



**AOPT**  **SIG**

ACADEMY OF ORTHOPAEDIC PHYSICAL THERAPY, APTA

**OCCUPATIONAL  
HEALTH**

OHSIG Q2 Newsletter

Respectfully Submitted by Cory Blickenstaff PT, MS, OCS

## **Calling for OHSIG Nominations!**

There are 2 upcoming open positions in the OHSIG:

President (3 year term) & Nominating Committee Member (3 year term)

Follow [this link](#) for more information about the positions and how to nominate a candidate. Deadline for submission is August 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **An update on the state resource liaison committee**

The kickoff meeting for our newly organized OHSIG State Resource Liaison is scheduled for Thursday June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm (EDT). Zoom meeting information will be sent out in a separate email to our liaisons. If you would like to be included in the first meeting to better understand the purpose of the committee, please contact Caroline Furtak ([ckfurtak@gmail.com](mailto:ckfurtak@gmail.com)) who will happily send you a meeting invite.

The State Resource Liaison is a three year junior leadership position supported by the OHSIG Board with the following opportunities. We are looking for a minimum of one but preferably two State Resource Liaisons per state.

The following opportunities for these Liaisons are to

- Assist with dissemination of relevant occupational health information initiated by the OHSIG Board to your state chapter and educational program leaders.
- Provide scripted advocacy for occupational health best practice and payment policies.
- Facilitate requests for speakers on occupational health topics with educational programs, state chapters, and other stakeholders.
- Function as a resource and point of contact on Occupational Health issues in your state.
- Collaborate with other state liaisons to identify discrepancies or opportunities in state fee schedules or workers' compensation rules for follow up by your APTA State Chapter.
- Review and recommend updates to APTA Workers' Compensation State Resources webpage to ensure accuracy and working links (<https://www.apta.org/your-practice/payment/workers-compensation/workerscompensationmap>).

## **OHSIG Mentorship Program**

### **Mentor/Mentees**

The OHSIG's **Mentoring Program** is for students and practicing PTs of all experience levels interested in the broad area of occupational health. This mentoring program is an opportunity to connect with one of our knowledgeable and experienced OHSIG members on a casual basis via your and your mentor's preferred means of communication to discuss. The program will run for 6 months at which time you will have the opportunity to speak with your mentor from 1 to 6 times based upon the learning goals you have set for your relationship. You can find the specifics about our program [here](#).

There are 4 areas of specialization:

- **Injury Prevention/Wellness:** ergonomics, wellness programs
- **WC regulatory environment:** insurance, state laws
- **Clinic-based work rehab programs:** traditional therapy under Worker's Compensation, specialty industrial programs (FCEs, work conditioning/work hardening)
- **On-site therapy services:** therapy services to support workplace population health

Please follow this [link](#) to sign up for a mentor/mentee relationship.

Deadline: June 15th

Assignment and kick off: June 30th (instructions on how to connect with your mentor and mentor/mentee guidelines will be provided)

Program end date: December 31<sup>st</sup>

## **DEI Task Force**

Special thanks to Dr. Trisha Perry PT, DPT for representing the OHSIG on the AOPT's DEI task force aimed at increasing the diversity of the AOPT's membership and leadership.

## **Did you know about the AOPT Individual Partner Program?**

Did you know that AOPT has an individual partner program that is inclusive of professionals who are part of a rehabilitation team (such as international Physical Therapists, Physicians, Occupational Therapists, or physical therapy faculty) and not otherwise eligible to join the APTA or AOPT?

Partnership benefits include:

- a. Online access to full text of the Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy
- b. Online access to full text Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Practice
- c. Access to the AOPT website
- d. AOPT member discount on Independent Study Courses, educational courses, conferences and more.
- e. Access to join any of the seven AOPT Special Interest Groups
- f. Becoming a partner of the AOPT does not make you a member of the AOPT or APTA.

Click [here](#) for more information.

## **Occupational Health Advanced Practitioner Credential Program**

Our author teams are mobilizing for our launch of two Occupational Health Independent Study Courses in 2022! These courses will be required components for the OHSIG advanced practice educational credential initiative that is being implemented under our Research Committee.

## **Clinical Practice Guidelines for Managing Work Participation Restrictions**

Our OHSIG development team has completed OHSIG's first evidence-based Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG) to improve how physical therapists manage work participation restrictions after injury or illness! This initiative has been led 1<sup>st</sup> Author Dee Daley, OHSIG Practice Chair Lorena Payne and Jill Galper. Keep your eye out for this publication that is scheduled for the August edition of JOSPT. These will be volunteer opportunities to serve on a new implementation committee that we are forming to implement this CPG. Please reach out to Lorena Payne if you are interested in serving.

## **Option to Expand Your Occupational Health Membership Profile**

Our Communications Committee led by Cory Blickenstaff (Chair) is working with AOPT staff on an initiative to implement a comprehensive member profile to support networking between our members.

## **Members Only! Our OHSIG Facebook Closed Group**

Don't miss out on the conversations available only to active OHSIG members! Recent posts have included informative and instructional FCE cases and regulatory updates that are relevant to the realm of Occupational Health.

Join the conversation [link](#) and share recent articles, recommendations, and thoughts!

**As always, thank you for being a part of the Occupational Health  
Special Interest Group!**

#ChoosePT