

ACADEMY OF  
**ORTHOPAEDIC**  
**PHYSICAL THERAPY**



**Special Interest Group Reports**  
**CSM 2023**  
**San Diego, CA**  
**February 2023**

- **Occupational Health Special Interest Group**
- **Foot & Ankle Special Interest Group**
- **Pain Management Special Interest Group**
- **Performing Arts Special Interest Group**
- **Animal Physical Therapy Special Interest Group**
- **Imaging Special Interest Group**
- **Orthopaedic Residency/Fellowship Special Interest Group**



**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH**  
ACADEMY OF ORTHOPAEDIC PHYSICAL THERAPY, APTA

**Occupational Health SIG (OHSIG) Report  
CSM 2023**

**Submitted by:  
Rick Wickstrom, President  
Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy, APTA**

**SIG Members and Terms:**

**President:**

Rick Wickstrom 2019-2025

**Vice President/Ed Chair:**

Steve Allison 2020-2023

**Members:**

Jeff Paddock	2019-2022	Nominating Committee Chair
David Hoyle	2020-2023	Nominating Committee Member
Bill Beck	2021-2024	Nominating Committee Member
Marc Campo	2020-2023	Research Committee Chair
Josh Prall	2021-2024	Research Committee Vice Chair
Cory Blickenstaff	2019-2021	Practice Committee Chair
Drew Snyder	2022-2025	Practice Committee Vice Chair
Ginny Halling	2022-2025	Public Relations Chair
Moyo Tillery	2021-2024	Public Relations Committee Vice Chair
Alison Helmetzie	2022-2025	Education Committee Vice Chair

**Discussion Items for the Board:** In July 2021, OHSIG was awarded a credit line for up to \$50,000 from an innovative fund budget to design our 3<sup>rd</sup> step webinar certificate course, search page and marketing plan for our Occupational Health Practitioner Certificate Program. Our project was innovative because webinar-based educational programs have not been a source of non-dues revenue and not addressed in SIG rules and policies. Live and recorded webinars with an educational certificate are established sources of non-dues revenues in other academies. OHSIG has greatly benefited from the experience of our paid consultant, Karen Snowden, who has served as Program Manager for the CAPP Educational Certificate Program in the Pelvic Health Academy since its inception 10 years ago. CAPP has been a financial success in the Pelvic Health Academy.

During implementation of our 3<sup>rd</sup> step webinar, OHSIG received notification that our innovative fund budget awarded by the AOPT BPD was cancelled. OHSIG volunteers relied primarily on our encumbered funds and volunteers to beta test our 3<sup>rd</sup> step webinar certificate. We anticipate having a need for additional funds to build a search page and marketing plan to drive clinical service and research opportunities to OHSIG members who are awarded the OHP Certificate of Achievement.

**Motions for the Board:** OHSIG proposes that the AOPT BOD assist with defining a process for OHSIG to access additional development funds to complete our search page and marketing plan for our OHP initiative. Currently, the burden seems to be on OHSIG to pay development costs from our encumbered funds or our annual operating budget. We plan to update our budget and needs for financial support for search and marketing after we catch a breath from our huge lift to launch and beta test our 3<sup>rd</sup> step webinar.

**Membership Statistics:** Since 2/2022, OHSIG has 565 PTs (-25), 6 PTAs (-2), 6 Students (-2), and 8 Partners (+0). We are concerned about the drop in membership in OHSIG and believe this may be related to a similar 6% membership decline in AOPT.

### **Strategic Planning Updates:**

**1. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** Increase diversity of members and leaders and engage in efforts to make AOPT a more inclusive organization.

- We specified changes to our OHSIG expanded member profile to replicate the OHP Individual Profile and a search page to promote OHSIG members in good standing who complete the OHP Certificate.
- We established pricing for OHP certificate program course to support membership recruitment of AOPT individual partners and AOPT members who want to pay the lowest AOPT cost for our OHP courses.
- We expect the search page for OHP certificants to promote greater member retention in AOPT and OHSIG, because certificants must maintain active membership status to be recognized and promoted on the outward facing search for employers or other stakeholders.
- We have transitioned OHSIG mentorship initiative into the 3<sup>rd</sup> step course for our OHP program. OHSIG members who request mentorship will be encouraged to pursue the OHP Credential that includes mentorship in the 3<sup>rd</sup> step course.

**2. Value and Payment:** Grow payment for services by demonstrating the value of physical therapy.

- OHSIG leaders assisted James Spencer with successful adoption of RC-11 Access to Physical Therapists as Entry-Point Practitioners for Activity Participation, Wellness, Health and Disability Determination. <https://www.apta.org/apta-and-you/leadership-and-governance/policies/access-entry-point-practitioners>
- OHSIG is continuing to build our State Resource Liaison Program as the main initiative for our OHSIG Practice Committee. We are doing quarterly meetings. The next meeting will be on April 11, 2023 with a topic focus of “Rating Musculoskeletal Impairment: A Core Competency for PT Experts” by Christopher R. Brigham, MD.
- OHSIG and AOPT is meeting with APTA staff leaders on a quarterly basis. Some of the initiatives for discussion include 1) Advocacy with the federal agency FMCSA to remove the requirement for PTs to get a clarifying letter from their state licensing board to become board-certified as a Certified Medical Examiner. 2) State Chapter advocacy presentation to reinforce RC-11 and encourage more states to qualify PT to become DOT Certified Medical Examiners and encourage high school athletic associations to authorize PTs to do sports physicals, 3) A new CPT Code for assessing lifestyle activity demands, e.g., job physical demands. 4) Physical Therapist inclusion as acceptable medical sources for Social Security Disability applications.

**3. Positioning and Public Awareness:** Position members as experts in managing movement and functional performance impairments.

