

Hello AOPT Foot and Ankle SIG members! The FASIG shared the last newsletter at the beginning of a national quarantine. Throughout this past spring and summer, we adjusted to many new ways of teaching, learning, and practicing. Online interaction became a familiar mode of connecting and communicating for many of us. We have now learned the positives, and negatives, of staying connected while at a distance. We write this newsletter at a time when things begin to “open up.” But the fall will bring the return to school for our children, young and old, and our planning for this remains on all of our minds. I am afraid that some FASIG initiatives remain a bit “paused” in these uncertain times, but others have progressed, and some new ones have emerged. Included below is a summary of some of the activities the FASIG is engaged in and we welcome everyone’s insight and participation if you would like to be involved. Please reach out directly to anyone on the FASIG leadership.

One exciting and rewarding initiative that has unfortunately been paused is our annual work with the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society (AOFAS). The AOFAS annual meeting was planned for September in San Antonio which required a last-minute move to an online format that accommodated only a limited set of topics and talks. Our ongoing work to collaborate on rehabilitation focused content was postponed, with hopes to include it in a later virtual program. Although disappointing, we look forward to this ongoing collaboration and continuing to work to develop foot and ankle programming across the patient care spectrum.

The FASIG would like to recognize the wonderful contribution of Dr. Kimberly Veirs, MPT, PhD, ATC, who submitted the manuscript titled, “*Multi-Segment Assessment of Ankle and Foot Kinematics during Relevé Barefoot Demi-Pointe and En Pointe*” that was published in the last edition of *OP*. Thank you Dr. Veirs for your commitment to disseminate foot and ankle content for the AOPT membership.

- We continue to work on our foot and ankle fellowship initiative. Working closely with the American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education (ABPTRFE) we are in the final stages of distributing a *Practice Analysis Survey*. The survey was reviewed at the ABPTRFE’s August meeting and in working closely with the AOPT office, the survey is now adapted for release using an online survey tool. Many thanks to the practice analysis coordinators, project consultants, and the entire task force working on this. The information gathered during the last quarter of 2020 will inform the training of our future of foot and ankle specialists.
- The FASIG Practice Committee together with guidance from the AOPT Public Relations Committee has created infographics to share information about common foot and ankle pathologies. These will be shared across the AOPT as a resource for members. Versions may also be developed to inform patients about common conditions and what to expect when seeking treatment. A special thanks to the FASIG Practice Chair, Megan Peach, DPT, OCS, CSCS, who is coordinating this effort.

- A new initiative during our time working virtually was the development of an “author spotlight” webinar that we hope to continue to develop. Our thanks to Dr. Ruth Chimenti, DPT, PhD, from the University of Iowa for sharing her insight on the paper “Local Anesthetic Injection Resolves Movement Pain, Motor Dysfunction, and Pain Catastrophizing in Individuals with Chronic Achilles Tendinopathy: A Nonrandomized Clinical Trial” published in the *Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy* in May 2020. This is an exciting new initiative that our Research Chair will continue to grow so watch for new research and author interviews to be highlighted.
- Make sure to check out our quarterly newsletters posted to our website (listed below) if you did not catch them in your email! Dr. Jennifer Zellers at Washington University works closely with a great group of student FASIG members to develop these newsletters. They include summaries of our SIG activity, member spotlights, and a citation blast for hot-off-the press foot and ankle research.

We wish everyone in the AOPT and the FASIG well and look forward to how the remainder of 2020 and the start of 2021 might unfold. At the writing of this message, we have also just been informed that our national Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) 2021 will be held virtually. We now have ample planning time to put our collective experience with online learning, teaching, and practicing to work.

*The FASIG Leadership*

<https://www.orthopt.org/content/special-interest-groups/foot-ankle>