

In 2019 the FASIG approved a "Lifetime Achievement Award" to be given out annually to an individual or individuals who have a sustained contribution to the field of Foot and Ankle Physical therapy. Our first two outstanding candidates were presented their awards at the 2019 Combined Sections Meeting in Washington, DC. Drs. Tom McPoil and Mark Cornwall graciously accepted this award and also volunteered to provide a 25-year history of the FASIG. We have the great fortune to provide that history here from two of the founding members of the SIG. We hope that this history is helpful and invigorating to our FASIG membership as we pave a path forward in 2020.

Current FASIG Leadership

HISTORY OF THE FOOT & ANKLE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

*Mark Cornwall, PT, PhD, FAPTA, and
Thomas McPoil, PT, PhD, FAPTA*

While the Foot and Ankle Special Interest Group (FASIG) was officially recognized by the Orthopaedic Section, now the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy (AOPT) at the 1995 Combined Sections Meeting held in Reno, Nevada, the first discussions regarding the formation of the special interest group (SIG) were actually initiated 3 years earlier. In August 1992, several therapists attending a plantar pressure research meeting in Flagstaff, Arizona, met to discuss the possibility of developing a Physical Therapy Foot and Ankle Study Group. Gary Hunt, one of the physical therapists who attended the research meeting, had already been chairing several roundtable discussion sessions for the Orthopaedic Section at past Combined Section Meetings. Since the Orthopaedic Section had already expressed interest in developing several "special interest" groups based on the popularity of the roundtable discussions, the therapists decided to approach the Orthopaedic Section about the possibility of developing a FASIG.

It is important to note that the physical therapists who spent a tremendous amount of time and energy to get the FASIG "off-the-ground" at this early stage were Mark Cornwall, Steve Rieschl, Michael Mueller, Irene (McClay) Davis, Debbie Nawoczenski, Margo Orlin, Michael Wooden, Max McLeod, Scott Straker, Jean DeBettignies, Gary Hunt, Joe Tomaro, Jim Birke, Catherine Patla, and Tom McPoil. While the interest for a FASIG was determined through phone calls and letters to other therapists over the next few months, the roundtable discussions continued at the annual Combined Sections Meeting in February 1993.

The first "unofficial" meeting of the FASIG took place in June 1993 at the APTA National Meeting in Cincinnati, OH. Approximately 30 physical therapists found a vacant room at the convention center and spent an hour and a half discussing what the purposes and functions of the SIG would be. It is very important to emphasize that at this first meeting, not only were there members of the Orthopaedic Section, but also members from the Geriatric, Sports, and Pediatric Sections. The therapists who attended this meeting wanted to see a "true" intersectional SIG since interest in this area was so high in several sections. At that time, Orthopaedic Section President, Annette Iglarsh believed that an inter-

sectional FASIG could be accomplished even if the FASIG was housed under the Orthopaedic Section. With that knowledge, the therapists in attendance at the meeting in Cincinnati as well as many other therapists around the country with an interest in the foot and ankle went about the process of obtaining 200 signatures from current Orthopaedic Section members so that a petition to form the FASIG could be presented to the Orthopaedic Section Board of Directors at the 1994 Combined Sections Meeting in New Orleans.

At New Orleans, even though over 500 signatures were obtained in support of the FASIG, the Board of Directors asked for more time to investigate how they would manage the development and finances of several new SIGs, in addition to the FASIG that had petitioned to be formed and officially recognized by the Orthopaedic Section. While this was a bit disappointing for all of those therapists who had worked so hard to get the necessary signatures, Orthopaedic Section Treasurer, Dorothy Santi and Executive Director, Terri DeFlorian developed a standardized set of bylaws as well as a budget for all future Orthopaedic Section SIGs. Once the General SIG bylaws and budget scheme were passed by the Board of Directors, the FASIG could then be recognized officially.

The first official FASIG business meeting was held at the 1995 Combined Sections Meeting in Reno, Nevada. Also at the meeting, the first formal FASIG education session was held and provided CSM attendees with 3 hours of foot and ankle programming.

Over the past 24 years, the FASIG has continued to play an important role for Orthopaedic and other Section members who have a special interest in the foot and ankle. In addition to sponsoring programming on the foot and ankle each year at CSM, the FASIG has also sponsored several preconference instructional courses prior to the annual CSM. In May 2000, the first FASIG sponsored research retreat was held in Annapolis, Maryland. The focus of this first research retreat was the understanding of static and dynamic evaluation of the foot and ankle. The retreat was organized by the research chair, Irene Davis. The results of the research retreat were published in the *Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy (JOSPT)*.

In response to the Orthopaedic Section's desire to develop physical therapy based Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG), the FASIG played an important role in developing the first Orthopaedic Section CPG on Chronic Plantar Heel Pain, which was published in *JOSPT* in 2008. Another important milestone for the FASIG was the development of foot and ankle curriculum. In 2015, fifteen clinicians and academics were assembled at APTA headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. These individuals included Clarke Brown, Stephanie Albin, Joseph A. Brosky, Jr, Mark Cornwall, Mary Hastings, Judy Hess, Jeff Houck, Christopher Neville, Steven Paulseth, Steven Pettineo, Margaret, Suzy Powers, Stephen Reischl, Byron Russell, Nancy Shipe, and Lisa Selby-Silverstein. Their task was to develop a document that would guide physical therapy educators regarding the educational objectives for entry-level content related to the foot and ankle. This important document is available on the FASIG web site at <https://www.orthopt.org/content/special-interest-groups/foot-ankle/curricular-guidelines>.

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