



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

President's Note

Clarke Brown, PT, DPT, OCS, ATC
FASIG President, 2010-2016

Christopher Neville, PT, PhD
FASIG President, 2016-2019

The analogy “it’s a marathon, not a sprint” refers to the endurance needed to complete 26.2 miles of running and reminds us that some of the tasks we encounter through our careers also require stamina and commitment. Perhaps it is owning a physical therapy business, treating a challenging patient, or advancing our own skills through a process of life-long-learning; the effort requires dedication and sustained pressure over the long course. This reference to a marathon reminds us that the time-course for the FASIG must be viewed as something in the likeness of an ultra-marathon, and more specifically, one that can only be run as a relay. It is this relay that brings us to the current state for FASIG as the term for President ended at the conclusion of the Combined Sections Meeting. We write this “President’s Note” together as we pass the baton and welcome the opportunity to refocus and reflect on our path and trajectory. The President from 2010-2016, Clarke Brown, steps away as Christopher Neville steps in to fill the FASIG shoes. Additionally, Judy Gelper, who has served as Chair of the Nominating Committee, also completes her term; thank you Judy!

Perhaps this is a good time to reflect briefly on the success and direction we have gone in the past few years. The FASIG approved the motion to develop entry-level curricular guidelines in 2012, completed the task force development of these guidelines (Foot and Ankle Curricular Guidelines for Physical Therapist Professional Degree Programs), and can now point to their publication and adoption as an educator’s resource on the Orthopaedic Section website: http://www.orthopt.org/content/special_interest_groups/foot_ankle as well as APTA’s website at <http://www.apta.org/Educators/Curriculum/Section>

In addition to the work completed on the curricular guidelines, the FASIG also remained committed to supporting ongoing research with two, \$15,000 allocations to allow the Orthopaedic Section to fund foot and ankle research. This dedication to advancing an understanding in foot and ankle content is one the FASIG should be proud of, and vow to continue. Finally, we can point to an ever-growing interest group with the current state of the FASIG standing at just over 600 active members.

Now, to the future! We have many great individuals excited to tackle topics such as advanced practice, a national network of individuals and resources related to foot and ankle care, further translation of the curriculum guidelines into classrooms across the country, and further research development, just to name a few. But, as we continue work on these tasks, we want to also make sure we take the time to communicate and solidify our network known as the FASIG.

The FASIG is 600 members strong—this is a group of shared-interest individuals that serve as our single strongest resource—all of us Orthopaedic Section members that together, make us the FASIG! Over the next year, we plan to provide a line of communication to engage the wider FASIG and plan to hold our first “networking night” at CSM 2017. So, if you are interested in foot and ankle care across the continuum (pediatrics to geriatrics, orthopaedics to neurologic) or are interested in being involved with FASIG, watch your email in the coming weeks. If you don’t get an email from the FASIG, then contact Tara Fredrickson at the Orthopaedic Section office (tfred@orthopt.org) to make sure you are on our list. The Combined Sections Meeting was a great opportunity, once again, to connect with colleagues, hear new research, explore programing, and invigorate as physical therapists here in the United States. Let’s plan to once again make the FASIG a big part of that energy at CSM 2017 and keep an eye out for communication from the FASIG leadership in the coming weeks.

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