



Pain MANAGEMENT

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP • ORTHOPAEDIC SECTION, APTA, INC.

From the PMSIG Newsletter Editor

My name is Lisa Janice Cohen, and I am the new editor of the PMSIG newsletter. I hope you share my excitement about the potential of this publication and of this special interest group. Pain spans all diagnoses and patient classifications. All physical therapists need to be skilled at assessing pain and managing pain. Some of the purposes of this PMSIG are to share strategies for pain management, explore the relevant research, and to network with other clinicians who have an interest in pain management.

I invite you to participate in this newsletter by submitting letters, case studies, position papers, abstracts from the literature, or resources for your fellow clinicians. For your convenience, my e-mail address and FAX number are listed below. I look forward to hearing from you!

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Call for Nominations

The terms of office for all the PMSIG positions are 2 years. Elections are staggered with the President and Secretary alternating with the Vice President. The Nominating Committee is seeking names of individuals willing to be nominated for the offices of President and Secretary. Elections will be held at the PMSIG business meeting at CSM '99 in Seattle, WA. All orthopaedic section members are eligible to vote. **Nominees must be members of the Orthopaedic Section.**

Please contact either Lisa Cohen (617-724-6306) or Joe Kleinkort (induarehab@aol.com).

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Current Officers: PMSIG

Tom Watson, MEd, PT, FAAPM
President
Joe Kleinkort, MA, PhD, PT
Vice President
John E. Garziona, PT, AAPM
Secretary

President's Message

Welcome to the PMSIG newsletter. This is our 3rd year and we're excited about this newsletter, 1999 CSM and our future. Thank you to the Orthopaedic Section for all its help. There are many new, innovative, controversial and unique approaches to the treatment and management of pain. Knowledge in this field seems to double every 2 or 3 years and its difficult to stay abreast of these changes. We hope this newsletter will afford you one avenue of learning and if you're inclined, sharing your knowledge. We would also appreciate your input on the board certification process of physical therapists in pain management by the ABPTS. We are moving rapidly in this direction. Please give your feedback directly to the Orthopaedic Section.

If you have questions for me please don't hesitate to contact me at 760-796-6789 or painfree@ix.netcom.com

Thank you for your interest in pain.
Tom Watson MEd PT FAAPM

Secretary's Corner

As secretary of the PMSIG, I would like to welcome you to the "first" newsletter. The SIG has evolved after many years of infancy and matured into a significant special interest group. Thank you to all who were involved with this process and to those who are still working diligently to finalize our mission statement.

An excerpt from the "Pain Net News" vol 5, no. 2 attracted my attention since it impacts our practice. The article alerts all practitioners of the legal ramifications of obtaining and using any medical equipment on a patient that has not been issued a 510K and market release by the FDA. HCFA will impose significant fines and possible jail time on practitioners who use questionable devices on their patients. It is up to the therapist to insure that his or her equipment has an FDA release to use on humans, as well as its indications prior to usage. This is especially important with the new technologies that are evolving rapidly and the plethora of new devices. (As if we don't have enough to think about already.)

Interesting too are the preliminary findings reported in the American Journal of Pain Management, vol 8, #2, April 1998. They report significantly lower blood serotonin levels in most patients with chronic pain.

I hope to be able to meet many of you at the CSM 1999 at our SIG meeting.

Have a great autumn.
John E Garziona, PT, AAPM