



Dear Occupational Health SIG members,

Hope this newsletter finds you planning for a relaxing summer 2012!

Greetings from OHSIG President, Margot Miller

Greeting OHSIG Members!

If you missed CSM, you missed a great opportunity for networking and learning with friends and colleagues. Combined Sections Meeting took place Feb 8-11, 2012 in Chicago IL. More than 12,000 PTs/PTAs/Students and others attended!

OHSIG programming featured speakers included Dee Edington, PhD; Joannette Lima, CPE, PT; and Cory Blickenstaff, PT, OCS.

Our lead-off speaker, Dr. Edington's topic was "Changing the Conversation from Injury Management to Wellness Activities: Health Promotion in your Practice Setting and on the Job Site."

Ms. Lima is the Principal Safety Services Manager, Ergonomics for Disneyland Resort Safety Services. Her presentation focused on the ergonomics program at Disneyland.

Mr. Blickenstaff, owner/president Forward Motion Physical Therapy, Vancouver WA, focused on partnering with business to create a healthy, high performing workforce.

We thank Dee, Joannette and Cory for their insightful presentations!

Following OHSIG Programming, OHSIG Business Meeting took place. OHSIG Officers include:

Margot Miller, President

Lorena Pettet Payne, VP/Ed Chair

Sandy Goldstein, Communications Chair

Kevin Svoboda, Membership Chair

Rick Wickstrom, Payment Policy Chair

Kathy Rockefeller, Research Chair

Jill Galper, Nominating Chair

Nicole Matoushek, Nominating Committee (newly elected)

John Lowe, Nominating Committee (newly elected)

The OHSIG BOD meeting took place at CSM as well. All members were present. Karen Jost, Associate Director Payment Policy & Advocacy, APTA, attended the meeting. She presented a draft agenda for workers' compensation payment policy advocacy. She asked for assistance from the OHSIG as she moves forward with the agenda as a benefit to members. Karen presented a preliminary review of work comp regulation across the US. APTA Payment Policy is joining in the conversation regarding "Place of Service" codes, which OHSIG assisted with.

The strategic plan was revisited with a couple of revisions made.

The OHSIG Bulletin Board, which is not being used by members, was discussed. The board's focus is to meet the needs of current and prospective OHSIG members by disseminating information and encouraging discussion among members. We will continue to explore a networking venue that is accessible, cost neutral and serves the needs of membership.

Rick Wickstrom discussed the power point that he developed including information on OHSIG developed FCE Guidelines, Defensible Documentation and Advanced Work Rehab Guidelines. If you are interested in presenting this at a State Chapter level, contact Rick at rick@workability.us.

Announcing the First International FCE Research Meeting

The First International FCE Research Meeting will be in Haren, The Netherlands will take place October, 25, 2012. This is a great opportunity to participate with top researchers and others in the area of FCE.

A brief look at the agenda and speakers:

- New research
 1. Does test evaluator's fear of injury influence maximal lifting capacity? A triple blind RCT. Sandra Jorna-Lakke
 2. Cost-benefit of work-related multidisciplinary Rehabilitation for patients with MSDs: does employment status matter? Marco Streibelt
 3. Can submaximal physical and functional capacity be detected in patients with chronic pain? A systematic review. Suzan van der Meer
 4. Reliability, agreement and safety of FCE in patients with WAD. Maurizio Trippolini
- Pros/Cons for normative values for FCE. A debate. Remko Soer and Paul Kuijer
- FCE as outcome
 1. Gender differences in capacity ratings predicting RTW for patients with MSDs. Marco Streibelt
 2. Decline of functional capacity in healthy aging workers. Remko Soer
 3. Longitude assessment of physical capacity in a cohort study on early osteoarthritis of the hip and the knee. Andre Bieleman
 4. Does the performance of an FCE lifting test differ between employees on sick leave due to MSDs in physically demanding work and their health counterparts? Paul Kuijer
 5. Deconditioning in workers with chronic MSD pain: does work matter? Remko Soer
 6. Client's perspective on the utility of FCE for the assessment of physical work ability, prognosis for work participation and advice on RTW. Willemijn Pas
- Pre-employment FCE
 1. Pre-employment functional assessments predict MSD injury risk associated with manual handling in coal miners. Jenny Legge

