

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello ORFSIG members,

It was a whirlwind Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) and thank you to all of the program directors/coordinators, faculty, and residents who joined us for preconference, education sessions, and resident platforms. The ORFSIG is an impressive group, and I would like to give a huge thank you to each of you for the endless work you are doing to advance our profession.

Be sure to start planning now to join us in person in Anaheim next year for the preconference and additional programs. I have said many times that the preconference day of CSM is one of my most valuable days of the year. It is honestly the only day that I am in the same room as those who truly understand my job. It is an opportunity to learn ways to ease our workload, share resources, innovate your curriculum, and network with others who share your passion and understanding of post graduate education. CSM planning for 2026 is underway! If you have specific topics that you would like us to address or ideas of things you would like to present, please feel free to reach out for support.

I have summarized below a number of updates about what is happening within the SIG. We had our annual meeting in December and the link to the recording is below. We chose to switch to a remote recorded platform this year to hopefully reach a higher number of members who may not be able to attend CSM. It was well received and please be sure to share your feedback with me about ways we can assist you.

Thanks,  
Molly Malloy  
malloyma@arcadia.edu

## IMPORTANT LINKS OF MEETING UPDATES!

### ORFSIG Annual Meeting link and recording

- <https://www.orthopt.org/content/special-interest-groups/residency-fellowship/meetings>
- <https://www.orthopt.org/email-videos/acad0>

### Updates from the APTA, ABPTRFE and RFPTCAS

- CSM presentation – posted online in the APTA communities' page.
- <https://communities.apta.org/viewdocument/annual-updates-csm-2025?CommunityKey=221aed7-4afc-489a-a0cc-018f2a909a28&tab=librarydocuments>

## EDUCATION UPDATE: CSM 2025 HOUSTON HIGHLIGHTS

**OR-21872 Cultivating success in residency and fellowship programs—establishing the basics and being prepared for the challenges along the pathway to excellence.**

*Kirk R. Bentzen, PT, DPT, PhD; Kathleen Tierney Geist, PT, DPT; Matthew D. Habert, PT, DPT, ATC; Stephen Michael Kareha, PT, DPT, ATC, PhD and Molly Anne Malloy, PT, DPT*

We had 45 attendees for the pre-conference, Cultivating Success in Residency and Fellowship Programs. Thank you to all of the presenters and attendees. We will submit this again next year as it is always very well received for new and existing programs.

The ORFSIG Education session, **One Size Does Not Fit All** was also a success. Thanks to Jason Tonley, Matt Haberl, Kirk Bentzen, Tom Denninger, and Molly Malloy for the presentation and open panel discussion.



## UNIVERSAL CURRICULUM RESOURCES FOR ORTHOPAEDICS

The APTA Orthopaedic residency Curriculum Task Force is compiling a curriculum resource to share with programs more specific content that needs to be covered and resources for programs. This is intended to ease the curricular planning burden that programs are feeling and will hopefully provide resources for all of you. Raine Osborne is leading this group and is presenting more information through the Education section <https://community.aptaeducation.org/home> in August.

## CSM 2025 SECOND ANNUAL ORTHOPAEDIC RESIDENT PLATFORM SESSION

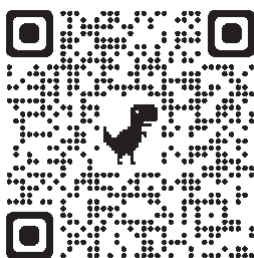


Congratulations to all of our Residency Graduates who were accepted to present at CSM 2025 in the Residency Platform session—12 presenters were selected out of the 72 submissions!

## Calling all Orthopaedic Residents and Program Directors/Coordinators!

For CSM 2026, APTA Orthopaedic will once again offer platform presentation session exclusively for Orthopaedic Resident's Research and Case Studies! Please note this is for **Current Residents or Recent Residency Graduates only**. This is an exciting opportunity to highlight Orthopaedic residents, residency programs, and to showcase the hard work they are doing to advance our profession. This is also a great way to showcase your residency and the work you are doing. Be sure to have current residents consider this for 2026. Submissions will always be in July 2025.