- We met our goal to complete our 2<sup>nd</sup> step ISC Course for Occupational Health Certificate initiative, “Advanced Therapy Programs for Occupational Health.” This launched in September 2022.
- We met our goal of launching our 3<sup>rd</sup> step Webinar Course in January 2023. We have 14 OHSIG members that we will recognize with Certificate plaques. Karen Snowden, program manager of the financially successful Pelvic Health CAPP initiative, is providing consultation for this process. She offered the brilliant pivot suggestion that we have course registrants present a 20-25 minute peer-reviewed case presentation to communicate their practice and application in one monograph focus area from the pre-requisite ISC courses.
- The quarterly collaborations between OHSIG, AOPT and APTA Staff Leaders has resulted in APTA becoming a NIOSH Total Worker Health® Affiliate. *Total Worker Health®* is defined as policies, programs, and practices that integrate protection from work-related safety and health hazards with promotion of injury and illness-prevention efforts to advance worker well-being.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/twh/affiliate.html>
- The RC-11 motion that was initiated in OHSIG has influenced improvements to the FSBPT Model Practice Act 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Specifically, The MPA has clarified that the scope of practice of physical therapy includes promoting health and preventing disease, treatment intervention including needle insertion, performance of participation-focused physical examinations, referring for services and testing. Testing definition now specifically includes imaging.
- Our OHSIG State Resource Liaison for Indiana (Bruce Knudsen) has inspired the introduction of a legislative bill to clarify that physical therapists are qualified to perform DOT Physical Exams of commercial truck drivers. Currently six states have clarified that DOT Physical Exams are within the PT scope of practice. Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, North Dakota, Texas, Ohio.
- Our OHSIG State Resource Liaison for Iowa (Jacob Gredvig) is developing a lunch and learn presentation tool for employers and other stakeholders, titled “Role of Therapy Practitioners in Occupational Health. This will enhance awareness of the role of PTs and OTs in work injury prevention and entry-point care, evidence-based practice guidelines, and promote the OHP as a resource of finding therapy experts.

**4. Evidence to Best Practice:** Promote development and implementation of evidence for best practice.

- The OHP Certificate Program has been a key initiative to implement the OHSIG CPG, Clinical guidance to optimize work participation after injury or illness was published in the August 2021 edition of JOSPT.
- Our Practice Committee is developing presentation and handout materials for CPG implementation. These materials will be distributed to State Chapters and PT Education Programs through our OHSIG State Resource Liaisons.
- OHSIG’s featured CSM session OR-13907 *Navigating a Rewarding Career Path in Occupational Health* on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 3-5pm by speakers Joshua Prall, PT, DPT, EdD; Wayne Macmasters, PT, DPT; Leslie Pickett, PT, DPT; Katie McBee, PT, DPT



**FOOT & ANKLE**

ACADEMY OF ORTHOPAEDIC PHYSICAL THERAPY, APTA

**Foot and Ankle SIG (FASIG) Report  
CSM 2023**

**Submitted by:  
Frank DiLiberto, President, FASIG  
Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy, APTA**

**SIG Members and Terms:**

**President:**

Frank DiLiberto 2022-2025

**Vice President/Ed Chair:**

Jeff Houck 2020-2023

Stephanie Albin 2023-2026

**Members:**

Ed Jones – Nominating Chair 2022-2023

Robert Sigler – Nominating Chair 2023-2024

Marcey Keefer-Hutchison – Nominating

Jamie Caillet - Nominating

Abbis Jaffri – Research Chair

Hayley Smitheman – Student Membership

Ashley Waite – Clinical Practice

**Update on SIG Activities since July 2022:**

President Update - The updates below are submitted to provide an overview of the work completed by the FASIG since the July 2022 CSM Board Update. The report of activities is organized using the FASIG strategic plan which was finalized in February 2018 and updated to be consistent with the revised AOPT strategic plan in January of 2020.

**Goal 1: Research will ensure foot and ankle rehabilitation practice is current and evidence based.**

*(AOPT: Evidence to Best Practice and Positioning Members as Experts)*

- Abbis Jaffri has completed two more author spotlight podcasts highlighting the work of a few research studies and the careers of two foot/ankle experts. These are posted on the FASIG website.

- Strategic Goal 1.1.a: CSM Educational submissions were provided to the Programming Committee from FA SIG for CSM 2023.

- Strategic Goal 1.3.a. FASIG continues to work with AOFAS (American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society) to develop education and disseminate evidence-based research.

**Goal 2: Develop and distribute resources that promote the optimal utilization of foot and ankle content in PT practice. (AOPT: Evidence to Best Practice and Positioning Members as Experts)**

- Strategic Goal 2.2.b,c. Fellowship in Foot and Ankle PT: Analysis and final reporting from our full practice analysis survey is near completion and will be submitted to ABPTRFE in the near future.
- Ashley Waite lead the completion of an infographic update. We have budgeted for, and enlisted a graphic artist to expedite the infographic process – there are currently four more being created and we expect to finalize and distribute these in the next few months.

**Goal 3: FASIG will support relationships to meet strategic objectives. (AOPT Value and Payment, Positioning and Public Awareness)**

- Strategic Goal 3.1.b: the FASIG lifetime achievement award will again be given in 2023. A new annual award for excellence in service will also begin in 2023. Both candidates will receive the award at CSM.
- A new Student Membership (Hayley Smitheman) liaison has started and already completed 1 quarterly student newsletter.
- Co-branding of continuing education is ongoing with AOFAS and the FA SIG.

**Discussion Items for the Board:**

Our ongoing work with AOFAS supports the dissemination of research (Goal 1), best practice (Goal 2) and FA SIG relationships (Goal 3). We have had two members present as part of two separate, and recent, AOFAS webinar series. Additionally, funding to support members that attend and presented at the AOFAS annual meeting was initiated this past fall. The strength of the FA SIG and AOFAS relationship is growing and there are current conversations to integrate FASIG organized presentations into more of the main aspects of the AOFAS annual conference.

**Motions for the Board:**

NONE



**Pain Management SIG (FASIG) Report  
CSM 2023**

**Submitted by:  
Nancy Durban, President, PAINSIG  
Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy, APTA**

**SIG Members and Terms:**

**President:**

Nancy Durban, PT, MS, DPT 2020-2023

**Vice President/Ed Chair:**

Eric Kruger, PT, DPT, PhD 2021-2024

**Members:**

Max Jordan, PT, PhD	2020-2023	Nominating Committee Chair Outgoing
Meredith Perny PT, DPT, OCS	2023-2026	Nominating Committee Chair Incoming
Carey Rothschild, PT, PhD	2022-2025	Nominating Committee Member
Rebecca Greenwood, PT, DPT, PhD, OCS, ATC, TPS	2023-2026	Nominating Committee Member
Adam Rufa, PT, DPT, PhD	2021-2024	Research Committee Chair
Katie McBee, DPT, OCS		Public Relations Chair
Ryan Reed PT, DPT		Membership Chair

I am happy to report the state of the Pain SIG is strong.

