

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

At the Education Leadership Conference (ELC) in October 2021, a team from the Imaging SIG Research Committee had a presentation titled, “Expert Clinical Reasoning and Decision-Making that Incorporates Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Imaging in Physical Therapists’ Diagnostic Strategies.” This was presented by Lorna Hayward, Murray Maitland, Maureen Watkins, Alycia Markowski, George Beneck, and Rob Manske. This presentation is a small representation of a much larger project in which the Research Committee is studying optimal learning methods for physical therapists in acquiring skills with ultrasound imaging.

TITRATED LEARNING

The microlearning modules are finally underway. These are being coordinated by Brian Young, Imaging SIG Vice President and Education Chair. Most of these will be linked to the AOPT Clinical Practice Guidelines as new ones are published with a little backtracking for those most recently published. The intent of these brief educational video modules is to allow practitioners to pursue learning imaging related content in small, manageable doses. At the time of submission for this newsletter, the first had been completed, but had not yet been published.

LEARNING FROM THOSE WHO PIONEERED IMAGING REFERRAL PRIVILEGES

If you did not get a chance to participate in the Imaging SIG webinar live on October 12, please take a few minutes to view the recording and encourage your state leaders to do the same. The webinar was entitled “Experiences of the First Four--Achieving Imaging Referral Privileges.” This featured Michelle Collie (RI), Marcus “Kip” Schick (WI), Cindy Flom-Meland (ND), and Lance Dougher (UT). These chapter presidents, present and past, shared their stories of how they achieved imaging referral privileges through the legislative process, including addressing concerns and interests of a variety of stakeholders. The recording of this webinar is available on the Imaging SIG web pages and contains critical information for any state leaders contemplating an initiative toward imaging referral privileges for their jurisdictions.

On a related matter, APTA State Affairs has plans to launch a toolkit for state leaders considering pursuing imaging referral privileges. This toolkit links many resources, including those from the SIG, for those state leaders interested in initiatives for imaging referral privileges by physical therapists.

CSM 2021 IN SAN ANTONIO

The Imaging SIG will sponsor an educational session for CSM 2022 in San Antonio, “Demonstrating Competencies in Physical Therapist Referral for Imaging” and it will be focused on education within physical therapy curricula, but also residencies and education of practitioners otherwise. This educational session will be in conjunction with a revision of our previously published “Imaging Education Manual” (2015). The initial steps for the revision of this manual are now underway with the goal of publishing the manual in 2022.

The SIG is also jointly sponsoring a pre-conference course with the Performing Arts SIG titled, “Musculoskeletal Ultrasonography of Upper Extremity with Special Focus in Sport and Performing Arts.” The speakers are Jon Umlauf, Colin Rigney, and Dirk Hartog. This is a one-day course with preparatory work to be done in advance of the “hands on” session on Wednesday, February 2.

The Imaging SIG will not have a member meeting at CSM as the AOPT has determined that difficult timing (a 6:30 AM start time) results in low attendance. Thus, all SIGs under the purview of the AOPT will rely on web-based meetings which also allows for viewing of the recording at members’ convenience for the immediate future. There are plans, however, to have another SIG Meet and Greet as occurred in Denver in 2020. Please look for more details from AOPT for the Meet and Greet, if you plan to attend CSM. The next member meeting will be under the direction of the newly elected Imaging SIG President and will occur shortly after CSM.

AIUM WEBINARS

In November 2021, members of the Imaging SIG contributed to a 2-part webinar series by multiple presenters on how ultrasound imaging can enhance physical therapist practice in a variety of practice settings. The first was by Meg Sions and Bruno Steiner on November 1 and the title was “MSKUS in the Hands of the Physical Therapist – Its Current and Expanding Utility.” The second installment was similarly titled and was presented by Greg Fritz and Mohini Rawat. The focus of these 2 webinars was to help practitioners understand the value ultrasound imaging can bring to one’s clinical care. Recordings of these webinars are available on AIUM’s website.

INFOGRAPHICS

The Imaging SIG has created 2 infographics in support of physical therapists having imaging referral privileges. These are now published and are available for download on the Imaging SIG web pages. At the time of submission for this newsletter, work is underway on a third infographic with ultrasound imaging as the focus. These first 2 infographics were derived from the contest we launched in late January and for which we received several submissions. The 2 contest winners were featured in the July issue of *OPTP*.

CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE INPUT

The Imaging SIG has made progress in establishing a system of input at the start of guideline development and upon review of the draft. This effort is being coordinated by Jim Dauber, who is aligning expert contributors in advance of known CPG activity. As you may recall, this was initiated to assure consistency in imaging content in these guidelines, particularly in the presence of an expanding number of states having imaging referral privileges for physical therapists.