

2015  
PPTA  
WINTER  
NEWSLETTER

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO THE MEMBERSHIP**

**By Gregory Waite**

Happy Winter everyone; I hope everyone is staying warm and the heating bills aren't too high. Even though it's cold outside we are keeping the heat up on the different projects we're working towards here at the PPTA. I'd like to take just a few minutes of your time to share some highlights of what's been occurring over the last year and what we can expect for the future.

One of the big things that many of us have had to deal with is the ever changing environment of Medicare. We have now been dealing with MPPR with the 50% reduction over the past year; we at the PPTA understand the burden this has caused many practitioners and we, in conjunction with the APTA have been constantly working on solutions to this payment reduction. There are proposals which the APTA has developed for a new payment structure which are currently being examined by the appropriate agencies; we will keep the membership updated as information is received.

The PQRS measures are another program Medicare has enacted and, although this provides Medicare with some data, the requirement is another piece of the puzzle which has added significant documentation requirements for nearly everyone. Currently, the requirement is to report 3 measures, unfortunately, this program is scheduled to be expanded in 2015, requiring up to 9 measures if available. Again, we understand the significant documentation burden this inflicts on the provider while the reimbursements rates continue to be stagnant or decrease.

The FLR, or Functional Limitations Reporting, is another program enacted by Medicare and, again, although it provides information to Medicare, it adds another layer of documentation. We at the PPTA and APTA understand the amount of time this has added in documenting care for our patients and, that it is actually taking time away from clinical hours that were once spent with our patients. There are proposals the APTA has developed, presented, and are actively working with the appropriate agencies in an attempt to decrease this burden while providing Medicare with the outcome information they require.

The PMMP program is a Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield program which has added a tremendous burden for documentation to provide needed care for our patients. The PPTA has been in constant contact with Highmark in order to decrease this burden and undertake a more sustainable program. We are hoping over the next year, this program can be streamlined to allow more efficient standards leading to fewer burdens on the provider while ensuring our patients get the medically necessary intervention they need.

Switching gears a little, I would like to speak about some of PPTA's legislative efforts. The first is the co-pay bill or SB 594. SB 594 is the co-pay legislation developed by PPTA, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association and the Pennsylvania Chiropractic Association. We have been working on this legislation over the past 2.5 years with several amendments made to the language over that time. In April 2014, SB 594 was voted out of the Banking and Insurance Committee with the caveat that a public hearing was to be held. On 05-06-14, a public hearing occurred with several interested parties testifying, including representatives from the APTA. The final outcome of the hearing culminated with Senator White, the committee Chair, indicating the bill had two distinct parts, the excessive copayment issue and the multiple copay issue, which would require separate bills. The PPTA did not feel this was necessary and felt the two issues were so related that they should stand together in one bill; the final decision by Sen. White was to have two bills, SB 594, to address the excessive co-pay issue and a new bill, SB 1432, to address the multiple co-pay issue. SB 1432 quickly moved through the Banking and Insurance Committee and was placed in the Appropriations Committee; it was then voted out of the Appropriations Committee with an amendment which would prohibit insurers from applying co-pays or deductibles to mammographic examination; this was then sent to the full Senate for a vote. On 09-24-14, SB 1432 was passed unanimously in the Senate and was then sent to the House. Unfortunately, it was not brought forward for a vote in the House before the end of the Legislative session. As it stands, if the board decides to continue with this legislation effort, SB 594 and SB 1432 will have to be reintroduced at the next legislative session which begins in January where the process will begin again.

Another area the Board has been examining is possible changes to the practice act. The Practice Act Work Group, or PAWG, was assigned the task of developing possible changes to the practice act, looking at possible difficulties that may be encountered for each, and completing a report to be presented to the BOD.

Some of the topics discussed during the PAWG meetings were expanding direct access, permitting dry needling, allowing prescription of imaging such as X-rays and MRIs, as well as permitting clinical use of ultrasound imaging. After careful consideration, the PAWG presented their final report at the Board of Directors meeting during Annual Conference. It is now up to the Board to decide how to proceed with these recommendations.

The Governance Review process is nearly completed at this time. Currently all new committees have appointed Chairs, members, Chapter office liaisons, and Board liaisons. In addition, we also have working task forces and work groups taking care of the business of our Association. We are currently in the process of developing how the SIGs will interact with other Committees and the Board. Although they have been placed under the Practice and Research Committee, their unique work lends itself to having a means by which they can easily communicate with anyone within the organization as well as complete work within the SIG itself. The final part of the Governance Review process was to act on proposed bylaw changes which enabled us to make adjustments to the Standing Committees of Ethics, Finance, and Nominating. These changes were approved during the Business Meeting at Annual Conference and will be enacted by the Board of Directors in the coming year.

