

CSM SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

The winner of the 2nd annual Imaging SIG Scholarship to CSM was Ruth Maher for her presentation entitled “Concurrent Validity of Coccygeal Motion Palpation and Transabdominal Ultrasound Imaging in the Assessment of Pelvic Floor Function in Women.”

Do you have a project involving imaging or know of someone planning on presenting at CSM 2020 in Denver? If so, why not apply for the Imaging SIG scholarship once your proposal or that of your colleague is accepted. Go to the Imaging SIG page at orthopt.org and select the item on the left entitled “Imaging SIG Scholarship.” The details will be provided there and additional e-mail and social media notification will be forthcoming.

The scholarship was initiated for CSM 2018 to help promote involvement with imaging research in physical therapist practice. If you have noteworthy work or know of a colleague who has, you or that AOPT member may qualify to receive financial assistance to present in Denver. More information will be forthcoming on the application process and the important dates.

CSM RECAP

Over 40 physical therapists participated in the 2-day pre-conference course at CSM 2019 in Washington, DC, entitled “Musculoskeletal Sonography of the Lower Limb Focused in Sport & Performing Arts” as presented by Megan Poll, Scott Epsley, Doug White and Marika Molnar. Participants divided time between lecture on ultrasonographic patho-anatomy and becoming familiar with viewing the lower limb anatomy of their colleagues using real-time ultrasound. Because of the excellent response, a complementary course on another region may be proposed in a coming CSM.

The educational session during the main conference and sponsored by the Imaging SIG also gained extremely favorable reviews. With a session entitled “Referral for Imaging: Autonomy and Accountability,” speakers Aaron Keil, Scott Rezac, and Daniel Watson conveyed their cumulative experiences of referral and response to imaging results. Connie Kittleson, President of the Wisconsin chapter, related the landscape of imaging referral in that state since referral privileges became specifically allowed. Amma Maurer, MD, a musculoskeletal radiologist, offered her perspective of imaging referral and communicating with physical therapists. All of this was moderated and managed by Jim Elliott.

IMAGING SIG MEMBER GROWTH

Membership in the Imaging SIG is growing rapidly. In mid-year 2017, the Imaging SIG had approximately 270 members. At the time of CSM 2019, we topped over 400 members. That represents an almost 50% increase in Imaging SIG members in only a year and a half. We expect this to continue to rise as the interest in imaging as a part of practice becomes more prominent.

The member meeting at CSM starting at a noteworthy 6:45 a.m. on Friday, January 25th was attended by over 40 devoted members.

BUILDING ALLIANCES AND EDUCATING PRACTITIONERS FOR THE FUTURE

Several states have begun efforts to work toward obtaining imaging referral privileges. As highlighted in our educational session a year ago at CSM in New Orleans, two key steps are very important in the process: building alliances and education. In states that have been successful and those less so, the importance of establishing and building relationships with many in the medical profession, particularly radiologists, has been found to be critical. Similarly, education of members within the jurisdiction as well as assuring PT educational curricula are providing sufficient content to prepare clinicians for future practice is a foundation to this effort moving forward. If you have any influence in your state, please encourage development of these two essential elements.

EVIDENCE OF IMAGING REFERRAL APPROPRIATENESS

If you have not read the published work by Aaron Keil and colleagues in *Physical Therapy*, please take a few minutes to look the article over and consider its potential impact. Perhaps this is a preview for the future of physical therapist practice. Available on-line in February and scheduled to appear (as of this writing) in the March issue of *Physical Therapy* journal is “Ordering of Diagnostic Imaging by Physical Therapists: A 5-Year Retrospective Practice Analysis.” A review of cases in which physical therapists with imaging referral privileges in a direct access setting discovered appropriate referral for imaging occurred in 91% of the patient cases as assessed by a radiologist analyzing the patient records. These results are effectively similar to that by Crowell et al (2016) in which they discovered similar levels of imaging referral appropriateness by physical therapists in a direct access setting, including that with advanced imaging.

WISCONSIN WEBINAR

Since the initiation of imaging referral privileges in Wisconsin, those in that state have been collecting data on imaging referral and its impact. An impressive volume of data has been collected and the process is on-going. We tentatively have planned for a webinar, presented through AOPT, for presentation of this Wisconsin information. More information on this will be forthcoming. The timeline for the webinar is tentatively late summer or early fall season.

AIUM WEBINARS

The Imaging SIG and APTA are continuing to cultivate our relationship with the American Institute for Ultrasound in Medicine. Two webinars as presented by physical therapists are scheduled for 2019 and two more are yet to be finalized. E-mail announcements about these will be forthcoming. You can also go to aium.org and look for the Webinar Series in the CME Center for details.