

Hello!

I'm thrilled to launch 2006 with the introduction of the Animal Physical Therapy Special Interest Group Strategic Plan, just recently approved by the Orthopaedic Section Board of Directors at the Combined Sections Meeting in San Diego. The officers of the APTSIG ask for your feedback and support as we implement this impressive Strategic Plan and move forward as an advocate for the physical therapy profession in the field of animal rehabilitation. We have established committees that are anxious to welcome new committee members: Research, Practice, Education, and Nominating. An integral branch of the APTSIG is the State Liaison Network, our system tasked with linking APTSIG members, practitioners in the field of animal rehabilitation, and state physical therapy and veterinary boards, for collaboration in communication, education, regulation, research, and practice. We're also very excited to incorporate a Blast Email Service through the Section office to all APTSIG members to further communicate important and interesting issues related to regulatory, educational, research, and practice issues. As well, the APTSIG vows to maintain communication with veterinary organizations and educational programs in order to create more open channels of communication with our membership and to promote the collaborative practice of animal rehabilitation by physical therapists and assistants in cooperation with the veterinary medical profession. Finally, we're just overwhelmed with excitement about the prospect of possible recognition by the World Congress of Physical Therapy and the potential of a future *Journal of Animal Rehabilitation*. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the APTSIG officers at any time. This is a pivotal juncture in the evolution of the animal rehabilitation field and we hope to continue to serve our membership and profession well.

As our newsletter is a means of "meeting" your officers, I'd like to begin this series of introductions to the officers of your APTSIG by introducing myself. Originally from a rural town near Cleveland, Ohio, I earned a bachelors degree in Biology from Slippery Rock University in 1995. As I had no great desire to remain in western Pennsylvania for more than a few years (and with much encouragement of my academic advisor), I was off to Richmond, Virginia for PT school. I (finally) was awarded my masters in PT at the Medical College of Virginia in 1997. (Richmond is also where I met my future husband and the namesake of our "first born," Kate, a Border Collie.) I practiced PT on 2-legged animals in rural southern Maryland and completed a 6-month PNF residency at Kaiser Vallejo prior to being sought out by 2 boarded veterinary surgeons. I began my career in small animal rehabilitation, practicing on 4-legged ani-

mals, in 2001. Since then, I've completed my CCRP through UT/NES and have attended the canine rehab program through ARI/CRI (having yet to complete my certificate). I recently taught an advanced neuro-rehabilitation continuing education course at CRI, incorporating techniques of PNF and NDT-origin in canine rehabilitation, and have joined the faculty at CRI by assisting with the introductory and assistant/technician courses. My career in animal rehabilitation has progressed from an hourly 'as needed' position at a veterinary referral center for less than 2 afternoons per week to owning my own limited liability corporation and contracting professional rehabilitation services to multiple veterinary referral centers in Maryland. I never really intended to get involved in the politics or regulation of this new practice, but given my investment of time, energy, education, and passion, I felt that I had no choice. I welcome other therapists' and assistants' involvement in the APTSIG. Please feel free to contact me directly with questions, with concerns, or to volunteer to help (even in a little way). There's so much that we can accomplish together!

Amie

ANIMAL PHYSICAL THERAPY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP STRATEGIC PLAN

Mission

The mission of the Animal Physical Therapy SIG of APTA's Orthopaedic Section is to define, advance, and promote the role of the physical therapy profession in the field of animal rehabilitation through education, collaboration, communication, advocacy, and ethical practice.

Vision

The Animal Physical Therapy SIG will be the pioneers and leaders in fostering educated, competent physical therapy practitioners who embrace evidence-based practice to promote the highest quality of clinical practice within animal rehabilitation in collaboration with veterinary medicine.

Goals

EDUCATION: Set standards for programs that prepare physical therapy clinicians to practice animal rehabilitation and provide opportunities for life-long learning through continuing education.

Objectives

1. Perform a practice analysis to determine the unique knowledge, skills, and abilities of physical therapists that practice

in the field of animal rehabilitation by February 2008.

