

painmanagement

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John E. Garzione, PT, DPT, DAAPM

The close of CSM this year brought many changes of new officers in both the Orthopaedic Section as well as within the SIGs. I would like to again extend a special thank you to our past President, Joe Kleinkort for all his hard work and mentoring over the past 6 years. Thanks also to our previous officers Elaine Pomerantz, Secretary and Scott Van Epps, Treasurer for their work.

Congratulations go to Marie Hoeger Bement who was elected Vice President/Program Chair; Ann Ingard, Secretary; and Laura Frey Law, Treasurer. Greg Dedrick has agreed to share research findings with us through this newsletter. I look forward to working with all of you this term.

The program entitled "Headaches and the Cervical Spine" by Marian Brame, MA, PT was well attended and very informative. This 4-hour course presented a biomechanical approach to the evaluation and management of cervicogenic headaches. If you missed this program at CSM, it is available on audiotape.

About 10 years ago, the Pain Management SIG Board of Directors hoped to enhance programming at CSM by introducing physical therapists to complimentary therapies such as: laser, nutritional supplements, acupuncture electrical stimulation, spirituality, etc. This was met with loud resistance from some of the former members and the course ideas were not pursued. Looking back over the past 2 CSMs, I have identified over 14 presentations on those very topics presented by other Sections, not counting platform presentations. This tells me that: (1) this SIG is ahead of its time in its thinking, (2) clinicians in all Sections are interested in these topics, and (3) even though there is a paucity of evidence to support the use of complimentary treatments, they do have efficacy for some patient populations. Pain management clinicians are always looking for new ways to reduce pain and suffering for our patients.

I am proud to say that some of the finest pain researchers and clinicians in this country are members of this SIG. I hope that we can all pull together to advance the clinical treatment of pain supported and fostered by research and common sense.