Officer Report: Max Jordan has finished his term serving the SIG on the Nominating Committee and as Chair this year. Meredith Perny is stepping into this position and Rebecca Greenwood has been elected to the committee. Craig Wassinger has served as our Practice Chair since 2017 is stepping down.

**Education:**

Eric Kruger has been busy working on PainCasts. He has put together two this year. A third is in the works for after CSM.

**PainCasts contributors:**

**PainCast 2022 Guests:**

Mark Shepard  
Carol Courtney  
Jake Magel  
Antoinette Spector  
Maxi Miciak  
Giacomo Rossetini



People who helped prepare for the Paincasts:

Nick Rainey

Adam Rufa

Bill Rubine

CSM: Our sponsored course is Neurobiological Pain Mechanisms: Rethinking Our Evaluation and Management of Musculoskeletal Pain by: Andrew Post, Kathleen Sluka, Carol Ann Courtney, Josiah Sault on Saturday, February 25, 2023, from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

Research: Adam Rufa has organized a great committee. He has pushed out a three-part series of Clinical Pearl looking at the Pain Mechanisms. Last year there were four research reviews and three clinical pearls. The research Chair and committee would like to produce between 5-7 more research blasts and clinical pearls this year.

Research Review Contributors:

Adam Rufa

Benjamin

Davis Deborah

Riczo

Clinical Pearl Contributors:

Mary Zalinger

Benjamin Davis

Wendy Wurtzel

AOPT Magazine articles have been:

Pain Neuroscience Education By: Kory Zimney, PT, DPT, PhD

Clinical Identification of Neurobiological Pain Mechanisms- Rethinking our Evaluation and Management of Musculoskeletal Pain By: Andrew Post, DPT, Carol Courtney, PT, PhD, ATC, Josiah Sault, DPT, and Kathleen Sluka PT, PhD, FAPTA

Pain Specialization Certification Efforts continue and will be supported by the SIG

Pain Schools are in the planning and organizational phase.

2023 Goals:

- Continue to support the efforts of the Academy, our SIG pillars of Education, Research, Practice and Business and members
- Give more effort towards the Pain SIG Website page
- Finish all elected and appointed position descriptions
- Produce mindfulness article for #ChoosePT site
- 2023 Membership Survey
- Appoint a Practice Chair Person
- Strategic Plan efforts include:
  - DEI Chairperson
  - DEI Scholarship draft





**PERFORMING ARTS**  
ACADEMY OF ORTHOPAEDIC PHYSICAL THERAPY, APTA

**Performing Arts Special Interest Group (PASIG) Report  
CSM 2023**

**Submitted by:**  
**Laurel Daniels Abbruzzese, President**  
**Academy of Orthopedic Physical Therapy, APTA**

**President:**

Laurel Daniels Abbruzzese 2020-2023

**Vice President/Education Chair:**

Melissa Strzelinski 2022-2025

**AOPT Board Liaison:**

Annette Karim 2023-2025

**Leadership Team:**

Pam Mikkelsen	Nominating Committee Chair	2020-2023
Kimberly Veirs	Nominating Committee	2021-2024
Taylor Mravec	Nominating Committee	2023-2025
Jessica Waters	Membership Chair	2021-2023
Michael Tsang	Research Chair	2022-2024
Dawn Muci	Communications/PR Chair	2022-2024
Marisa Hentis	Performing Artist Screening Chair	2021-2023
Anna Saunders	Scholarship Chair	2021-2023
Janice Ying	Secretary	2021-2023
Andrea Lasner	Practice Chair	2022-2024
Danielle Farzanegan	Outreach Chair	2022-2024
Tiffany Marulli	PASIG Fellowship Advisory Board Chair	2022-2024
Sara Edery-Altas	ISC Taskforce Co-Chair	2022-2024
Katrina Lee	ISC Taskforce Co-Chair	2022-2024

## Introduction

This report highlights the activities and accomplishments of the AOPT Performing Arts Special Interest Group between July 2022 and February 2023. The report is organized by AOPT strategic framework, and sub-divided by PASIG leadership team members.

## PASIG Meetings held July 2022-Feb 2023



- PASIG Leadership Team Meeting- Sunday, August 14, 2022 [Virtual]
- PASIG Membership meeting - Sunday, November 13, 2022 [Virtual]

### Strategy 1: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- GOAL: Increase the diversity of members and leaders and engage in efforts to make AOPT a more inclusive organization

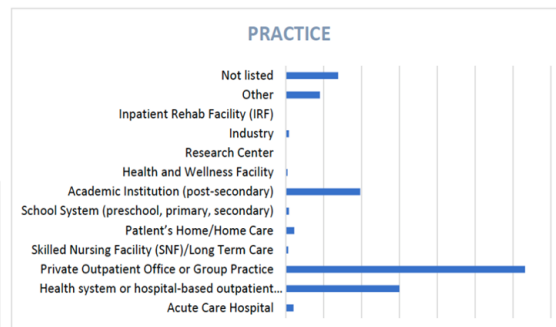
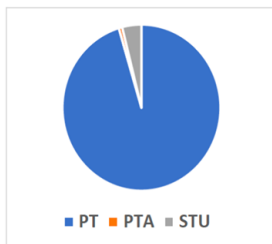
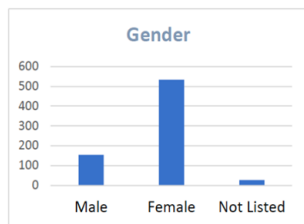
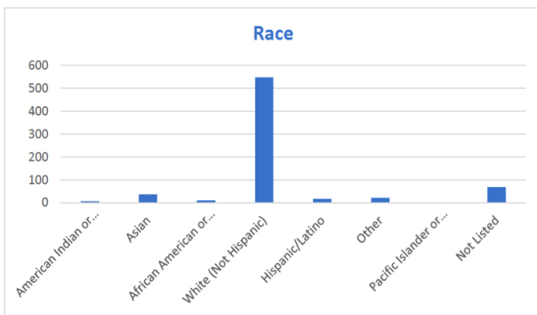
## Nominating Committee, Pamela Mikkelsen (chair), Kimberly Veirs, Taylor Augustine

- Building a Diverse Pipeline of Leaders
- Newly elected Nominating Committee member: Samantha (Sammi) Harmon
- Elected to President for a second term: Laurel Daniels Abbruzzese, PT, EdD, FNAP

