

# ANIMAL REHABILITATION

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

### President's Message

Kirk Peck, PT, PhD, CSCS, CCRT, CERP

#### CSM HIGHLIGHTS

A HUGE dose of gratitude is owed to Ria Acciani, MPT, for providing an outstanding and very educational two-hour presentation on manual therapy for the canine cervical spine during CSM 2017 in San Antonio, TX. Attendance of approximately 200 people proved once again that a solid interest in animal rehabilitation continues to grow in the profession of physical therapy. Ria provided a thorough overview of canine cervical anatomy followed by common physical dysfunctions and then shared a variety of clinical videos depicting innovative treatment strategies to restore normal mobility.

In addition to educational programming, SIG officers engaged in dialogue with other SIG leaders, and members of the Orthopaedic Section Board to discuss ideas and vision on the future of our organization. I have communicated to members already regarding some of the key topics covered at CSM, but probably the biggest initiative that will impact the SIG in the near future is the need to conduct a new strategic plan. The goal is to organize at least one focused meeting in 2017 with key individuals to develop an exciting new roadmap for the SIG.

#### SIG PRACTICE ANALYSIS UPDATE

The goal remains 100. At the writing of this newsletter, the number of completed surveys is 55. This is very exciting news, but we still have a ways to go. So if you have not yet completed the ARSIG practice analysis survey please use the following Web link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/t/DLGN53W>

#### CALIFORNIA VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD

The California Animal Rehab Task Force experienced an enormous victory in early February with a 10-7 vote in favor of the following motion: "California licensed PTs with advanced training in animal rehab can work under the supervision level determined by the veterinarian on a veterinary premise or an Animal Rehabilitation Facility (which may be on a non-vet premise)." The next step is to advance the approved motion to the Vet Medical Board for discussion and another vote. Although various outcomes are possible, the hope is to use the Task Force's favorable action to drive legislative language in support of PT practice on animals with appropriate regulations to ensure safe and competent standards without hindrance of any direct supervision laws.

#### PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE- ARE YOU REALLY COVERED?

I hear it frequently stated, "I am covered for all of my professional care to animals since I have malpractice insurance." However, reality is not so simple. The fact remains, if the state jurisdiction in which a physical therapist practices on animals does not possess codified laws to support such practice, then malpractice coverage does not exist.

I had a personal discussion with a representative from HPSO

during CSM this year to reaffirm my suspicions. Insurance companies, such as HPSO, will not provide coverage for claims made in jurisdictions where laws do not support the practice in question. Therefore, physical therapists who treat animals, and live in a state where supporting language is void in defining such practice, should personally contact their professional insurance carrier to see if they are covered or not should a claim against them arise.

#### SCHOLARS

To ALL members of the ARSIG, please note that an open invitation continues to exist for all submissions of interest in animal rehabilitation. This is a grand opportunity for therapists or veterinarians to share their knowledge or scientific research findings with the larger community of physical therapists whose common goal is to improve the health and fitness of the animal kingdom.

#### CONTRIBUTORY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In this edition of *OPTP* an interesting perspective on the use of therapeutic laser to enhance sport performance is presented. Although the studies cited in the article looked at tissue function in only human subjects, there is potential application of findings to competitive sporting dogs and horses.



#### Oh Joy...The Thrill of Spring is Upon Us!!

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#### ARSIG 2017 RE-ELECTION FOR VICE PRESIDENT/EDUCATION CHAIR

The results of the 2017 election for the ARSIG are in and the candidates were notified of the results. Shortly after being notified, the Vice President/Education Chair-Elect announced that he declined to serve in the office of Vice President/Education Chair. According to Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, page 444, this is considered an "incomplete election," not a "vacancy," and requires running another election immediately for the Vice President/Education Chair position.

We are now ready to open the Call for Nominations for the re-election of ARSIG Vice President/Education Chair.

If you are aware of an Orthopaedic Section Member who would like to run for this ARSIG office, please submit his or her name to the Orthopaedic Section office: [tfred@orthopt.org](mailto:tfred@orthopt.org). Additionally, feel free to self-nominate yourself if YOU are interested in running!