

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Stephen G Paulseth, PT, DPT, SCS, ATC

The 2008 CSM in Nashville was another success for the FASIG educational programming. A sellout crowd attended an excellent preconference course by Tom McPoil and Mark Cornwall entitled "Using Prefabricated Foot Orthoses in Clinical Practice: Current Evidence and Fabrication Principles." A large audience also enjoyed a state-of-the-art program entitled "Foot and Ankle Tendinopathies: From Mechanisms to Interventions" by an excellent collaborative faculty from the University of Southern California (Fight on Trojans!), Ithaca College, and University of Rochester.

During the CSM, the Orthopaedic Section asked our SIG if we should restructure as an Education Interest Group (EIG) with a single individual responsible for the education programming at CSM, such as the Manual Therapy group. As a SIG, there are 2-3 individuals on the executive board that function the same as an EIG and also provide materials to this publication, can actuate a practice analysis/DSP, and use this information to identify our body of knowledge as foot and ankle specialists. In other words, in accordance with the Strategic plan for the Orthopaedic Section, we are moving towards establishing a fellowship for the foot and ankle through completion of a Description of Specialty Practice (DSP). It further helps to protect our practice area by identifying a specific body of knowledge from those who wish to limit what we can do. For example, in the past the Prosthetists and Orthotists have attempted to limit our ability to make foot orthoses for our patients. The Foot and Ankle SIG also should be a resource and a means of communication for those with a special interest in treating this region of the body. Undoubtedly, most PTs treat the foot indirectly even though they are treating other diagnoses, types, and ages of patients in their practice. Our SIG members typically carry a certain patient load that includes specific foot and ankle problems or postoperative care. Remember our mission and vision for the FASIG:

Mission: FASIG serves as a resource to practitioners and academics for foot and ankle practice.

Vision: We will support and provide professional development for PTs who treat the foot and ankle.

There were not any elections at CSM for our SIG this year. I will remain as President for 2 more years and Rob Martin will remain Vice President for at least one more year. The position of Secretary/Treasurer will be eliminated. Susan Appling will chair the Nominating Committee. Also discussed at the CSM Business Meeting is that the FASIG wishes to foster foot and ankle research scholarships (Student or Clinician) in accordance with the Orthopaedic Section research grants. More news on that will follow and we hope to be sending out blast emails later this year. The bulletin board posting at OrthoPT.org is available to our members to discuss any of the above and/or other topics of interest.

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

FOOT & ANKLE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Business Meeting

APTA Combined Sections Meeting

Nashville, TN

February 9, 2008

Stephen Paulseth, President, called the Foot & Ankle Special Interest Group (FASIG) Business Meeting to order at 7:00am on February 9, 2008. The meeting was held at the Opryland Convention Center, Nashville, TN.

Motion: It was moved by Steve Paulseth to adopt the minutes from the February 2007 meeting of the FASIG Business Meeting. Mark Cornwall seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Reports:

Chair. Steve Paulseth indicated that the Foot & Ankle Special Interest Group (FASIG) was unable to conduct elections last year and as such, he and Mark Cornwall have been serving in their respective positions on a temporary basis since then.

In accordance with the Strategic plan for the Orthopaedic Section, we are moving towards establishing a fellowship for the foot and ankle. Through the efforts of Clarke Brown and Rob Martin, we have distributed and published a survey in *OP* to identify the content of foot and ankle in the curriculum of entry-level PT programs. Thus far we have very few responses and will consider sending the survey to a faculty member of each PT program this year. The FASIG will continue our practice analysis and DSP.

Mission: FASIG serves as a resource to practitioners and academics for foot and ankle practice.

Vision: We will support and provide professional development for PTs who treat foot and ankle through:

1. Perform a practice analysis
2. Establish a foot and ankle fellowship

Membership Services: The FASIG and Orthopaedic Section are developing a brochure that will serve to promote and advertise our SIG to APTA members. Our mission and vision will be shared. We encourage each new member to complete the practice survey that was established by S Reischl and others when they join. Hence, adding their demographics to the "Find a Foot and Ankle PT" listing which comprises our SIG membership. The use of a blast email was discussed for future use in this area.

New member resources need to be formed with an information packet.

Bulletin board for foot news and views, clinical pearls, discuss recent articles, debate treatment regimen....

Vice-Chair. Rob Martin presented the programming for this year's CSM and asked for suggestions from the members regarding future program topics. Ideas were then solicited from those present and included:

- Manipulation of the Foot & Ankle (possibly preconference course)
- Radiology and Diagnostic Imaging of the Foot & Ankle
- Case Reports and Panel Discussion by Experts on the Cases
- Major Trauma to the Foot
- Diabetic or Rheumatoid Foot
- Mid-Tarsal Joint

A preconference course is being considered which would be a lab based manual therapy and taping course for selected foot problems.

Secretary/Treasurer. Mark Cornwall reported that the budget from the Orthopaedic Section continues to be adequate to meet the SIG's basic operating needs. In addition, we have a reserve fund that allows us to be creative and not worry too much about making a profit.

Research Committee. Deborah Nawoczenski

Did not have details, but indicated that the Research Committee has talked about hosting a third research retreat that would be a follow-up to the previous one on foot models.

Old Business: No discussion.

Steve Paulseth asked for members to submit "*Clinical Pearls*" for submission to *Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Practice*. Rob Roy Martin agreed that he would submit a summary of the SIG's programming from today's conference.

New Business:

It was suggested that FASIG consider offering small research grants of approximately \$2000-\$5000. Recipients would be expected to present their results at a CSM. Mark Cornwall suggested that the SIG make a donation to the Orthopaedic Section Research fund so that their procedures could be used without duplicating work.

The Orthopaedic Section has proposed a change in the structure of all SIGs within the Section. If FASIG elects to remain a SIG rather than an Educational Interest Group (EIG), the position of Secretary/Treasurer would be eliminated. Funding for the SIG, however, would not decrease and would actually provide additional funds to support the President and Vice President in attending CSM and conducting the operations of the SIG. It was decided that the membership wished to remain a SIG and not an EIG.

There was discussion about the survey that was published in *OP* concerning the knowledge base for foot and ankle being taught in PT programs and for clinicians in PT. A committee was established that will analyze the data which include Rob Martin, Irene Davis, and Stephanie Albie. A practice analysis/DSP would be completed thereafter in an attempt to identify our area of practice and to establish a future fellowship in foot and ankle PT.

Steve Paulseth was going to investigate a collaborative link with

the American Podiatric Association to share clinical and research information in this area of specialty

Motion: It was moved by Rob Roy to adjourn the meeting until February 2009 in Las Vegas, NV. The motion was seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45am.

*Respectfully Submitted by,
Mark W. Cornwall, PT, PhD, CPed
Acting FASIG Secretary/Treasurer*