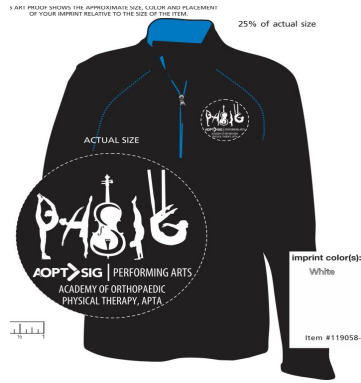
## Membership Chair, Jessica Waters

PERFORMING ARTS SIG MEMBER STATS  
8/5/2022

TYPE	GENDER		RACE		PRACTICE		
PT	679	Male	153	American Indian or Alaskan Native	7	Acute Care Hospital	10
PTA	5	Female	533	Asian	37	Health system or hospital-based outpatient facility or clinic	150
STU	28	Not Listed	26	African American or Black (Not Hispanic)	11	Private Outpatient Office or Group Practice	316
				White (Not Hispanic)	548	Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)/Long Term Care	3
				Hispanic/Latino	17	Patient's Home/Home Care	11
				Other	22	School System (preschool, primary, secondary)	4
				Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	1	Academic Institution (post-secondary)	98
				Not Listed	69	Health and Wellness Facility	2
						Research Center	0
						Industry	4
						Inpatient Rehab Facility (IRF)	0
						Other	45
						Not listed	69
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>712</b>						



## Continue to promote PASIG membership pride with PASIG Apparel



FB: @PT4PERFORMERS  
 Facebook Private group 380 Members

### Strategy 3: Positioning and Public Awareness

- GOAL: Position members as experts in managing movement and functional performance impairments

#### IADMS Sponsorship

- President, Laurel Abbruzzese attended and represented PASIG at International Association of Dance Medicine and Science, Limerick, Ireland, Oct 2023.
- Multiple education sessions and posters presented by PASIG members.





### **Podcast Liaison, Sarah Edery-Altas**

- **Podcast #6: *Application of Orthotics as an Intervention for Performing Artists***
  - Elizabeth Ballard, PT, DPT, , OCS, LAT, ATC; Isabella Scangamor, PT, DPT

### **Outreach Chair, Danielle Farzanegan**

#### **PASIG Video Project**

- PASIG Video Project to demonstrate “*What is Performing Arts Physical Therapy.*”
- GOAL—To promote awareness about the role of performing arts PT to consumers (artists) and arts companies/employers.

#### Video structure:

Video 1: 1:30-2 min long form video. This will be used more for educational content for artists and dance companies. This will include clips from all artists, and interviews.

Video 2: :30-:45 second edit will include V-roll of PT clips and all artists.

Video 3: :15-:30 quick promo clips. This will be used for promo content in short term outlets-IG, Twitter, FB, conferences, etc.

Artist shots include hip hop, oboe, contemporary, silks, physical therapy.

\*\*\*\* Opportunities to use video in AOPT 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration

### **Fellowship Taskforce Chair, Tiffany Marulli**

- New accreditation: Columbia University Irving Medical Center/West Side Dance Physical Therapy Performing Arts Fellowship fully accredited as of Sept. 30, 2022
- Two meetings with PA Fellowship Directors to address decreased enrollment/marketing strategies
- Fellowship Q&A planned for CSM in SD

### Strategy 4: Evidence to Best Practice

- **GOAL:** *Promote the development and implementation of evidence to best practice*

#### VP- Education, Melissa Strzelinski

CSM Programming Accepted [CSM 2023- San Diego]:

Thursday Feb 23 8:00-10:00 am PASIG Sponsored Programming

[OR-14476 Evidence-Based Lower Limb Updates in Dance: Risk Factors, Rehab, and Prevention](#) *Robyn Porter Rice, PT, MSPT, PhD and Dawn Muci, PT, DPT, ATC*

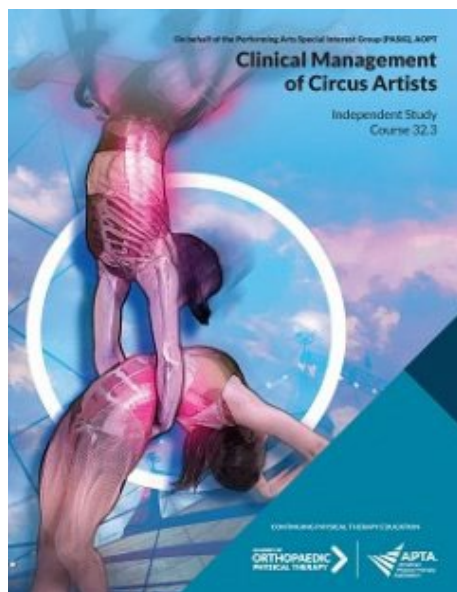
**ISC Team:** Sarah Edery-Altas, Katrina Lee, Dawn Muci, Emily Scherb, Stephanie Greenspan, Heather Heineman

#### Independent Study Course Completed!

##### [ISC 32.3, Clinical Considerations for the Circus Artist](#)

This course provides a comprehensive review of circus arts in the United States and why an increasingly greater number of physical therapists may be called upon to evaluate and treat this growing population of artists. The authors discuss the various disciplines and apparatus used in circus arts, providing a background for the epidemiology and mechanism of injuries specific for various performers. The unique physical demands and characteristics of circus artists are discussed. A review of common circus injuries and associated risk factors, along with considerations of beliefs and conceptions artists have about injuries and health care, is also provided. In each monograph, the uniqueness of physical therapy care as it relates to the circus artists is highlighted. The course is complemented with extensive figures, videos, and case examples.

- Circus 101: Features and Feats of Circus Bodies
- Aerial Athletes: Flying, Hanging, Wrapping, Catching
- Equilibrium, Propulsion, Impact, and Control: Landing the Skills to Treat Ground Acrobats



- ISC released in December 2022.
- Total Expense: \$12,849 [70/30 split AOPT/PASIG]
- Marketing plan underway

#### Communications/PR Chair, Dawn Muci

- Partnering with AOPT Marketing staff to ensure that our members and other physical therapists understand the value of this course for their practice.

“Acrobatic movements are increasingly prevalent in sport, fitness and performing arts, but are not well understood among healthcare providers.”

“This course pulls together the experience and expertise of the authors, as well as an extensive review of the sports science related to circus arts and acrobatics you won’t see anywhere else!”



