

foot&ankle

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Stephen Paulseth, PT, DPT, SCS, ATC

The past CSM in San Diego was another success for our SIG programming, thanks to the efforts of Robroy Martin and the guest lecturers he assembled. They presented a wonderful overview about Ankle Arthritis including the etiology, biomechanical processes, the medical evaluation and surgical treatment, and the physical therapy interventions. The presentations were well attended despite the large array of orthopaedic programming that were offered concurrently. Thanks again to the lecturers and to those who attended. Next year we plan on offering a preconference hands-on foot and ankle manual therapy course as well as our general program entitled: **A Comprehensive Update on Ankle Instability.**

In our annual Business Meeting at CSM we established a task force that will develop a survey which will be sent to all entry-level PT programs. The objective is to ascertain the foot and ankle content being taught nationally so that a basic level can be met, or at least recommended. This information will also help us to depict the necessary criteria for establishing specialization and a fellowship for foot and ankle PT. Robroy Martin will serve as the new Vice President of our rapidly growing SIG. The FASIG in concert with the Orthopaedic Section are formulating a brochure to provide information to our members and others about our SIG. It primarily will outline the purpose of the FASIG which includes:

1. Foster clinical practice of the foot and ankle based upon science.
2. Provide standards for entry level education for the treatment of the foot and ankle.
3. Encourage and foster clinical research dissemination, presentation, and mentoring.
4. Provide a forum for the interdisciplinary treatment of the foot and ankle.
5. Establish standards of measurement and terminology relative to the treatment of the foot and ankle.
6. Provide a framework for the interaction of other health professionals who treat foot and ankle pathologies.
7. Provide a network for enhancing communication between clinicians, academicians and researchers interested in the treatment of the foot and ankle.

I hope that each of you with an interest in the foot and ankle will support our SIG. We always appreciate your input concerning our purpose, programs, and objectives.