



OHSIG Q2 Newsletter 2022

Mark Your Calendar!

OHSIG Special Meeting 5/3/2022 at 6-7pm EST | 5-6pm CST | 4-5pm MT | 3-4pm PST

The OHSIG has initiated an AOPT-sponsored motion for the next House of Delegates that is titled, **PHYSICAL THERAPISTS AS ENTRY-POINT PRACTITIONERS FOR PRIMARY CARE AND CLEARANCE FOR ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION**. This meeting will feature a panel of leaders for this motion who will discuss the background and rationale for this motion and invite participant feedback about state-specific favorable or unfavorable regulations or policy barriers for primary care:

- Dr. James Spencer is the owner of Ajax Physical Therapy and serves as the AOPT Chief Delegate and Practice Chair.
- Dr. Rick Wickstrom is the owner of WorkAbility Systems, Inc. and serves as the OHSIG President.
- Dr. Steve Allison is the owner of FCE Experts and serves as the OHSIG Vice President and Education Chair.

This virtual meeting will provide a forum for member feedback and rallying support this motion that seeks to raise awareness that a physical therapist's advanced education and practice focus justifies unrestricted access to physical therapists at the entry point of care that includes participation-focused exams to determine clearance and accommodations to promote recreation, work, and other lifestyle activities.

This Zoom presentation and forum is open to all OHSIG members! Zoom link and details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84368194106?pwd=VUFiblZlYUFUTHhhaNnY4ZWV2d2RUQT09>

Meeting ID: 843 6819 4106 | Passcode: 805949

+13126266799,,84368194106#,,,,*805949# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,84368194106#,,,,*805949# US (New York)

OHSIG Practice Committee Spotlight:

Drew Snyder, PT, DPT, JD, recently stepped up to lead as Vice Chair of the OHSIG Practice Committee, with a focus on managing the OHSIG State Resource Liaison Program. After graduating with his DPT from Youngstown State University, he attended Case Western Reserve University School of Law where he earned his Juris Doctor degree with a concentration in Health

Law. Drew has a passion for advocacy for making physical therapy services more accessible in all practice settings for health and well-being. He currently serves as Corporate Counsel at Athletico Physical Therapy where he also supports Government Relations at both the state and national level. Drew served as the lead author of OHSIG's [Current Concepts in Occupational Health: Regulatory Compliance](#).



Call for State Resource Liaisons:

Cory Blickenstaff has transitioned to a new leadership role as OHSIG Practice Committee Chair. OHSIG is still in need of State Resource Liaisons in a number of states: MA, NH, RI, VT, DE, Washington DC, WV, AL, MS, TN, AR, NM, OK, KS, SD, WY, AK, ID as well as Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the US Virgin Islands. This is an opportunity to advocate for and coordinate resources to support occupational health PT practice in your state. If you are interested in joining or learning more, please contact Drew D. Snyder (drewsnyder9@gmail.com) or Cory Blickenstaff (OHSIG Practice Committee Chair, cory@forwardmotionpt.com).

Our 1st OAPT Course for the Occupational Health Advanced Practitioner Certificate is Live! Bridging the Gap between the Workplace and Therapy Clinic:

The aim of this self-paced independent study course is to provide physical and occupational therapists with essential information for entry point practice in occupational health, consistent with the OHSIG vision of optimizing movement, musculoskeletal health, and work participation from hire to retire. Click [here](#) for more information. This course is the first required component to be recognized as an Occupational Health Advanced Practitioner.

Occupational Health Advanced Practitioner (OHAP) Certificate:

Alison Helmsie, DPT, OCS, Cert MDT, recently stepped up to lead as Vice Chair of the OHSIG Education Committee, with a focus on managing the application phase of our OHAP Program. Alison is pursuing her Ph.D. in Systems Science / Ergonomics at Binghamton University in upstate NY. She has provided Occupational Health services in NY and PA to industry clients of Guthrie Healthcare System over the past 12 years and contributed as second author of *Entry Point Care for Workers with Job Participation Barriers*, which is a monograph within our 1st OHAP course, *Bridging the Gap between the Workplace and Clinic*.



Our 2nd OHAP course to be released this summer is titled, *Advanced Therapy Programs for Occupational Health*. The 3rd OHAP will be an interactive webinar that will be launched this

November. Participants who complete all three courses may proceed with an application and capstone project to be recognized with an Occupational Health Advanced Practitioner (OHAP) certificate. Look for more details about the 2nd OHAP independent study course, interactive webinar and the OHAP certificate application process in the next OHSIG quarterly newsletter. Thanks to all who took the time to fill out the membership survey on the Occupational Health Advanced Practitioner initiative. Your feedback was helpful!

OHSIG New Member Spotlight: Christopher “Chris” Petrosino, PT, PhD, is chief delegate for the Connecticut Chapter of APTA and Chair of Physical Therapy and Human Movement Sciences at Sacred Heart University. He has extensive experience in program development and delivery of musculoskeletal prevention and therapy services for large employers. Chris has initiated two motions for the next House of Delegates to focus attention on resources needed to position physical therapists for delivery of direct-to-employer services as a future frontier for physical therapy practice. He recently stepped up to lead the development of an interactive webinar to educate therapists on how to facilitate and meet therapy needs for employer programs that promote *Total Worker Health*.



Work Rehab Clinical Practice Guideline update: Members of the CPG writing team are available by request to present information from the guidelines published in August 2021 in *JOSPT* found here, [Clinical Guidance to Optimize Work Participation After Injury or Illness: The Role of Physical Therapists \(orthopt.org\)](#). For information, contact Lorena Pettet Payne: lp97390@gmail.com.

Nominating Committee: Public Relations Committee Chair opening

We have an open position for the Public Relations Committee Chair (formerly the Communications Committee Chair) to help spread the word about all of the great things going on in OHSIG! If you have any interest or would like to see a description of the position, please contact Jeff Paddock (jeff.paddock@workwellpc.com).

Members Only! Our OHSIG Facebook Closed Group

Don't miss out on discussions available only to active OHSIG members! Our OHSIG Facebook Group is a great place to post questions, seek advice from other members in the group, and share content regarding various Occupational Health topics. 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!