The AOPT provides excellent resource videos to assist you in writing abstracts: <https://www.orthopt.org/content/research/abstract-development-assistance>



## RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES UNIVERSAL GRADUATE SURVEY

Members of the ORF-SIG consolidated their program's surveys into a single survey and recently obtained IRB approval to distribute to any member programs who are interested in participating. The results of this survey will help member programs improve recruitment and curricular development. Please share this QR code with all of your graduates and ask them to complete it. This survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete. Steve is also able to pull out your results so you can use it as your annual survey! Thanks for helping us collect data on the value of our programs! You can also reach out to Steve Kareha to have your specific program results pulled individually. This will allow you to only use one survey for your graduates and it will assist with data collection while also giving you information about your specific program. [Stephen.Kareha@sluhn.org](mailto:Stephen.Kareha@sluhn.org)



<https://redcap.link/x8rmojv1>

## CURRICULAR DOCUMENT SHARING

*Work Group Leaders: Kathleen Geist, Aimee Klein*

Curricular sharing: This past year we have been compiling OCS style test questions. We are working with APTA Orthopaedic

to have these available through an online testing portal. In the interim, please reach out to me if you would like access to OCS style test questions ([malloyma@arcadia.edu](mailto:malloyma@arcadia.edu)). We will send out more information once it is compiled and on the website for ways to access this material. Thanks to all who are helping and if you are interested in helping with the final stages, please reach out.

## Program Resident/Fellow/Faculty Spotlight:

What is the Program Spotlight?

- Member-only feature that allows one or more orthopaedic residency/fellowship programs to be Spotlighted within a given month to market themselves to prospective candidates and those seeking more information on post professional education in orthopaedics.
- Programs apply with interest and the Selection Committee oversees the collection and verification of the application materials to meet monthly deadlines.

Please visit: <https://www.orthopt.org/content/special-interest-groups/residency-fellowship/orf-sig-program-spotlight/spotlight-program-faqs>

Who is eligible to apply?

- Program coordinators or Program directors may apply for their program as long as they meet the following pre-application criteria.
- The Program Director or Coordinator must be a member of APTA Orthopaedic and the ORF-SIG.
- The program must be ABPTRFE or ACOMPTE accredited or in Candidate status.

Please visit: <https://www.orthopt.org/content/special-interest-groups/residency-fellowship/orf-sig-program-spotlight/spotlight-program-faqs>

Reach out with any questions to Adam Walsh ([AdWalsh@salud.unm.edu](mailto:AdWalsh@salud.unm.edu))

## Additional Resources:

**Announcements from the RFESIG Community!** <https://community.aptaeducation.org/home/memberhome>

By: Darren Calley, PT, DScPT, RFESIG Chair APTA Academy of Education

The Academy of Education has created online communities for each Special Interest Group to facilitate communication and build connections with SIG members. You can access this page through the link above.

Here are a few simple steps you can take to quickly get acquainted with the new platform:

1. **Review the RFESIG Community homepage.** You can check out the latest discussions, blog posts, announcements, and share files.
2. **Start a discussion or respond to someone else.** If you have questions you'd like to ask your peers, click here and watch the responses come in! You can also use the "post message" link in the discussion emails you'll receive. Share your expertise and connect with peers by responding to other people's posts.

3. **Set your messaging, email, and privacy preferences.** If at any time you'd like to change your preferences, go to your profile -> my account.
4. **Update your profile.** Your profile is already loaded, but feel free to update as you see fit on the profile page.

If you have questions or suggestions for this new platform, please reach out to me directly at [Chair-RFESIG@aptaeducation.org](mailto:Chair-RFESIG@aptaeducation.org).

We look forward to your participation and strive to make the RFESIG Community the best possible place to engage and collaborate with your peers!

**RF-PTCAS: Kirk Bentzen, Steve Kareha, Megan Frazee, Carrie Schwoerer, Christina Gomez**

If you are a newer program or need a refresher on some of the nuances of the processes and timelines, please review the following podcast: *Navigating RFPTCAS*, which can be found <https://muschosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Embed.aspx?id=0841c14e-a3f7-4196-b654-acd90169c9e2>. Presenters of this podcast included Ryan Bannister, Director-Centralized Application Services and Student Recruitment and Orthopaedic Residency and Fellowship SIG leadership, including Kirk Bentzen, Christina Gomez, and Steve Kareha.

Please contact Carrie Schwoerer ([cschwoerer@uwhealth.org](mailto:cschwoerer@uwhealth.org)) with questions.



# DID YOU KNOW?

## STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

to the APTA Orthopaedic is  
**NOW FREE!**

Encourage your students to join  
directly with APTA today!

<https://www.apta.org/apta-and-you/explore-apta-membership>

## GET INVOLVED

We want to Feature you!

- ✓ Create PT Content by sharing your expertise in a podcast, webinar, or mini-lesson
- ✓ Share your work with a broader audience by submitting your article to our clinical magazine, Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Practice
- ✓ Become a blog author

## BE PART OF A

*Community!*

Join our Engagement Communities—  
Health Promotion & Wellness, Students,  
and/or Physical Therapist Assistant

<https://www.orthopt.org/content/engagement-communities/engagement-communities>