

Infographic Development

Approximately the time this newsletter is published, the Imaging SIG will have two infographics available for members. One is targeted more for general public audiences while the other, being more in-depth with content, may have specific application in an advocacy role with legislators, regulators, or other stakeholders requiring more detail. These two infographics will be available on the AOPT website on the Imaging SIG pages.

This project was launched in December 2020 with volunteers Steve Kareha, Marie Corkery, YuJen Chang, and Dirk Hartog. A contest for infographic submissions was announced in January with a robust number of individuals offering their ideas. The previously mentioned work group blindly evaluated the submissions, ultimately selecting two as being most consistent with the goals of the SIG. Those authors made additional edits, acting upon the suggestions provided by the work group and those in states who had successfully passed imaging legislation. Once completed, the infographics were approved by the AOPT.

Of the two infographics selected, one was submitted by a 3rd year PT student at Elon University (NC), Shani Lewis. With the encouragement of Dr. Mary Kay Hannah, Shani created the infographic entitled, “The Image is Clear.” Upon having her submission selected through a blind process from many others, Shani commented “oftentimes it is difficult to think that, as students, we can make an impactful change in our profession as a whole. Having this infographic selected is an amazing step in a positive direction that can lead to great change. For PTs to directly refer a patient for imaging represents an idea that I strongly feel that our profession needs to continue to strengthen: the concept of patient advocacy. Putting patient care first is one of the greatest things we can do to advocate for them! This will allow patient care to be expedited so we can get patients back to life faster!”

The other infographic selected was submitted by Melanie Lambert, PT, DPT, OCS, MTC, an Assistant Professor in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Marshall University. Melanie submitted the infographic entitled, “Advancing Best Practices: Physical Therapy & Diagnostic Imaging.” Says Melanie, “when I saw the infographic contest I knew I had to take a shot. Being able to use my creative skill set to advocate for efficient patient care was an easy choice for me. For many years I viewed my creative skills as completely separate from physical therapy, it has been incredibly refreshing to see avenues where I can use them for greater benefit and to aid in pushing the profession forward. Visuals can be powerful learning tools and I was excited to see the Imaging SIG was embracing this platform. I believe many times barriers that present are due to a lack of knowledge. The more we can present information in a way that others can quickly understand and apply the more effective we will be.” Further she states “I was thrilled to have my infographic selected. Thinking that something I designed might help others process and utilize information better is incredibly rewarding. I have great respect for strides that are being made in advancing physical therapy and being able to use my creative skills to serve in those efforts is a humbling opportunity. Thank you to the Imaging SIG for the opportunity.”

In addition to the recognition herein, both authors received

a monetary prize. If you have such creative talents or provided a submission to this contest, take note that additional infographics will be developed for additional messaging or for other target audiences. Further announcements will be forthcoming.

AIUM Webinars

The American Institute for Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM) webinars led by physical therapists continue. On April 28, Karin Grävare Silbernagel, PT, ATC, PhD, presented a webinar entitled “Optimizing Treatment of Patellar Tendon Injuries with Ultrasound Imaging.” As you may recall, Karin presented a similar webinar in December 2019 on Achilles tendon injuries. Both events were very well received.

Future webinars will include the topic of the applicability of diagnostic ultrasound in ankle sprains as presented by Col. Ted Croy, PT, PhD, OCS, and Maj. Jon Umlauf, PT, DSc, OCS. This event will be Monday, August 16 at 1:00 p.m. EDT. Additional details will be announced by e-mail to Imaging SIG members and also through AOPT social media outlets.

Additionally, during the fall, one to two webinars with AIUM will be conducted specifically on the topic of the utility of diagnostic ultrasound in physical therapist practice. At the time of submission for this newsletter, plans for this were still in the formative stages with further details to be established. Specific speakers, dates, and times will be announced.

Membership in AIUM provides access to a rich list of educational resources for diagnostic ultrasound, including previously held webinars and the content preparatory to earning the Registered in Musculoskeletal Sonography (RMSK) credential as offered by Inteleos. Access to both Inteleos and AIUM resources is available on the Imaging SIG web pages on the AOPT website. Look for “MSK Ultrasound Education and Credentialing” on the left side of the page for this information.

Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy Webinar

On July 14 at 4:00 p.m. EDT, the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy will present a webinar entitled, “Imaging Referral by Physical Therapists: Progression of PT Education, Advocacy, Practice and Regulation.” The presenters of this webinar are Jeanne DeKrey (President, North Dakota Board of Physical Therapy), Daniel Markels (Manager State Affairs, APTA) and Charles Hazle (President, Imaging Special Interest Group, Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy). This webinar will be directed at those serving in regulatory roles across the country with a focused discussion after the initial presentation. A similar webinar may be presented by APTA for state organization leaders as the intended audience later in the year.

Learning in Small Installments

Within the next few months, the Imaging SIG will begin publishing brief informative videos as complementary segments to AOPT Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs). These will be concise videos of 5-8 minutes in duration covering the key elements of imaging, focusing on the diagnostic and decision-making value of imaging as related to the conditions for which CPGs are published.

The goal with these imaging vignettes is to provide a manageable, titrated learning experience for busy clinicians, who are typically unable to devote large segments of time to new learning. Additionally, once several of these segments are accumulated, a rich bank of information on imaging will be available to many types of users.

North Dakota Imaging Legislative Effort Becomes Law

On April 1, physical therapists in North Dakota were granted privileges to refer for imaging. On that date, Doug Bergum, Governor of North Dakota, signed into law SB2122, which amended the definition of physical therapy to include direct referral for radiography. The law takes effect August 1, 2021. If you attended the last web-based Imaging SIG meeting in March, APTA North Dakota President, Cindy Flom-Meland provided a description of the bill and the process through which it was developed and eventually submitted. The bill received very strong support passing through the North Dakota Senate with a 46-1 vote and then the House with a 90-2 vote.



Pictured above in the ceremonial signing of the law are (front) Senator Brad Bekkedahl, Governor Doug Burgum, Cindy Flom-Meland (President, APTA N Dakota) and (back) Chris Huravitch, Catherine Staloch, Jack McDonald (Lobbyist, APTA N Dakota), Chris Kraemer.

Presidents Webinar

On the topic of legislation and imaging referral by physical therapists, there are tentative plans for a webinar sponsored by the Imaging SIG of Presidents and or Legislative Chairpersons from states that have successfully passed referral legislation. The focus of the webinar will be on strategies and preparations for such legislative efforts, including how to counter opposing arguments and how to win advocates and alliances. With at least one state still having legislation in suspense at the time of this submission, full details remain to be clarified. Additional information will be forthcoming in the next issue of *OPTP* and through e-mail and social media.

PAIN SIG

(Continued from page 179)

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