One important change that also occurred as part of the Governance Review process was enactment of centralized banking. A decision was made by the Board of Directors to move from each District having separate bank accounts to centralizing all financial transactions at the Chapter level. This was strongly recommended by the APTA as the fiduciary responsibility rests with the corporate entity of the Chapter and cannot be delegated to each District. Over the past year, the NE District worked as the pilot District for the transition to centralized banking. In November and December the remaining Districts moved over to the centralized banking process as well. There will be no real change in the programs and activities the Districts undertake; the financial aspect will simply now be done at the Chapter level.

One change that did occur because of Centralized banking was to have the NWC Sub-District be placed under the NW District for financial purposes. We continue to encourage the same open relationship that the Sub-district currently has with both districts; this change was simply to allow ease with the centralized banking processes.

As always, these are just a few of the issues and projects we have been working on over the past year and the direction we are moving for next year. If there was a particular project or issues I did not discuss, please feel free to contact me or the Chapter office and we will be glad to provide you with the requested information. Thanks to everyone for making the PPTA a great Association.

## **Year Round Governance to Include Monthly Board of Director Go-to-Meetings**

One of the primary goals of the new governance structure for PPTA was to streamline operations, provide a means for all members to contact appropriate individuals within the organization, and to initiate a viable means for the Association to conduct business year round. In the next few paragraphs, I would like to provide a brief synopsis of what we have done to work toward these goals.

The operations of the Association were streamlined by consolidating committees under the old structure into fewer committees with related roles. This resulted in a structure of 3 Standing Committees of Ethics, Finance, and Nominating and 5 Committees of Conference and Continuing Education, Public Policy and Advocacy, Practice and Research which includes the SIG's, Membership, and Awards. Each Committee has a Chair, a given number of members, a Board Liaison, and Chapter Staff Liaison. In addition to this, we continue to have a Chapter Political Action Committee which, because of its unique work and reporting requirements, is kept as a separate entity.

This structure creates several portals in which any member of the PPTA can contact someone who can assist them with questions, concerns, or ideas. The PPTA webpage contains the names and contact information for all Board Members, Committee Chairs, Committee Members, Board Liaisons to each Committee, Chapter Staff Liaisons to each Committee, and SIG Chairs. This is the end of the first year under the new structure; the website will be updated soon to identify new members of the Committees, SIG's, and the Board which will take effect in January of 2015.

One of the last parts of the new governance structure was to provide a viable means in which business of the Association could be conducted year round and not just with the present 3 in-person Board meetings and one Executive Committee meeting per year. With our vastly changing health care environment, we needed a means by which we could conduct ongoing business while still keeping our members as an integral part of the team.

At first, we attempted to utilize e-mails however, there was no good way to ensure individuals received the e-mails and, it inhibited timely discussion of topics.

Because of this, the Board felt monthly Go-to-Meetings would be a good means to ensure all people were involved and all voices could be heard. Now that we have been utilizing these monthly meetings for approximately 4 months, we've identified the need for all members to understand the procedures we utilize before and during these meetings so you can provide input, questions, or comment.

Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month as long there is business to conduct; if there is no business for that month, the Board is notified one week in advance that the meeting will be canceled. If there are topics, issues, or motions to be brought forward at the meeting, they are provided to the Chapter President to be included in an agenda which is published to the Board, Committee Chairs, and SIG Chairs one week prior to the meeting. This gives those individuals an opportunity to review the items or motions and prepare comment as necessary. Normally, the individuals on the call consist of the Board of Directors only however, if a topic or issue involves a Committee or SIG, they are asked to attend the meeting as well. This is not done to exclude individuals but rather to keep the Go-to-Meeting to a manageable number on the call; if there are more than 15 to 20 on the call, it becomes very difficult to ensure an orderly discussion. Input can always be provided through Board Liaisons for each Committee or SIG if needed.

The issues discussed at the Go-to-Meetings will normally consist of more administrative topics however, if a hot topic comes up which requires immediate attention, it can be brought forward during these meetings and acted upon. It is the intent of the Board to discuss more involved issues at face to face meetings which then give individuals a better forum to voice opinions and provide information in a more open format.

The Board also felt a good means to provide information to our membership was to not only to publish the minutes of all meetings to the Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, and SIG Chairs but, also publish them on the PPTA webpage for member viewing.

