

President's Message

Carolyn McManus, MSPT, MA

January offers the beginning of a new year, and with it, an opportunity to bring new energy to ongoing projects and initiate new ventures. With your help, the PMSIG will bring both new inspiration and innovation to our ongoing activities and pioneer new programs to promote excellence in pain education, treatment, and research by physical therapy professionals in 2018.

The Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) is just around the corner and, once again, pain is popular! The complete list of educational sessions on pain topics is far too long to include here. I encourage you to go to the CSM 2018 website to view the full programming. To spark your interest, among the educational sessions offered on the topic of pain by the Orthopaedic Section are:

- Chronic Pain Epidemic: National Research, Education, and Practice Initiatives (PMSIG programming)
- Transformational Chronic Back Pain Program: PNE Multidisciplinary Approach
- Spotlight on Research: Let's Talk About Pain Studies and Clinical Implications
- The Duplicity of Opioids for the Treatment of Chronic Pain

If you plan to attend CSM 2018, please be sure to come to the PMSIG Business Meeting on Thursday, February 22, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. at the Hilton Riverside in Grand Ballroom A. The PMSIG leadership will experience a transition in Board members based on the results of the November 2017 election and these new PMSIG leaders will be introduced at this time. In addition, Craig Wassinger, PT, PhD, will move from Nominating Committee to the newly established Practice Chair position. Similar to the Research Chair, the Practice Chair is appointed by the PMSIG Governing Board and will serve a 3-year term. At our meeting, highlights from this year's accomplishments will be reviewed, our strategic plan will be introduced, and an opportunity for members to express their views and opinions will be provided. I hope you will join us!

The PMSIG Board and volunteer members have continued to work on initiatives and participate in activities to improve the care of patients with pain conditions. Hopefully you are enjoying and benefitting from our monthly research and clinical pearl emails. Remember, these are catalogued at our website for your review at any time. If you would like to contribute to this initiative, please submit a research topic to Dana Dailey, PT, PhD, at dana.dailey@uiowa.edu or a clinical pearl to me at carolyn@carolynmcmanus.com.

Katie McBee, DPT, OCS, volunteered to join Katherine Beissner, PT, PhD, and Chad Garvey, DPT, OCS, in their efforts to develop a PowerPoint presentation on the topic of pain and its treatment by physical therapists suitable for presenting by PMSIG members at physician and other health care provider professional conferences. We will keep you informed as this project moves forward.

Derrick Sueki, DPT, OCS, Chair of the Orthopedic Specialty Council/PMSIG member, and Kara Gainer, APTA Director of

Regulatory Affairs, represented the APTA and Orthopedic Section at the October Integrative Pain Care Policy Congress meeting in San Diego, California. The Congress was comprised of representatives from most of the major health care disciplines including medicine, pharmacy, chiropractic, acupuncture, massage therapy, as well as representatives of Medicare and various third-party payer groups. This Congress was tasked with the important effort of identifying opportunities to collaboratively address the nation's pain management and opioid safety crises. Through this collaboration, the Congress was able to establish a working definition of comprehensive integrative pain management and determined a common message to deliver to legislators and third-party payers that focused on non-pharmacological alternatives to opioid use. Through such collaborative efforts, the APTA, Orthopedic Section, and the PMSIG are focused on promoting the field of physical therapy as one of the foremost experts and an important alternative to opioids in the management of pain.

In addition, I was invited by Joseph Brence, DPT, of the Move-ForwardPT.com Editorial Board, to contribute to updating and editing the Physical Therapist's Guide to Chronic Pain Syndromes posted at the APTA's Move Forward website, moveforwardpt.com. I asked Katie McBee, DPT, OCS, and Derrick Sueki, DPT, OCS, to join me in this effort. Be sure to view the final version of this public education resource at the APTA's Move Forward website.

A small group of colleagues is investigating the steps required to establish a Pain Section. You may have received an email inviting you to sign a petition on this topic. Creating a new Section requires proceeding through established APTA protocols and procedures, and should the group decide to move forward, will require a year or two of preparation activities. This group is keeping me informed of their efforts. I will keep you posted on any new developments in the future as they arise.

The Board members and I look forward to working with you in 2018 to improve patient care and advocate our SIG as the leading authority in the role of physical therapy in promoting the healing, well-being, and movement by people with pain conditions. If you have ideas to share or time and energy to offer to PMSIG activities, please contact any Board member. We welcome and appreciate your participation.

I would now like to introduce you to Brett Neilson, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT. Brett has a Doctorate in Physical Therapy from University of Puget Sound and completed a therapeutic pain specialist certification with the International Spine and Pain Institute (ISPI). He is the Admissions Director for Evidence In Motion (EIM), a clinician at Outpatient Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Services, Kent, WA, a mentor to residents and fellows, and is an adjunct instructor for the South College PT program, EIM, and ISPI. I want to thank Brett for contributing the following article on an innovative clinical reasoning tool to assist with making treatment decisions for chronic pain patients.