

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello ORF-SIG members (soon to be Orthopedic Residency and Fellowship Engagement Committee),

While we will have a new name, we will still be collaborating for the networking, education, mentoring of new programs, and research of orthopedic postgraduate education needs. We will have another annual meeting in October 2025 to discuss the changes and to hear from all of you about your residency and fellowship needs. Please join or reach out with ideas or specific needs. We will be creating subcommittees to focus on education, marketing, mentoring, and research. More to come in the weeks ahead.

I have summarized below a number of updates about what is happening within the SIG and upcoming education opportunities at the Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) 2026. We had our annual meeting in December and the link to the recording is below. We chose to switch to a remote and recorded platform this year to hopefully reach a higher number of members who may not be able to attend CSM.

Please reach out if you would like to be involved with subcommittees for education, marketing, mentoring, or research. We would love to expand our reach.

Thanks,
Molly Malloy
malloyma@arcadia.edu

IMPORTANT LINKS OF MEETING UPDATES!

ORF-SIG Annual Meeting link and recording

- <https://www.orthopt.org/content/special-interest-groups/residency-fellowship/meetings>
- <https://www.orthopt.org/email-acad0>
- Next ORF-SIG meeting scheduled for October 2025—look for link via email.

Updates from the APTA, ABPTRFE, and RF-PTCAS

- CSM presentation—posted online in the APTA communities' page.
- <https://communities.apta.org/viewdocument/annual-updates-csm-2025?CommunityKey=221aed7-4afc-489a-a0cc-018f2a909a28&tab=librarydocuments>

Education update:

Upcoming CSM education sessions—please join us!

OR-23930: Tilling the Soil of Residency and Fellowship Education from the Basics to Growing Program Excellence

Preconference: This is a great one-day program for program directors and coordinators of both new and developing programs. Topics that are covered include:

- Establishing innovative curriculum design
- Competency from initial to graduation

- Mentoring smarter, not harder
- Initial accreditation and reaccreditation updates, plans, and preparing for site visits
- Remediating a struggling or failing resident/fellow
- Showing value to administrators and marketing

OR-24499: Bridging the Gap from Student to Clinician through the Lens of the Master Adaptive Learner

Education Session to focus on adaptive learning strategies

CSM 2026 THIRD ANNUAL ORTHOPEDIC RESIDENT PLATFORM SESSION

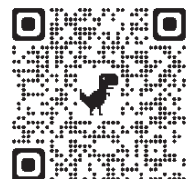


Congratulations to all of our residency graduates who were accepted to present at CSM 2025 in the Residency Platform Session. 12 presenters were selected out of the 72 submissions!

CALLING ALL ORTHOPEDIC RESIDENTS AND PROGRAM DIRECTORS/COORDINATORS!

For CSM 2026, APTA Orthopedics will once again offer a platform presentation session exclusively for orthopedic residents' research and case studies! Please note this is for **current residents or recent residency graduates only. We are reviewing the abstracts, which were submitted in July, and will be selecting the top 10 abstracts to present as a platform session.** This is an exciting opportunity to highlight orthopedic residents and residency programs and to showcase the hard work they are doing to advance our profession. This is also a great way to showcase your residency and the work you are doing. Be sure to have current residents consider this for 2027. Submissions will be due in July 2026.

APTA Orthopedics provides excellent resource videos to assist you in writing abstracts: <https://www.orthopt.org/content/research/abstract-development-assistance>



Universal Curriculum Resources for Orthopedics

The APTA Orthopedics residency curriculum task force is compiling a curriculum resource that will share with programs

more specifically content that needs to be covered and resources for programs. This is intended to ease the curricular planning burden that programs are feeling and will hopefully provide resources for all of you. Raine Osborne is leading this group and is presenting more information through the Education section <https://community.aptaeducation.org/home> in August. Please let us know if anyone is interested in assisting. Contact malloyma@arcadia.edu

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Universal Graduate Survey

Members of the ORF-SIG consolidated their program's surveys into a single survey and recently obtained institutional review board approval to distribute to any member programs who are interested in participating. The results of this survey will help member programs improve recruitment and curricular development. Please share this QR code with all of your graduates and ask them to complete it. This survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete. Steve is also able to pull out your results so you can use it as your annual survey! Thanks for helping us collect data on the value of our programs! You can also reach out to Steve Kareha to have your specific program results pulled individually. This will allow you to only use one survey for your graduates and it will assist with data collection while also giving you information on your specific program.