- a. Create a practice analysis plan and budget in 2006.
 - b. Conduct a practice analysis in 2007.
 - c. Submit the completed practice description for publication in a peer-reviewed journal in 2008.
2. Develop curriculum standards for the physical therapy component of post professional education programs that are congruent with the practice description by February 2009.
 - a. Develop curriculum standards for the physical therapy component of post professional academic degree programs.
 - b. Develop curriculum standards for the physical therapy component of post professional clinical residency programs.
 3. Determine and disseminate the career pathway options and opportunities for an individual to become a physical therapist that is an educated, competent practitioner of animal rehabilitation by 2009.
 4. Annually provide continuing professional education related to animal rehabilitation.
 - a. Provide programming at CSM following the SIG policies and procedures developed by the Section's Education Chair.
 - b. Revise and reinstate the animal science independent study course (ISC) sponsored by the Animal PT SIG in 2006.
 - c. Secure authors for future ISC monographs on canine and equine rehabilitation and obtain approval for creating this ISC from the Orthopaedic Section Board by 2007.
 - d. Provide a minimum of one (1) canine or one (1) equine continuing professional education course by 2008.

EVIDENCED-BASED PRACTICE: Contribute to, disseminate, and be a resource for the scientific literature supporting the practice of animal rehabilitation.

Objectives

1. Publish first issue of *Animal Rehabilitation* by 2009.
 - a. Appoint a managing editor and create a budget plan by 2006.
 - b. Select editor, editorial board and reviewers by 2007.
 - c. Solicit articles and advertising 2007-2008.
2. Submit two literature reviews or case reports annually for publication in *Orthopedic Practice* beginning in 2007.
 - a. Utilize the SIG newsletter in 2007 to encourage:
 - i. CSM research presentations.
 - ii. Submissions of case reports and literature reviews in *Orthopedic Practice*.
3. Contribute species-specific research articles to APTA's 'Hooked on Evidence' online database (annually).
 - a. Develop separate categories in database for each species.
 - b. Create basic and clinical research categories.
 - c. Form a committee of SIG officers/members to work

with those from the APTA to contribute research-based evidence to database.

COMMUNICATION/COLLABORATION/ADVOCACY:

Enhance communication and collaboration between and among physical therapy and veterinary medical practitioners in order to promote and enhance the practice of animal rehabilitation by educated, competent physical therapy practitioners.

Objectives

1. Promote ongoing communication with American and international veterinary medical and animal physical therapy associations.
 - a. Encourage physical therapists, especially those who are also licensed as DVMs or RVTs, to routinely participate in veterinary medical and surgical association professional meetings as speakers or exhibitors.
 - b. Promote the establishment of formal liaison relationships between American veterinary medical and surgical associations and the APTA and the Animal PT SIG of the Orthopaedic Section, APTA.
2. Provide information to Orthopaedic Section Members regarding veterinary and physical therapy practice acts in each state.
 - a. Establish website links to each state's veterinary and physical therapy practice acts by April 2007.
 - b. Provide an annual report to the Section Members in OP regarding the licensure requirements for the provision of animal rehabilitation by physical therapy practitioners.
 - c. Recruit at least one SIG Member in each state to serve as an information resource for SIG members and veterinarians regarding the practice of animal rehabilitation by physical therapists. The goal is to have these "state liaisons" of the Animal PT SIG for at least 80% of the states by 2009.
3. Provide information to physical therapy professionals and students, veterinary professionals and students, animal owners, and veterinary insurance providers that describe and promote the practice of animal rehabilitation by physical therapists and physical therapy assistants.
 - a. Create an electronic and printed brochure that can be distributed by the SIG Members to students, practitioners, animal owners, and payers by 2008.
 - b. Create a referral network of SIG members who are active practitioners of animal rehabilitation that can be accessed on the Orthopaedic Section's website by 2007.
 - c. Create adaptations to the Orthopaedic Section's exhibit booth to be used at veterinary professional association conferences by 2008.
 - d. Coordinate 2009 exhibition plans with the managing editor of *Animal Rehabilitation* to market the practice of animal rehabilitation by physical therapy professionals as well as the journal.

