

April
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email blast

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Greetings OHSIG Members...from OHSIG President, Margot Miller, PT

Combined Sections February 8-12 in New Orleans offered networking and educational opportunities. It was a great conference with over 9,000 in attendance! OHSIG activities included educational programming, OHSIG Board meeting, and OHSIG general business meeting. If you were unable to attend, here are a few updates for you.

Introducing New Officers

Lorena Pettet, VP/Ed Chair

Jill Galper, Nominating Committee Member

Kevin Svoboda, Membership Committee Chair

Current OHSIG Officers

Margot Miller, PT – President (mmiller@workwell.com)

Lorena Pettet, PT, MPA, OCS – Vice President/Education Chair (lpettet@aol.com)

Kathleen Rockefeller, ScD, PT, MPH - Research Chair (kathy_rocky@msn.com)

Rick Wickstrom, PT, DPT, CPE, CDMS – Practice and Payor Relations Chair (Rick@WorkAbility.US)

Sandy Goldstein, PT, CDMS – Communications Chair (sgoldstein@measurabilities.com)

Kevin Svoboda, PT - Membership Chair (rms-ks@tds.net)

John Lowe, PT – Nominating Committee Chair (mjlowe@rcn.com)

Perry Brubaker – Nominating Committee Member

Jill Galper – Nominating Committee Member

Gwen Simons – Advisor

Bill O'Grady – Ortho BOD Liaison

CSM Programming: Every Day Excellence in Workers Compensation: Preventing Needless Disability, Peer Review Gems, Guidelines and Practical Considerations

This 3 hour program was designed to increase physical therapists and physical therapist assistants effectiveness in the area of worker rehabilitation. The program covered the latest work rehabilitation guidelines, practice strategies for preventing needless disability and documentation to quickly and easily demonstrate appropriate care. Various stages of the work comp cycle were discussed, in addition to return to work planning and payment/policy methodologies.

We thank the speakers for sharing their expertise including John Lowe PT; James Hughes PT; Nicole Matoushek MPH, PT, CEES, CEAS; and Chris Juneau PT, DPT, ATC, EMBA. They offered great insights related to providing work rehab services.

Petition for Specialization in Occupational Health PT

The petition has been submitted to ABPTS. We will share updates as we can. Hats off to the OHSIG BOD for this effort!

Guidelines Update

Work Rehabilitation Guideline was presented in draft form at CSM. We are hopeful this will be available for members soon. Watch for updates. Rick Wickstrom is leading the effort on revising the Ergo guideline; the Ergo task force met at CSM.

Occupational Informational Development Advisory Panel (OIDAP)

We continue to provide feedback to OIDAP (Occupational Information Development Advisory Panel). Rick Wickstrom has spearheaded this effort and we thank him for his continued work.

Need Authors

If you are interested in submitting an article for OPTP, please let us know. You can talk with any one of the OHSIG BOD members. We thank Nicole Matoushek, MPH, PT, CEES, CEAS for her contribution to the latest issue of OPTP: "Peer Reviews: Empower Yourself, Improve Your Treatment Outcomes & Reimbursement!" Nicole has over 18 years of experience in physical therapy and the workers' compensation industry. She currently is VP at Align Networks. She can be reached at www.AlignNetworks.com.

Member Involvement

Our goal for this year is to increase the opportunity for member involvement in OHSIG committees and activities. We believe we are stronger through member involvement. We look forward to working with more of you this coming year! We'd love to hear from you. Contact any of the board members with your ideas/input. You can find the officer listing on the Ortho website, under Special Interest Groups.

Professional Regards,

Margot Miller PT
OHSIG President

Report on the Ergonomics Guideline Task Force from OHSIG – Practice & Payment Policy Chair, Rick Wickstrom, PT, DPT, CPE, CDMS

The Work Injury Prevention and Ergonomics Guideline Task Force was initiated at CSM with an informal meeting of some of the available task force members. Our primary goal is to foster improved and more consistent clinical practice behaviors by physical therapists to address work injury prevention, ergonomics and accommodations needs of our patients. We subsequently completed recruitment of task force members. The task force members include Rick Wickstrom (OH Chapter), Michelle Despres (FL Chapter), Sandy Goldstein (AZ Chapter), David Hoyle (CT Chapter), Miriam Joffe (TX Chapter), Joannete Lima (CA Chapter), Nicole Matoushek (FL Chapter), Bob Patterson (CA Chapter), Chris Studemaker (SC Chapter), Heather Wendell (OH Chapter), Kermit Davis (Research Advisor), and Steve Wurzelbacher (Research Advisor). The initial conference call was conducted on 2/28/11. An internet mechanism for sharing materials related to this effort. We are still discussing approach and scope to this guideline in the next conference call planned for 4/4/11.

The next meeting for the Occupational Information Development Advisory Committee is scheduled for May 4-5, 2011 in Baltimore, MD. This initiative is to develop replacement taxonomy for the Dictionary of Occupational Titles. The meeting hotel is still to be determined; however, we are planning to send representatives to the next meeting. Rick Wickstrom was interviewed by ICF International in relation to this effort. ICF is contracted by the Social Security Administration to provide an in-depth investigation of methods that have been, or are now, utilized to obtain information about jobs. They are not utilizing the content factors recommended to the agency or performing any analysis based on what was recommended (or thought we would need). At this time, ICF is benchmarking methods used for job analysis.

Rick Wickstrom and other representatives of the Ohio Chapter met with the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation to discuss a proposed rule change that would allow physical therapists to directly submit their own requests for physical therapy services. We submitted written commentary to advocate for the right to submit service requests without requiring a prescription from the physician.

Occupational Health SIG State Liaison Program: We are still recruiting members from each state who are interested in serving as the state liaison for payment policy issues in IOWA. Please contact Rick Wickstrom (Rick@workability.us) if you have interest or would like to nominate a member from your state. Membership in the Occupational Health SIG is required. The responsibilities include:

- 1) Read and respond to communications from Occupational Health Special Interest Group - This will consist of updates about Occupational Health SIG initiatives and perspectives of occupational health specialty practitioners and other stakeholders in different regions of the country.
- 2) Actively participate in your State Chapter and District Meetings - To identify practice and payment policy issues relevant to the Occupational Health SIG and therapists that provide occupational health specialty services in your state.
- 3) Help disseminate relevant information such as Occupational Health Guideline updates that improve quality and demonstrate the value of PTs in occupational health – Look for opportunities to discuss the Occupational Health SIG and develop relationships with key payers and other stakeholders that fosters a positive environment for occupational health specialty practice within your state.

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Report from Communications Chair, Sandy Goldstein, PT, CDMS

The OH SIG is currently discussing potentially starting up a "Bulletin Board" or ListServe that would be specifically used for OH SIG related correspondence. We will keep you posted. We welcome any input members may have on their experience with ListServes.

Message from Membership Chair, Kevin Svoboda, PT

Are you looking for a professional organization that will support your efforts to achieve your goals?

Consider the Occupational Health Special Interest Group (OHSIG)

Membership in the OHSIG will give you the opportunity to participate in a specialty area of practice within a network of other physical therapists providing occupational health. Quarterly e-mail blasts ensure you are current with occupational health issues and the activities of the OHSIG.

We are committed to the growth of physical therapists in the field of Occupational Health. CSM 2011 programming is well under way.

We want to see you in Chicago in February 2012

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

There is no extra charge to be a member of the OHSIG, once you are a member of the Orthopaedic Section!

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SIG OFFICER LISTING

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