**Research Chair, Michael Tsang**

Monthly citation blasts sent to PASIG members. Citations archived on PASIG website.

Aug	Charissa Chaban	<a href="#">Compensated Turnout and Alignment of the Lower Body in Dancers and its Relation to Injury</a>
Sept	Belinda Le	<a href="#">Prevalence of Eating Disorders and Body Dissatisfaction among Dancers</a>
Oct	Emily Loftus	<a href="#">Kinesiotaping for Performing Artists</a>
Dec/Jan	Elizabeth Janowitz, SPT	<a href="#">Patellofemoral Pain in Ballet Dancers</a>

**Research Chair, Anna Saunders**

Research Scholarship applications reviewed in November (CSM abstracts) and selected for recognition at CSM:

- 1- Entry-level PASIG student member

**3295** [Video Assessment of Dancers and Non-Dancers - a Virtual Reliability Study](#)

*Marla McReynolds-Waldron, PT, DPT, Amanda Kate Fox, PT, DPT and Laurel Daniels Abbruzzese, PT, EdD*

- 1- Performing Arts Fellow or Post-Professional Student

**3299** [Stinger Injury in a Collegiate Dancer: A Case Report](#)

*Isabella Scangamor, PT, DPT, Sarah Elizabeth Edery-Altas, PT, DPT and Stephen Michael Kareha, PT, DPT, ATC, PhD*

**Dancer/Artist Screens Chair, Marisa Hentis**

Began a database for screening tools including norms and references for all forms of performing arts.

**Upcoming PASIG Meetings/Programming at CSM- San Diego, CA**

- PASIG Leadership Team Meeting- CSM AOPT Suite
  - Wednesday, February 22nd
  - 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM PST
- PASIG Membership Meeting
  - Thursday, February 23rd
  - 6:30 AM – 7:15 AM PST
- PASIG Sponsored Program: Evidence-Based Lower Limb Updates in Dance: Risk Factors, Rehab, and Prevention
  - Thursday, February 23rd
  - 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM PST
- PASIG Screening Meeting:
  - Saturday, February 25th
  - 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM PST
- PASIG Posters:
  - Saturday, February 25th
  - 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM PST
- PASIG Fellowship Meeting:
  - Saturday, February 25th
  - 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM PST



## ANIMAL REHABILITATION

ACADEMY OF ORTHOPAEDIC PHYSICAL THERAPY, APTA

### Animal Physical Therapy SIG Report CSM 2023

Submitted by:  
**Francisco Maia, President**  
Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy, APTA

#### **SIG Members and Terms:**

**President:**

Francisco Maia 2020-2025

**Vice President:**

Jenny Jones 2020-2024

**Members:**

Mary Beth Nunes, Nominating Chair  
Sonia Lucas, Nominating Member  
Sasha Foster, Nominating Member 2022-2025

**1. CSM 2023**

- a.** Miscommunication with proposal submission for our lecture led towards our lecture not getting flagged and later not picked for CSM
- b.** Our VP acknowledged her mistake but there was very little communication from those responsible to review the submissions to make any changes before the submission getting denied, and afterwards there wasn't much else that could be done
- c.** We will host a virtual lecture in March, and in the past those have been well received by our members, and will also host our business meeting online as well
- d.** In addition, we were able to book a room for Friday morning at CSM where myself and our VP will host an informal educational/FAQ session about animal PT to attendees

**2. Insurance reimbursement for animal PTs**

- a.** Pet insurance is a growing industry with much less regulation compared to human healthcare, which has its pros and cons. A large con at the moment is the fact that insurance companies have a lot of leeway when underwriting their policies, and over the last 3-5 years we have seen an increase in companies adding language to their policy discriminating against trained and qualified PTs that work with animals by stating that they only cover for services provided by a veterinarian or their staff







**IMAGING**

ACADEMY OF ORTHOPAEDIC PHYSICAL THERAPY, APTA

**Imaging SIG (ISIG) Report  
CSM 2023**

**Submitted by:**

**Bruno U.K. Steiner, President-Imaging SIG  
Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy, APTA**

**SIG Members and Terms:**

**President:**

Bruno U.K. Steiner 2022-2025

**Vice President/Ed Chair:**

Brian Young 2021-2024

**Nominating Committee Members:**

Lynn McKinnis, Chair 2020-2023

Lance Mabry 2021-2024

Colin Rigney 2021-2024

**1. Kudos for ongoing discussion, collaboration, and coordination with the passionate voices for PT Imaging referral privileges:**

James Dauber (WV), Aaron Keil (IL), Evan Nelson (WI), Bill Boissonault (WI), Justin Elliott (DC), Daniel Markels (DC), Lance Mabry (NC), Beshoy Ghaly (NY), Greg Fritz (WA), Murray Maitland (WA), George Beneck (CA), Bob Rowe (FL), Brian Schmitz (AZ), Amy Lee (OK), Rheann Thomas (OK), Janae Chinn (WA), Charles Hazle (KY), Mark Krimmel (WA), Cindy Bailey (CA), Derrick Sueki (APTA), Alice Bell (APTA), Lena Volland (CA), Dimitrios Kostopoulos (NY), Alycia Markowski, Robert Manske, Stephen Kareha (PA), Fred Loeffler (IN), Tiffany Kaltenmark (IN), Stacie Akins (IN), Jeff Kallberg (TX), Peter Aguero (CA). Their advocacy and professional dedication are recognized.

Ongoing discussions and collaboration remain vital to the crafting of language and advocacy strategy going forward. **The updated priorities moving forward:**

- a. **Strategic Coordination with the I-SIG:** Encourage local state chapter strategic coordination with the AOPT Imaging SIG for resources; state board and legislative language review and input; mentorship; Foster negotiating skills with legislators, stakeholders to further primary physical therapist goals. This would include crafting calibrated language/questions and negotiations approaches to

elicit appropriate rulings from state boards to reflect current realities and graduate educational background of the Doctor of Physical Therapy, and to ultimately meet the needs of the health care consumer for expedited and optimal care.

