

occupationalhealth

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

MESSAGE FROM THE OHSIG PRESIDENT Greetings OHSIG Members!

A few updates regarding OHSIG activities.

1. OHSIG's OSHA Alliance Task Force continues its work to draft the Alliance Agreement between APTA and OSHA. The goal is to have the agreement finalized by the end of the year. OHSIG Task Force Chairs, Kathy Rockefeller and Drew Bossen, are working closely with APTA's Practice Chair, Ken Harwood.
2. The Occupational Health Specialization Certification Task Force continues its work toward specialist certification in Occupational Health. If you have not had the opportunity to complete the OH Survey, please contact Jennifer Steiner (jennifer.steiner@healthsouth.com) or Margot Miller (mmiller@workwell.com) for a copy of the survey. The next steps include completing all paperwork required of ABPTS (American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties) in support of specialist certification.
3. I had the opportunity to be part of the Orthopaedic Section's Strategic Planning meeting in LaCrosse, Wisconsin October 12-14, 2006. A lot of work went into revising the Section's next 3-year Strategic Plan! It was a great opportunity to meet and interact with the Orthopaedic Section Board of Directors, and with the other SIG representatives as well. We decided we have much to share with each other as SIGs and plan for all board members to meet at CSM.

As always, if you have questions or comments, please contact any of the Board Members who work on your behalf! You can find the OHSIG officer listing at <http://www.orthopt.org/>.

*Sincerely,
Margot Miller, PT
OHSIG President*

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP'S EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT THE 2007 COMBINED SECTION MEETING

Changing the Paradigm of Work Rehabilitation: Generating/Developing Positive Results for Workers and Therapists

New and expanded research and expert consensus models

will be presented. Improved tools and strategies for functional return to work will be discussed. The goal is to improve worker and practitioner outcomes through utilization of new and proven techniques combined with earlier recognition and resolution of barriers to successful outcomes. Expanding the dialogue beyond the current APTA Occupational Health Guidelines for Work Conditioning and Work Hardening will integrate rehabilitation of the injured worker into clinical practice for improved outcomes.

Role of the Occupational Health Physical Therapist: New (and Profitable) Frontiers

Practice and reimbursement models are expanding based upon positive outcomes, cost savings, expanded clinical practice, and better understanding of the value of physical therapists in occupational health. The results of the Occupational Health Physical Therapy Practice Analysis identify specific skill-sets for therapists working in this specialty. Join us in focus groups during the second half of this program to further define the expanding role of physical therapy in occupational health.

So, if you are new to this specialty or looking to expand your practice, enhance your expertise, and/or improve the outcomes of your occupational health practice, join us at 2007 CSM.

¹Gwen Simons, *Credibility Crisis in FCEs*, PT Products Magazine, Oct. 2006. Available at <http://www.ptproductsonline.com/article.php?s=PTP/2006/10&p=3>