- 2. Job-specific FCE protocols for household waste collectors: development and reproducibility. Vincent Gouttebarga
- One for all, or all for one?
 - 1. Debate
 - 2. Generic or specific FCE protocols? Vincent Gouttebarga and Doug Gross
- Where do we go from here?
 - 1. Open discussion
 - 2. FCE research agenda. Doug Gross and Michiel Reneman

A Message from Michiel Reneman

Dear colleagues,

I am happy to announce that we will hold the FCE research meeting on October 25th, 2012, in Haren, The Netherlands. All submissions could be placed in the program. The program will consist of a mix of oral presentations and discussions, as well as 2 lively debates, each introduced by 2 colleagues who have agreed to disagree with another.

Note: Details on the program, directions to our rehab center, and dinner are posted on our website: <http://www.umcg.nl/NL/UMCG/AFDELINGEN/CENTRUMVOORREVALIDATIE/RESEARCH/HONDERWIJS/POSTWDPIMEETINGFCE/Pages/default.aspx>

All new information will be posted on this website. Shortly, we will also have a link on the WDPI website. Registration is required. Hope to see you all!

On behalf of Berry van Holland, co-organizer, and Doug Gross, co-chair.

Regards,

Michiel Reneman

Announcing Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Meeting

The Human Factors and Ergonomics Society announces the 56th Annual Meeting to be held October 22-26, 2012 at the Westin Boston Waterfront in Boston, MA. Additional details are at <http://www.hfes.org/Web/HFESMeetings/2012annualmeeting.html>.

Professional Regards,

Margot Miller PT
OHSIG President

A Report from Kathy Rockefeller, Research Chair

The 12th Annual Safe Patient Handling & Movement Conference was held in Orlando FL at the end of March. The conference objectives included identification of best practices for patient care ergonomics, assessing technological solutions for safe patient handling, identifying ergonomic hazards common in patient care settings, and designing strategies to decrease risk to caregivers. There were 3 full days of concurrent programming targeting a number of tracks:

Essentials of Safe Patient Handling, Advanced Skills in Implementing Safe Patient Handling, Physical and Occupational Therapists, Challenges for Special Populations, Evaluation and Research, and Participant's Choice. Pre- and post-conference courses are offered as well. In addition, a large Exhibit Hall provided opportunities to learn about existing and emerging technology and services.

Over the years, the presence of therapists has increased, both as attendees, and now as presenters. Sessions were given by a number of APTA members: Margaret Arnold, Drew Bossen, Judith Burnfield, Ken Harwood, Diane Kessler, Nancy McGann, Patti Mehan, Kathleen Nelson, Stephanie Radawiec, Alexandra Rella, Kathleen Rockefeller, and Manon Short. Members of the OHSIG include Drew Bossen, Ken Harwood, and Kathleen Rockefeller.

A Message from Payment Policy Chair, Rick Wickstrom, PT, DPT, CEA, CDMS

It has been my pleasure to assume a new role as the Occupational Health SIG Practice & Payment Policy Chair. This year marks the start of several key initiatives that support practice & payment policy efforts by our SIG:

SSA's Development of a new Occupational Information System to replace the DOT: The OIDAP panel's charter is not being renewed past the 7/6/12 date. The other panel SSA had (Futures panel addressing technology issues) was completely discontinued in January. There will be someone from SSA on the next 6/4 call talking about the status of the project. Stay tuned!