- b. **CMS Taskforce:** Development of a taskforce to update CMS code *42 CFR § 410.32 - Diagnostic x-ray tests, diagnostic laboratory tests, and other diagnostic tests: Conditions.*
- c. **RMSK Billing Taskforce:** Development of a taskforce to allow reimbursement of RMSK credentialed healthcare professionals by CMS. Physical Therapists are recognized to sit for the physician's diagnostic musculoskeletal sonographer's exam to earn the RMSK.
- d. **Identify potential stakeholders** to develop strategic alliances with: Radiologists and rehabilitation technologists.
- e. **Explore opportunities in imaging for Physical therapists.**

## 2. ***Our Fall 2022 I-SIG Membership Meeting: Engaging Change for PT-Imaging Referral on Multiple Fronts***

The Imaging SIG has concluded an intensive and well-attended membership meeting with a phenomenal panel of speakers and participants entitled *Engaging Change for PT-Imaging Referral on Multiple Fronts* on November 17, 2022. It is recorded, and it is a MUST listen or view. Revealing an impressive breadth and depth of knowledge, our panelists/speakers gave an excellent overview and deeper appreciation of the mission ahead. The overall theme was to clearly state the importance of PT-initiated imaging referral and orders of MRI, CT-scan, DEXA, and radiography as well as PT-administered MSKUS.

- a. Our first panelist and newly minted RMKS, Dr. James Dauber, PT, DPT, RMSK, Cert. MDT, CMTPT, presented '*Mind your Language – Calibrating your Questions to Generate a Favorable Response: The West Virginia Experience*'. In this presentation, James reflected on WV's successful approach to elicit a ruling which reflects the capabilities of the primary care Physical Therapist. In groundbreaking 2021 ruling, the West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy wisely issued a written opinion, advisory in nature, that physical therapists may refer a patient to a radiologist (e.g., order imaging), with clinical justification, for any diagnostic imaging study within the recognized standards of the practice and education for a physical therapist. The language and the narrative we craft is everything as Dr. Dauber discussed this critical example of success in WV.
- b. Dr. Lance Mabry PT, DPT, OCS. FAAOMPT reported on his seminal work, '*Physical Therapists Are Routinely Performing the Requisite Skills to Directly Refer for Musculoskeletal Imaging: An Observational Study*,' which was just published by the Journal of Manual and Manipulative Therapy. This publication is a critical piece of evidence supporting PT imaging referral. It should come to no surprise that Physical Therapists are great at initiating appropriate imaging referrals, but Dr. Mabry shows us how overwhelming the evidence supports our

profession. A discussion ensued whether primary care physicians or non-physicians such as NPs, PAs, and clinical psychologists are ever evaluated to such scrutiny. We may benefit from comparisons to other professions who are granted imaging privileges to expose inconsistencies in health policy (see CMS code 42 CFR § 410.32 - *Diagnostic x-ray tests, diagnostic laboratory tests, and other diagnostic tests: Conditions*). We identified a need to compare our educational hours in MSK-related evaluation, diagnosis, radiology, etc., to other disciplines that manage to safeguard their imaging privileges.

- c. Dr. Evan Nelson, PT, DPT, Ph.D., followed up with his recently published research in his talk *'After Legislative Authorization: Implementing imaging Referral Processes in PT Practice.'* Dr. Nelson provides with more actionable and compelling evidence that Physical Therapists order imaging responsibly and appropriately.
- d. The final speaker was Arizona Chapter President for APTA, Dr. Brian Schmitz PT, DPT, with *'Fight!...for your Right!...to Practice at the Top of your License!'*. Dr. Schmitz led Arizona's Imaging Referral Legislative Initiative. He recounted his travails and tribulations in wrestling with the AZ legislature to codify radiography referrals. Dr. Schmitz and colleagues faced an unfavorable board ruling and an adversarial stakeholder who restricted Physical Therapists full access to all imaging modalities and only provided for radiography. Dr. Schmitz is undeterred and is continuing his quest for full access. There is concern that the AZ state board missed a great opportunity and did not acknowledge current realities of the graduate physical therapist. This is a great concern that we feel extends to other existing state boards which may carry similar predilections.

Highlighting the need for negotiating strategies forward, we identify the importance of effective communication with recalcitrant stakeholders. In the AZ scenario, the immovable legislator was an ER physician. Due to antiquated, calcified, and uninformed preconceptions, our doctoral level of expertise and education was NOT recognized nor fully appreciated. It appears that renewed efforts must be placed on negotiation methods, language to assuage these entrenched attitudes and preconceptions. It is a priority to devise stratagems to defuse counterproductive false belief systems.

### **3. The State of MSKUS RMSK certification for Physical Therapists:**

The Imaging SIG continues solid relationship with the credentialing body APCA (Inteleos). After a titanic wave of 28/30 PT applicants passing the brutal RMSK exam, it appears we became a little cocky with the next wave of 11 registrants yielding only 5 new PTs with the RMSK credential (It is noteworthy that physicians also fail in spectacular fashion, as the RMSK is the most failed exam of all sonography exams). November 2022 saw the most recent cohort of 11 Physical Therapists who sat the exam for which results should be in by mid-February 2023.

#### **4. New opportunities in Imaging for PTs**

- a. PT's are investigating ownership of radiology clinics. A Physical Therapy partnership consisting of two PTs has opened an MRI center in Oklahoma.
- b. Physical Therapists are recognizing the expanded use of Diagnostic Sonography in Oncology, vascular and Cardiopulmonary care.

#### **5. I-SIG collaboration with the development of AOPT CPGs: *Follow-up***

A successful conclusion can be reported thanks to the follow up on a constructive meeting with Terry DeFlorian, Namrita Sidhu, Jim Dauber, Charles Hazle and myself, we agreed on the importance of leveraging the talents and depth of expertise of the I-SIG membership at the beginning of CPG deliberations. As a result Terry DeFlorian has crafted language which has been accepted to include participants from the I-SIG. This will be particularly important as the imaging SIG is replete with Physical Therapists who are at the cutting edge of MSKUS practice.

#### **6. Ongoing Collaboration with the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine**

In coordination with I-SIG president Bruno Steiner, vice-president Brian Young, our specially selected speakers from Indianapolis based Physical Therapists, Stacie Akins, Tiffany Kaltenmark and Fred Loeffler will present a pediatric series on the elbow, knee and ankle for the detection of hemarthrosis, hemarthropathy and joint health. The 3-part series is entitled:

*Navigating the Ever-Changing Pediatric Joint:*

*Part 1 – Knee Fred Loeffler 5/26 1-2pm EST*

*Part 2 - Ankle Tiffany Kaltenmark 6/26 1-2pm EST*

*Part 3 – Elbow Stacie Akins 6/30 1-2pm EST*

Once again, the AIUM to my knowledge have never presented this topic, thus this series should give PT-administered MSKUS considerable exposure.