S.W.O.T. ANALYSIS

Strengths	Opportunities	Weaknesses	Threats
Passion and energy of leaders and members	Opportunities to collaborate with Vets and et Techs	Need for evidence-based research with respect to animal rehabilitation	Vets and Vet Techs
Knowledge base	Create a profession for the younger generation interested in working with animals but not necessarily as the Vet	Current physical therapy education does not address anatomy, physiology, diseases, conditions seen in animals at entry-level	State practice acts and legislation
Area of practice involving both PTs and PTAs	Increased numbers of animal owners driving the need for these services	Existing certification programs dictate legislation	PTs and PTAs
Services are beneficial to animals	Ability to protect the physical therapy profession while finding a common ground in addressing the needs of animals and their owners	No set of core defined knowledge, skills, and behaviors related to physical therapy practice with animals	Increased specialization within Vet medicine including physiatry and sports medicine
Variety of experiences in clinical practice and backgrounds of leadership/membership	There is financial investment in animals and their handlers with a willingness and ability to pay for the services	No established link with AVMA and no reciprocal organization for this work – No liaison between APTA and AVMA)	No governmental body overseeing the practice of animal rehabilitation
Versatility, adaptability, and tenacity of members	Increased specialization in Veterinary medicine increasing the potential for animal rehabilitation	No defined consensus within the Animal Physical Therapy SIG to be able to speak with one voice and a consistent message	Increased levels of malpractice identified in Vet medicine where it was previously an area of low risk
Able to juggle multiple hats and to multi-task	Increase use of dogs in sports and competitive events		
Able to live with ambiguities in clinical practice and to serve as pioneers	Provide continuing education for members		
	Opportunities to collaborate with Vets for conducting research in support of evidenced-based practice		
	Availability of malpractice insurance through alternative carriers, if allowed by law APTA malpractice insurance will cover		
	Pet insurance identified providers will reimburse for services		
	Basic science research with animals may be more prevalent in support of animal rehabilitation and could inform physical therapy research differently		

ANIMAL PHYSICAL THERAPY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP BUSINESS MEETING CSM 2006 SAN DIEGO, CA * 4 FEBRUARY 2006

- I. Call to Order at 4:45 PM by Amie Lamoreaux Hesbach.
- II. Amie welcomed all attendees (22) and introduced new officers and present committee chairpersons.
- III. Amie acknowledged and thanked outgoing officers Deb

Gross Saunders, President, and Sandy Brown, Treasurer (both absent).

- IV. Old Business
 - a. Approval of CSM APT-SIG Business Meeting Minutes. Copies were not available for review so this item was deferred.
 - b. President's Report: Amie presented a brief review of CSM 2005 SIG Business, Prestrategic planning meeting in Boston, June 2005, Strategic Planning in Al-

exandria, November 2005. Cheryl Riegger-Krugh presented a summary of current status of Independent Study courses. The Canine and Equine Anatomy and Biomechanics courses were recently retired after 5 years, as is standard for the Orthopaedic Section. The APTSIG requested that the courses be updated and re-released as the material needs little revision and continues to be requested by members. The Orthopaedic Section approved re-releasing both courses in 2007. A member questioned whether the SIG could release the canine course separately from the equine course. Amie to follow-up with the Section.