Stephen.Kareha@sluhn.org



<https://redcap.link/x8rmojv1>

Curricular Document Sharing

Work Group Leaders: Kathleen Geist, Aimee Klein

Curricular sharing: This past year, we have been compiling Orthopaedic Clinical Specialist (OCS) exam-style test questions. We are working with the academy to have these available through an online testing portal. In the interim, please reach out to me if you would like access to OCS-style test questions (malloyma@arcadia.edu). We will send out more information once it is compiled and on the website for ways to access this material. Thanks to all who are helping, and if you are interested in helping with the final stages, please reach out.

Program Resident/Fellow/Faculty Spotlight:

What is the Program Spotlight?

- This is a member-only feature that allows one or more orthopedic residency/fellowship programs to be spotlighted within a given month to market themselves to prospective candidates and those seeking more information on post-professional education in orthopedics.
- Programs apply with interest and the selection committee oversees the collection and verification of the application materials to meet monthly deadlines.
Please visit: <https://www.orthopt.org/content/special-interest-groups/residency-fellowship/orf-sig-program-spotlight/spotlight-program-faqs>
- Who is eligible to apply?
 - Program coordinators or program directors may apply for their program as long as they meet the following pre-application criteria:

—The program director or coordinator must be a member of APTA Orthopedics and ORF-SIG.

—The program must be ABPTRFE or ACOMPTE accredited or in candidate status.

- Please visit: <https://www.orthopt.org/content/special-interest-groups/residency-fellowship/orf-sig-program-spotlight/spotlight-program-faqs>
- Reach out to with any questions to Adam Walsh (AdWalsh@salud.unm.edu)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Announcements from RFESIG Community! <https://community.aptaeducation.org/home/memberhome>

By: Darren Calley, PT, DScPT RFESIG Chair APTA Academy of Education

The Academy of Education has created online communities for each special interest group to facilitate communication and build connections with SIG members. You can access this page through the link above.

Here are a few simple steps you can take to quickly get acquainted with the new platform:

1. **Review the RFESIG community home page.** You can check out the latest discussions, blog posts, announcements, and share files.
2. **Start a discussion or respond to someone else.** If you have questions you'd like to ask your peers, click here and watch the responses come in! You can also use the "post message" link in the discussion emails you'll receive. Share your expertise and connect with peers by responding to other people's posts.
3. **Set your messaging, email, and privacy preferences.** If at any time you'd like to change your preferences, go to your profile -> my account.
4. **Update your profile.** Your profile is already loaded, but feel free to update as you see fit on the profile page.

If you have questions or suggestions for this new platform, please reach out to me directly at Chair-RFESIG@aptaeducation.org.

We look forward to your participation and strive to make the RFESIG community the best possible place to engage and collaborate with your peers!

RF-PTCAS: Kirk Bentzen, Steve Kareha, Megan Frazee, Carrie Schwoerer, Christina Gomez

If you are a newer program or need a refresher on some of the nuances of the processes and timelines, please review the following podcast: *Navigating RF-PTCAS*, which can be found <https://musch.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Embed.aspx?id=0841c14e-a3f7-4196-b654-acd90169c9e2>. Presenters of this podcast included Ryan Bannister, Director-Centralized Application Services and Student Recruitment and Orthopedic Residency and Fellowship SIG leadership, including Kirk Bentzen, Christina Gomez, and Steve Kareha.

Please contact Carrie Schwoerer (cschwoerer@uwhealth.org) with questions.