Work Disability Prevention and Intervention (WDPI) Conference 2012 - the second scientific conference for research on preventing work disability; October 22-24, 2012 in Groningen. www.wdpi2012 Groningen.com This meeting is about the wide field of work disability, and there will be little attention given specifically to FCE research. The plan is to hold a first ever international FCE research meeting one day after the WDPI. Anyone with interest in attending may contact Rick Wickstrom for more information as he is making plans to attend this meeting.

Work Disability Prevention Guideline Development – The task force in temporary recess from regular conference due to volunteer time constraints by some task force members. We continue to gather and distributing relevant evidence-based articles to task force members. Our goal is to draft and submit this guideline for Ortho Section by the Fall of 2012, after further networking at the WDPI Conference in Groningen.

1. **Creating State Payment Policy Liaisons for our Occupational Health SIG:** We are developing a key contact liaison program of Occupational Health SIG members in each state who are passionate about networking to help disseminate practice information and advocate for more favorable practice opportunities & payment policies related to our occupational health specialty. My service as the Ohio Chapter liaison to the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation has taught me that networking with other stakeholders and PTs in other states often uncovers critical information that helps advocate for more favorable payment policies in occupational health. For example, physical therapists in Ohio are now reimbursed for travel time and mileage when they go to work-sites to provide services such as ergonomic accommodation studies, functional job analysis, and transitional return to work services. A letter will be going out to all

State Chapter Presidents and Executive Directors that requests their assistance in identifying persons who may be interested in active service in this role.

2. **Promoting Occupational Health Guideline Updates:** We need to do a better job of sharing relevant information with physical therapists, payers, regulators and other occupational health professionals as a public relations strategy to promote the professionalism of physical therapists in our specialty. The state-specific payment policy liaisons program will be a great vehicle to disseminating important information about matters that impact practice and reimbursement for our specialty. Our initial plan is to disseminate the recently updated APTA FCE Guidelines update. This guideline has already made an impact on quality/administration concerns related to FCE services in the state of Maine!

3. **Collaborating with APTA Payment Policy and Advocacy Department:** We are very fortunate to have Karen Jost recently join APTA's Payment Policy and Advocacy Department. Karen previously worked on payment policy matters on the payer side for Washington State Department of Labor & Industries. This experience her a valuable resource to our SIG. Karen has already hit the ground running by developing a new Workers Compensation Resource Guide and working with our SIG to initiate planning for a couple of future audio conferences on the "Role of the PT in Workers Compensation" and "Collaborating with Insurance Companies".

Please don't hesitate to email or call me about any matters related to Practice and Payment Policy! I am also responsible for coordinating the update on the Ergonomics Guideline and would welcome some additional task force members who have ergonomics expertise to contribute to a more evidence-based update of the existing guideline.

Professional regards,

Rick Wickstrom, PT, CPE, CDMS
Practice & Payment Policy Chair, APTA Occupational Health SIG
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A Link from Karen Jost, PT, MS

I thought the OHSIG membership might be interested – the psyche of injured workers is so critically important, and this is a stark reminder. Feel free to share...

<http://www.workerscompensation.com/compnewsnetwork/from-bobs-cluttered-desk/14393-angry-injured-workers%2C-this-is-what-i%E2%80%99m-talking-about.html>

Karen Jost, PT, MS
Sr. Payment Specialist - Payment and Practice Management

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A Message from Communications Chair, Sandy Goldstein, PT, CDMS

You can learn more about the OHSIG. 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!

You can get involved by writing a simple article from 2-4 pages double spaced concerning any topic in occupational health and/or ergonomics to email them to me. This is a great opportunity to get the word out on unique areas that you are working on in your field.

We appreciate feedback from our members and encourage you to send any comments, suggestions or questions to sgoldstein@measurabilities.com or to any board member.

Sandy Goldstein, PT, CDMS
Communications Chair, OHSIG
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Join APTA at PT2012 in Tampa, FL June 6-9, 2012
<http://www.apta.org/AnnualConference/>