vice President  
Nicole Metoushek, Treasurer  
Barb McKelvy, Secretary  
Linda Nicoli, Nominating Committee Chair

**The 2006 Occupational Health Special Interest Group Committee Chairs**

Dee Daley, Education Chair  
Drew Bossen, Practice Chair  
David Miller, Research Chair

**The 2006 Occupational Health Special Interest Group Committee Members**

Jennifer Pollak, Nominating

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb McKelvy, PT  
Secretary