Just as a reminder, the Imaging SIG continues to nurture an ever-deepening relationship with the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine who recognize PT-administered MSKUS, and actively seek MSKUS webinar content from us. Moreover, the AIUM recognizes physical therapists as licensed medical providers of MSK ultrasound. The webinars provide CME's and are watched by physicians and sonographers alike. The grass-roots advocacy and credibility conferred to our profession with this continued effort cannot be underestimated. Much to the AIUM's satisfaction, we have contributed remarkable professional content and will continue to nurture this crucial association.

#### **7. Legislative Efforts**

Currently 9 states and the District of Columbia, PTs may refer patients for imaging. Of them, 5 are via explicit state statutes, and 5 are via physical therapy licensure board rules, policies, or opinions. Vexingly, 4 out of 5 legislative statutes only permit radiography and much has to be done to improve our negotiation stance as we are noting a trend.

Most recent updates:

**Arizona:** Arizona Senate Bill 1312 passed in 2022, but this legislation only permits PTs to order x-rays. The physical therapist ordering the x-rays must report the results to the patient's health care practitioner of record.

Thus far, according to APTA manager of state affairs, Daniel Markels, the following states will be working on imaging referral this year so far: **Iowa, Kentucky, Montana, Nevada, Wyoming**. More specifically:

**Iowa has introduced legislation.**

President Kory Zimney kory.zimney@usd.edu

Executive Director Kayla Bruns Kayla@capturemngt.com

State Legislative Chair Steve Cassabaum steve@21stcenturyrehab.com

**Kentucky has introduced legislation.**

President Charlie Workman charles.workman@bhsi.com

Executive Director Andrea O'Leary aoleary@aptaky.org

State Legislative Chair Avery Schroyer averypt@titanptky.com

**Montana expects to introduce legislation.**

President Emily Herndon emiherndon@aim.com

Executive Director Gail Oss mapta@mapta.com

State Legislative Chair Samantha Schmidt samantha@alpineptmissoula.com

**Nevada expects a PT Board opinion/ruling.**

President Susan Priestman SpriestmanDPT@outlook.com

Executive Director Gail Oss admin@aptanv.org

**Wyoming expects to introduce legislation.**

President Jamie Childs Everett jamiechildspt@gmail.com

Executive Director Christa Lombardo aptawyomingchapter@gmail.com

State Legislative Chair Kathy Blair kblair@windcitypt.com

**8. I-SIG Educational Initiatives: Brian Young, VP I-SIG**

Along with the previously mentioned AIUM initiatives, the I-SIG continues to have a robust presence at the CSM 2023 meeting in San Diego, CA. The I-SIG is sponsoring a 1-day CSM 2023 pre-conference course on Wednesday, February 22, entitled "*Getting a Clear View of Imaging Content in Physical Therapist Educational Curricula*," presented by an expert team of educators including, Michael D. Ross, PT, DHSc; Kimiko Yamada, PT, DPT; Aimee B. Klein, PT, DPT, DSc; Dale A. Gerke, PT, MPT, ScD and the irrepressible former I-SIG president Charles Hazle, PT, PhD. The course is designed to assist educators in physical therapy educational programs in developing curricular and course design of imaging content to meet the evolving demand of imaging referral as a part of physical therapist practice. This course targets entry-level DPT programs and post-graduate programs, such as residencies and fellowships. Attendees will leave the course with a knowledge of a rich base of resources for imaging education.

The Imaging SIG is also presenting an “Imaging Masterclass: A Case-Based Learning Experience with Physical Therapist Imaging Experts” on Feb 25, 2023 at CSM. We have also promoted *Focus on POCUS: Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Diagnostic Ultrasound on Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup>*, providing an exciting application of Ultrasound in the hands of the physical therapist. with Stephen Ramsey, PT, DPT, CCS, Simon Hayward, BSc PT (Hons) PGCert MCSP and Rich Severin, PT, DPT, PhD, CCS. This will show us more exciting possibilities when primary care Physical Therapists integrate sonography with their daily practice.

## 9. I-SIG Research meetings

Leadership meetings continued with a focus on research with George Beneck, Murray Maitland, Stephen Kareha, Aaron Keil, Lena Volland. There is a need to chronicle not only PT-imaging ordering and referral but also to capture PT-recommended imaging referral. Demonstrating more evidence reflecting the current realities of PT involvement in referral is crucial to establishing precedent when engaging/advancing PT-Imaging legislative initiatives.

We recognize that Physical Therapists often direct patients and their physicians to appropriate referral, but the recommendations are not documented. This needs to be addressed. I will be initiating a QI project with Stephen Kareha, Aaron Keil and Lena Volland to move this forward. This will feed into the CMS task force. Funding will need.

## 10. CMS and RMSK Task Forces:

A meeting was held with APTA VP Government Affairs, Justin Elliott, APTA senior payment specialist Alice Bell DPT, Jim Dauber DPT DSc, Dimitrios Kostopoulos DPT to discuss the initiation of 2 task forces mentioned in *I-SIG priorities*:

- a. **CMS Taskforce:** Development of a taskforce to update CMS code 42 CFR § 410.32 - *Diagnostic x-ray tests, diagnostic laboratory tests, and other diagnostic tests: Conditions.*

It was determined that the best road forward is to model an advocacy package after the CMS direct access drive. This would act as a compilation/clearing house for the ever-mounting evidence, discussion/advocacy points to strengthen the argument for PT-imaging referral privileges. This should help with federal and state initiatives. The aforementioned QI project will be integral in this evidence-based package and will require funding. Preliminary talks with APTA director, Derrick Sueki, and APTA HOD representative, Kyle Feldman appear encouraging to this end.

- b. **RMSK Billing Taskforce:** Development of a taskforce to allow reimbursement of RMSK credentialed healthcare professionals by CMS. Physical Therapists are recognized to sit for the physician’s diagnostic musculoskeletal sonographer’s exam to earn the RMSK.



## **11. Future Membership meeting**

Leadership has agreed that a membership meeting would be best held in the spring of 2023.

### **Motions for the Board:**

None

### **Strategic Planning Updates:**

The list above would suggest we are on an appropriate trajectory with our strategic plan.