- c. Vice President's Report – unavailable.
- d. Treasurer's Report – Lin McGonagle (see attached report)
- e. Secretary's Report – unavailable. Amie informed the group of the quarterly newsletter and solicited articles/case studies/contributions. Reminded the group of the next deadline 2/10/06.
- f. Education Report – Gina Epifano reported that the Section will be changing the handouts for future CSMs to go through their website rather than the APTA's website. She is recommending changing the SIG programming day from Saturday to Friday to help increase attendance. Deadline for considering a preconference course is March 31st. Topics are due for next CSM by April 30. Next CSM is in Boston February 14-18, 2007. Feedback from Section Education Meeting is that they are requesting speakers that have capability for video presentations and that AV technicians will be available during presentations. Goals for Education committee include the following:
 - 1) Have dogs present as part of programming possibly for gait analysis or agility presentations.
 - 2) Increase platform and poster presentations.
 - 3) Look into possibility of burning SIG presentations on CDs for sale.
 - 4) Increase equine topics.
 - 5) Look into offering a postconference course.
- g. Practice Committee – unavailable.
- h. State Liaison Coordinator Report – Charlie Evans reported on his updated list of Liaisons – will give to Tara so list can be available on Section web site. APTSIG Liaisons are needed in Washington, DC, Texas, Delaware, Mississippi, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, and South Carolina. Charlie has also updated the status of state practice acts. There are at least 4 states that now include Physical Therapy in the Veterinary Practice Act. A compiled report will be made available to Tara for posting on the web as well. Nevada recognizes Animal PT and register PT's with the Veterinary Board for \$50/year.
- i. Nominating Committee – Amie reported that the po-

sition of Vice President will be open for the upcoming election.

V. New Business

- a. Name change from Animal Physical Therapist SIG to Animal Physical Therapy SIG.
Charlie Evans made the motion to adopt the name change. Gina Epifano seconded. Discussion: a member questioned if this change was consistent with the *Guide*. Another member cited that "Physical Therapy" is inclusive of PTs and PTAs. Cheryl noted that the title Physical Therapist is protected in many states. Vote: unanimous in favor of name change.
- b. Amie reported that the Orthopaedic Section had approved the Strategic Plan at a Board Meeting last night. The Strategic Plan was explained and revealed to the membership in a power point presentation by Amie. Discussion of each section and suggested changes were noted (see separate document). A motion was made by Cheryl Riegger-Krugh to adopt the APTSIG Strategic Plan. This was seconded by Marilyn Dowd. Vote: unanimous approval of APT SIG Strategic Plan.
- c. Amie called for nominations for the position of Vice President. No nominations were made from the floor at this time.
- d. Amie reported that a Research Committee would need to be established to support the formation of the Animal Rehabilitation Journal. Interested members should contact her. No nominees were suggested from the floor at this time.

VI. Open Forum

Amie informed the group of the 4th International Symposium on Veterinary Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, October 26-29, 2006, the Netherlands.

Amie also reminded the group about Ablepet's upcoming catalog and an opportunity to list animal rehabilitation practices in the directory.

Cheryl asked about PT being covered under pet insurance policies--a member contributed that some polices do list physical therapy and some will pay for it as part of surgery and recovery.

Amie informed the group of updated APTA web services: "Find a PT" and "Members Mentoring Members" as ways to find other Animal PT practitioners.

WCPT-Amie indicated that there are now enough countries to apply for special recognition for Animal Physical Therapy within the WCPT. The application can now be pursued.

Programming suggestions:

- 1) Gait analysis course include Gait Rite, Biofeedback Technology, and Innovisions.
- 2) Victoria Hale- equine gait and effect on the rehab patient
- 3) Steve Wickler from California Polytechnic Institute

Rose Celebration is no longer Black Tie, more informal. Everyone invited.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Lin McGonagle, MSPT, LVT
Incoming Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT CSM 2006

Total expenses for the 2005 budget year were \$7901.74 and were distributed as follows:

Stationery and supplies	\$163.92
Telephone	\$452.48
Awards	\$43.20
Travel CSM	\$1800.00
Meeting Services	\$275.00
CSM Honorarium	\$1647.50
Strategic Planning Meeting	\$3519.64

Our annual budget from the Orthopaedic Section is \$5000.00. Encumbered funds were accessed to cover the additional expenses incurred by the Strategic Planning meeting in Alexandria, VA on November 18, 2005.

Estimate for the balance of encumbered funds is \$28,979.00.

Goals for the upcoming budget are to support the implementation of our strategic plan, to provide programming at CSM, and to encourage the full participation of SIG officers and chairpersons by expanding the funding for travel to meetings when possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Lin McGonagle, MSPT, LVT
Incoming Treasurer

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