

FOOT & ANKLE

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

FASIG STEPS AHEAD!

The Foot/Ankle Special Interest Group continues to make strides in 2010, focusing on foot/ankle-specific activities, exciting clinical and academic projects, and even fostering research with its own funds. A long-time leader in the propagation of lower extremity treatment and evaluation strategies, the FASIG used the Combined Section Meetings in San Diego to show the entire Orthopaedic Section membership that not only will the FASIG continue to address the informational needs of both instructor and clinician, but the FASIG will renew its commitment to insuring that the consumers of foot and ankle care recognize the physical therapist as a first choice in getting back on their feet!

FASIG is Driving Research

During the annual FASIG business meeting in February, FASIG President, Steve Paulseth, PT, DPT, proudly announced the recipients of a \$15,000 research grant (funded by FASIG) entitled "The Effects of AP Talocrural Joint Mobilization in Patients with Subacute Ankle Sprains," to be completed by University of Virginia researchers including Terry Grindstaff, J Hertel, S Saliba, N Crosby. "We are pleased to spearhead research in an area so important to us," says Steve. "We've worked hard to get into a position to do this and this grant speaks volumes about our dedication to foot/ankle study. Our membership can be proud of their leadership role."

FASIG is Driving Continuing Education

FASIG Vice President and Director of Programming, RobRoy Martin, PT, PhD, moderated an impressive and thought-provoking 3-hour session at CSM 2010 regarding repetitive use syndromes involving the foot/ankle. Glenn Pfeffer, MD, and Joshua Bailey, PT, DPT, CSCS, OCS, combined to offer the overflowing audience a complete review of several challenging syndromes, pointing to new research along the way. Dr. Pfeffer was particularly engaging, applying both critical and complimentary commentary about the role of the PT profession in comprehensive orthopaedic management. Dr. Bailey conferred with Dr. Pfeffer while answering many questions from the audience. Dr. Martin was especially pleased by the "standing room only" crowd.

The Foot/Ankle Fellowship

The FASIG continues to comply with the strategic plan of the Orthopaedic Section by progression toward a full-fledged fellowship for the Foot and Ankle. Perhaps no other issue will define the growth of our SIG more than this undertaking. The fellowship process appears daunting, yet much has already been completed. The end result is a duly-certified specialist who deserves recognition in the eyes of consumers, payors, peers, and physicians, and who, by result of hundreds of hours of continuing education and practice specific to the foot and ankle, should be the practitioner of choice for foot/ankle dysfunctions. The moniker should be a "status symbol," directing patients to the most capable provider in their community.

FASIG Specialists Discuss Growth: Annual Meeting Overview

The annual business meeting was highlighted by several changes in FASIG leadership, the FASIG annual report, and extensive discussion regarding foot and ankle fellowships, OPTP content, and strategies for growth of the FASIG.

Clarke Brown, PT, DPT, OCS, ATC, was announced as the new FASIG President, replacing Steve Paulseth who completed a maximum of 2 terms. The Orthopaedic Section, represented by Tom McPoil, PT, PhD, presented a certificate of appreciation to Steve. Steve's unquestionable dedication to the FASIG over the past 6 years is worthy of appreciation. It is hoped that Steve continues his efforts within FASIG.

Nominating Committee Chair, Susan Appling, PT, PhD, announced 2 new nominating committee members--Todd Davenport, PT, DPT, OCS, who was elected to a 3-year term and Joseph Brosky, Jr, PT, MS, SCS, who was elected to a 2-year term.

The 2010 FASIG annual report included information regarding the development of practice standards, which includes an initial survey of entry-level PT programs. Forty-one institutions have responded, representing too few schools for survey conclusion. Therefore, a survey task force including Irene Davis, Stephanie Albin, Rob Martin, and Todd Davenport have consented to assist with this process.

Discussions also included reimbursements for foot orthoses by third party payors. Reimbursement varies from company to company and by state. Generally, even when a company consents to reimburse for the devices, they rarely pay. Thus cash fees apply to most patients. In regards to taping procedures, the following codes have been successful for some with Medicare, Workers Compensation, and a few private carriers.

HCPSC code	MC allowance	Fee Schedule
Ankle 29540	37.67	70
Foot 29550	36.52	60

FASIG is Driving Entry-level Education

The FASIG continues to survey academic PT programs regarding current curricular components specific to the foot and ankle. The FASIG is determined to play a leadership role in the provision of up-to-date information to entry-level physical therapy programs, thereby helping students receive curriculum content that matches each student's needs for licensure preparation while also meeting the needs of an ever-expanding consumer demand. Surveying current curriculum is the first step.

FASIG Expands Focus

Incoming FASIG President, Clarke Brown, promises a very active agenda for the upcoming business year. "This year is an

important one, for the momentum that has been built must be continued. Naturally, FASIG growth will be directly tied to the involvement of our members.” Dr. Brown, a private practice owner who specializes in treating foot/ankle patients, sees the FASIG as a tool to enhance his practice. “Becoming proficient in treating the foot and ankle requires on-going learning, sharing of clinical expertise, and a network of similarly-focused providers. That is EXACTLY what the FASIG represents.” Dr. Brown also sees opportunity. “That’s opportunity with a large ‘O,’ for the PT who is known for his special interest in foot/ankle dysfunctions is a viable referral for other PTs in his area.” “Our colleagues will refer to us, but we need to let them know we are out there.”

Dr. Brown also envisions the FASIG as a catalyst for:

- Media Materials--items specific to the group to expand practice awareness and continuing ed.
- Fellowships--“The creation of a Foot/Ankle Fellowship is long overdue.”
- Practice Guidelines--the publication of practice standards specific to the foot/ankle.
- Branding Opportunities--the foot/ankle specialist makes direct connections to orthopedists and podiatrists.
- Networking--use social and professional communications to advance group objectives.
- Curriculum Enhancement--foot/ankle specialists make great adjunct professors.
- Speakers Bureau--creation of a FASIG-sponsored speakers list which would be utilized for foot/ankle presentations.

FASIG Needs You! What Can You Do?

Looking to expand your practice for foot/ankle expertise? Consider joining FASIG or share in our collective knowledge via networking. Newsletters, social and professional networking, and branding efforts are all required for our SIG to grow and prosper. Here is your checklist!

- ✓ Go to the “Find a Foot and Ankle PT” on the FASIG web page and complete your demographics.
- ✓ Call or email incoming President, Clarke Brown with ideas, concerns, or questions.
- ✓ Call or email a colleague who treats patients with foot/ankle pathologies and ask him or her to join the FASIG.
- ✓ Join in on the bulletin board and pose your latest clinical question!
- ✓ Contact anyone of our members for more information!

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CALL FOR CANDIDATES

Dear Orthopaedic Section Members:

The Orthopaedic Section wants you to know of two positions available for service within the Section opening up in February, 2010. If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else, please contact the Nominating Committee Chair, Jennifer Gamboa, at jgamboa@bodydynamicsinc.com. **Deadline for nominations:** September 7, 2010. Elections will be conducted during the month of November.

Open Section Offices:

- **Vice President:** Nominations are now being accepted for election to a three (3) year term beginning at the close of the Orthopaedic Section Business Meeting at CSM 2011.
- **Nominating Committee Member:** Nominations are now being accepted for election to a three (3) year term beginning at the close of the Orthopaedic Section Business Meeting at CSM 2011.

BE SURE TO VISIT

http://www.orthopt.org/policies_and_covers_mbr.php
for more information about
the positions open for election!