# RESIDENCY/FELLOWSHIP

ACADEMY OF ORTHOPAEDIC PHYSICAL THERAPY, APTA

## Orthopaedic Residency/Fellowship SIG (ORFSIG) CSM 2023

Submitted by:  
**Molly Malloy, President**  
Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy, APTA

### SIG Members and Terms:

**President:**

Molly Malloy 2022-2025

**Vice President:**

Kirk Bentzen 2021-2024

**Members:**

Steven Kareha 2023-2024

**PRESIDENT UPDATE:**

**NEW INFORMATION:**

- **ORF-SIG Newly Elected Officials:**
  - Nominating Committee - Adam J. Walsh
- **Who makes up the ORF-SIG**

***ORF-SIG Dashboard:***

<p><b>Total Members: 403</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Facebook Group: 171 (+15)</b></li></ul> <p><b>ABPTRFE ACCREDITED PROGRAMS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Residencies:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Orthopaedic: 142 (+10)</b></li></ul></li><li>• Fellowships:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Hand: 0</li><li>○ Movement: 1</li><li>○ OMPT: 25</li><li>○ Performing Arts: 4 (+1)</li><li>○ Spine: 2</li><li>○ Upper Extremity: 4 (+1)</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>ACOMPTE ACCREDITED PROGRAMS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ OMPT: 37 (-1)</li></ul> <p><i>(+/- in members/programs since last quarter)</i></p>	<p><b>Current Member make up:</b></p> <p><b>Demographic Regions:</b></p> <table border="1"><caption>Demographic Regions Data</caption><thead><tr><th>Region</th><th>Percentage</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>South</td><td>35.3%</td></tr><tr><td>West</td><td>23.5%</td></tr><tr><td>Northeast</td><td>20.6%</td></tr><tr><td>Midwest</td><td>20.6%</td></tr></tbody></table>	Region	Percentage	South	35.3%	West	23.5%	Northeast	20.6%	Midwest	20.6%
Region	Percentage										
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West	23.5%										
Northeast	20.6%										
Midwest	20.6%										

## COMMITTEE Updates:

### Nominating Committee:

- Tyrees Marcy (outgoing)
- Alex Bonhomme
- Steve Kareha
- Adam Walsh (incoming)

### Education Committee:

- **CSM 2023 ORF-SIG Events:**
  - **CSM ORF-SIG Business Meeting:** Scheduled Thursday Feb 23, 2023 6:30AM
  - **Pre-conference:** Tuesday Feb 21, 2023 8AM-5PM OR-13940 – Creating and Maintaining Competitive Residency and Fellowship Programs: Innovations for Curriculum Design, Mentoring and Inter-Program Collaboration
  - **Education session:** Thursday Feb 23, 2023 3-5PM OR-14033 Mentoring Smarter Not Harder

### Research Committee: Kirk Bentzen, Kathleen Geist

- **2023 CSM Poster Presentations awards to be published in OP:** Members of the ORF-SIG submitted their poster abstracts on the SIG website for consideration for a \$250 monetary award for first and second place upon written submission of their poster to OPTP.
- **Research within ORF-SIG:** A universal post-graduate survey is being developed and this will lead to an opportunity to collect graduate information. Currently we are writing an IRB through Occidental University headed by Occidental faculty Kirk Bentzen. We are finalizing a post-graduate survey combining many of our current surveys. The goal is to have one consistent survey of residency and fellowship programs. The goal of this is to more accurately analyze the value of post-graduate training. We need to look beyond the OCS pass rate to show value to employers for other areas including leadership roles, patient outcomes, patient satisfaction, productivity etc. Historically there has not been a way to track this information across all programs within the ORF-SIG. We hope a universal survey will help all programs to identify value. We will send this out to members once completed this spring and are writing an IRB to add value to the data that we collect

### Membership: Steven Kareha

- **Member Recruitment:** The ORF-SIG is seeking to get >90% of Program Directors to be members of the ORF-SIG where we are working on emailing all current Program Directors to highlight the benefits of membership. Additionally, we will be reaching out to programs who seek candidacy to highlight our Grant Program.
  - **Continue to reach out to programs for engagement in ORF-SIG**
    - We are sending out information to all new and developing programs via email to make sure all are aware of the ORF-SIG
- **Membership Survey:** Continue to try to capture all our member demographics with routing use of QR-Codes.

- **Program Spotlight:** (Caitlyn Lang, Kristine Neelon, Bob Schroedter) Members of the ORF-SIG are able to highlight their Res/Fellowship Program, Faculty or Mentors via our Monthly Spotlight hosted on the ORF-SIG Website. Bob Schroedter organized a Selection Committee to review and streamline the process to apply and submit information highlighting respective programs.
  - How to apply and to view the growing list of Spotlitged programs please go here: <https://www.orthopt.org/content/special-interest-groups/residency-fellowship/orf-sig-program-spotlight>.

## **SUBCOMMITTEES:**

### **Curriculum: Molly Malloy, Dave Morrisette, Linda Dundon, Kathleen Geist**

- No Updates- this will fall under Education work group in the future

### **RFPTCAS: Steve Kareha, Kirk Bentzen**

- RF-PTCAS: Kirk Bentzen, Steve Kareha, Megan Frazee, Carrie Schwoerer, Christina Gomez
- Podcast for newer program or those in need a refresher on some of the nuances of the processes and timelines:  
<https://musc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Embed.aspx?id=0841c14e-a3f7-4196-b654-acd90169c9e2> .
  - Presenters of this pod cast 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. ORF-SIG continues to provide updates to the membership regarding RF-PTCAS timelines and expectation to maximize applicants.

## **LIAISON Updates:**

### **ABPTRFE:**

- **ABPTRFE Updates:** Full details found here: [The Hub : Forums : Residency/Fellowship Updates \(apta.org\)](#)
  - **COVID guidelines ended January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023**
  - **Annual Continuous Reports due end of January**

### **Academy of Education Residency and Fellowship SIG: Christina Gomez**

- [aptaeducation.org/special-interest-group/RFESIG/](https://aptaeducation.org/special-interest-group/RFESIG/)
- You can also find more great information from the Academy of Education's Residency and Fellowship SIG (RFESIG). Here you will find a variety of Podcasts they have completed for Residency and Program Directors.

### **AAOMPT: Bob Schroedter-**

- Continued collaboration for highlighting programs.
- Interested in developing webinars specific to OMPT to be available to programs.