

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

President's Message

Lorena Pettet Payne, PT, MPA, OCS

**Pre-conference Program - Tuesday, February 16, 2016,
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Diversifying and Increasing Your Revenue Stream-Develop
the Occupational Health Component of Your Practice**

Presenters: John Lowe, PT; Herb Doerr, PT

If you are interested in offering more services to industry and workers, plan to sign up for the pre-conference course. Take advantage of this highly interactive session to develop your plan to partner with industry, growing and diversifying your practice. Two seasoned occupational health professionals will personally assist you in the development of a specific, detailed plan to immediately apply to your practice. Get the answers you need to successfully add or improve your occupational health services.

**Regular Programming: Thursday, February 18, 2016,
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

**From Hire to Retire - Make Work Place Injury Prevention
and Wellness Part of your Practice**

**Presenters: Douglas P. Flint, DPT, OCS; Phil Jiricko, MD,
MHA**

Overview of pre-employment and post-offer screening, injury prevention services, assessing and monitoring the health and function of employees through their entire employment, statistics from work with firefighters and other public service sectors will be reviewed as an example that can be applied to your practice, sub-maximal testing for VO2 MAX, and MET and the role it plays in identification of health and injury risk, diet, and exercise guidelines for workers with high risk factors for injury and illness

Between the publishing dates of *Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Practice*, common themes tend to emerge out of my interactions with patients, clients, and colleagues. During this last stretch as always, several themes forced me to reflect, taking a pause to assess my own practice. First, passage of family, friends, and colleagues leaves a deafening silence. Margot Miller was a strong influence on many as a teacher with years of experience related to prevention of work injury. She had keen insight regarding the role of the Physical Therapist in occupational health. Always willing to share some insight, I called upon her for advice many times. In honor of Margot, I will reflect upon my own enthusiasm and dedication to the profession and especially the role of physical therapists in prevention and management of work related illness and injury. Our thoughts go out to her family, friends, and colleagues.

A second theme involves lessons learned when offering pre-placement or return-to-work screens. I have been reminded that routine reassessment of each job is necessary to verify content validity of the screen. When a relationship is discontinued, make it understood that the screening process is no longer valid

without your involvement in the implementation or revalidation of the screen. That being said, physical therapists do not have ultimate power in this process, however, we need to do all that we can to assist employers and employees remain safe and compliant. **See you at the OHSIG Membership Meeting - Thursday, February 18, 2016, from 7:00 a.m. -8:00 a.m. at the Combined Sections Meeting!**