

CSM CHICAGO: FASIG AGAIN STEPS FORWARD!

For members of the Foot and Ankle Special Interest Group, CSM Chicago was a huge and productive event! Not only did FASIG provide excellent programming, but major announcements were born out of our annual business meeting. The FASIG, like other Special Interest Groups, was created to foster research and promote collaborative discussion about orthopaedic practice and about the foot and ankle in particular. This year, the FASIG accomplished these goals by presenting over 3 hours of information regarding ankle instability and then, using its own resources, by encouraging orthopaedic research with *another* financial grant *and* by implementing an educational component that brings the FASIG directly into the classrooms of our Physical Therapy programs. If you missed it, here are the highlights of the FASIG's impressive list of activities in Chicago:

Programming

Terry Grindstaff, John Meyer, and Todd Davenport captivated 1,500 physical therapists with research information and discussion about ankle instability following ankle sprain. Of note, Prof Grindstaff's research regarding the role manual therapy plays in the rehabilitation of lateral ankle sprains was derived from a FASIG research grant through the Orthopaedic Section. Our presenters discussed current treatment trends and strategies, besides citing a number of studies that continue to demonstrate the underestimated and under-recognized degree of disability related to the very high frequency of ankle injury, the "high ankle" injury in particular. The placement of PT in the sequelae of injury and projected outcomes makes our profession a crucial player.

Current FASIG Officers:

Clarke Brown, President (2010-2013)
Todd Davenport, VP/Program Chair (2011-2014)
Gerard Brennan, Board Liaison (2011-2014)
Chris Neville, Research Committee Chair (2011-2014)
Judy Gelber, Nominating Committee Chair (2009-2012)
Stephanie Albin, Nominating Committee Member (2010-2013)
JW Matheson, Nominating Committee Member (2011-2014)

The primary purpose of the VP/Program Chair is the identification and implementation of programming at each CSM. This person is therefore your contact should you wish to propose a topic or subject area. Tom McPoil was elected to the BOD (Ortho Section) and therefore vacated his seat as the VP; Todd Davenport was appointed to the position.

Judy Gelber agreed to complete Todd's position as Nominating Chair. JW Matheson was elected to the Nominating Committee in the October elections. The purpose of these positions is to develop and nominate candidates for all officer positions within the SIG. This committee is an outstanding starting point for anyone who wants to get involved in the SIG!

Business Meeting Minutes (abbreviated)

Research Grant

The membership voted to authorize a second \$15,000 research

grant to be offered through the Section. This grant is dedicated to a completed study pertaining to the foot and ankle. It is a second grant from FASIG, following a previous and similar grant in 2009.

Curriculum Survey/Task Force

Following up on earlier FASIG directives, the membership voted to establish a task force devoted to the creation and publication of "Guidelines for Minimum Competency of Foot and Ankle Content within the Orthopedic Curriculum of Entry-level Doctoral Physical Therapy Programs." Chris Neville was appointed as Task Force Chair and was directed to present his report by CSM 2013 in Nashville. This project has been sanctioned by the Orthopaedic Section with the help of Gerard Brennan.

As background, previous FASIG officers including Steve Reischl, Steve Paulseth, RobRoy Martin, and Tom McPoil, among others, had contemplated the establishment of certification or credentialing specific to foot/ankle practitioners. The creation of some sort of a credential required a baseline level of knowledge which did not, and to date, does not exist. In an effort to clarify and qualify current educational models and content, a survey process was instigated by FASIG. A sample of entry-level schools participated in a survey that asked about orthopaedic curriculum in their program which was specific to the foot and ankle. Information surveyed included queries about biomechanics, kinesiology, foot function, surgeries, orthotics, exercise, etc. This survey validated a broad base of curricular content. In an effort to provide entry-level programs a mechanism by which they could stream-line, modify, and update their curriculum regarding the foot and ankle, the FASIG endeavored to produce a tool that would effectively provide academicians the rubric, or minimum standards, of foot and ankle knowledge that concerns the practicing physical therapist. Therefore, the impending Task Force will provide foot and ankle information that is the current consensus of educational institutions, derived from the best and most recent and reliable research.

Call to Action

Members, please consider contributing your thoughts and ideas to the FASIG! This can best be done by contacting any of our officers, by contributing directly to this newsletter with commentary, research ideas, or clinical "pearls."

Research Grant

Attention all researchers! Please contact the education department at the Orthopaedic Section if you are interested in applying for the grant devoted to foot and ankle research.

Next CSM

Mark your calendars for San Diego next year! Programming from the Orthopaedic Section will again be second to none! Dates are January 21-24, 2013.

*Submitted by,
Clarke Brown, PT, DPT, OCS, ATC*