It is our intent to publish the minutes one week following all meetings if possible; the Executive Committee must approve the minutes before they can be published so, please be patient if it takes a little longer than one week.

As we strive to incorporate these policies and procedures for our new governance structure, we ask for your patience. This system is new to everyone and we will likely need changes as we move forward in order to ensure we are an efficient but inclusive Association. If you have any questions, comments, or ideas, we encourage you to share them through the many portals listed above. Thank-you for your attention to this issue and we look forward to advancing our Association in this ever changing health care environment.

Gregory L. Waite, PT, DPT

President, PPTA

## **DISTRICT NEWS**

### **SOUTHCENTRAL**

By Penny Samuelson, District Director

The Southcentral District has started off the fall season by holding a meeting in the Reading Area to allow more convenient access to those in the eastern part of our district. The winter meeting has been moved forward to December 2 at Lebanon Valley College with an earlier start time (6:30 PM). Hopefully this will help us avoid the bitter weather and snow that we have encountered when that gathering is in January. The bus trip to New York had to be cancelled when it became clear that we would not have adequate participation to make it profitable. The spring will find us at Penn State Hershey Medical Center in January, York in March and Lancaster in May. Check the website for program details. We hope to see many of you at the meetings ready to share ideas and take advantage of networking opportunities. There is always a place for willing volunteers. If you haven't registered yet, go to the PPTA website and identify your willingness and availability to volunteer to move your profession forward toward the APTA's vision of "Transforming society by optimizing movement to improve the human experience".

## **SOUTHEAST**

By Jeff Ostrowski, District Director

Time sure flies by! I have finished my three year term as District Chair. It has been a privilege and honor to serve. We've accomplished some good things over the past three years such as our mini-CSM event, the young professional's event, the law and ethics seminars and more. I hope you have had the opportunity to benefit from these and other events. Our intent was to enhance the value of your membership and deepen the fellowship among us. But, there is more work to do.

There are so many people to recognize and thank. We have a fantastic group of dedicated professionals in our district who care about the profession. We are fortunate. Scott Voshell, the District Vice-Chair and incoming District Chair has become a good friend. He is dedicated, hard-working and knows everyone. We are in great hands for the next three years. Vrinda Hatti bought into the vision for our mini-CSM and used her considerable organizational talents to put on our first CSM and set the template for future events. Colleen Bradley, Sarah Wenger, Bob Wellmon, Cheryl West, Shaun Varrecchia, Sue Wainwright, Kelly McArdle, Heather Cronin, all of our committee chairs and committee members and all of our continuing education speakers and volunteers – thank you for your service and dedication.

We have a wonderful profession. While we practice in many diverse practice settings, one thing unites us is that we have a calling to help people. Physical therapists provide tremendous value. We can be a solution for much of what is broken in health care today. We must be unified and engaged in the profession. The best place to start is at the local level – your district. I encourage you to get involved, recruit your friends and colleagues to join us.

Finally, I want to encourage you to be the best therapist you can be. Invest in developing your skills. Show up every day and try hard. Be proud of your work. One patient at a time, we can make PT the first and best solution for society. Best wishes to all and thanks for the opportunity.

## **SOUTHWEST**

By Ann Reppermund, District Director

The Southwest District (SWD) has been very active this Fall and continues to provide outstanding programming and educational opportunities to our membership. The SWD has had great attendance at recent membership meetings held on September 9, 2014 and November 11, 2014. In addition, there was a large attendance at the educational session offered on October 14, 2014.

September brought forth our monthly recognition event honoring and welcoming new members to the SWD. In addition, we were pleased to have Dr. Mark Goodman speaking regarding Primary Neoplasms presenting in the Musculoskeletal System. This educational session provided members an interactive approach to learning about physical therapy implications following complex reconstructive surgeries due to neoplasms of the musculoskeletal system. In addition, the SWD district delegates discussed and provided the membership an overview of their experience during the House of Delegates meeting held in June 2014.

On October 14, 2014, the Twentieth Annual Scully Visiting Lecture was held, hosted, and refreshments provided by the University of Pittsburgh's Physical Therapy Department. **Linda E. Arslanian, PT, DPT, MS** who provided the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Scully visiting scholar lectured on "The Paradox of Preoccupation with Productivity in a Value Driven Health Care System." Ms. Arslanian's lecture provided great discussion among members regarding the very complex healthcare system in which there are numerous key contributing factors in order to provide quality and effective care of our patients.

The November membership business meeting was held at UPMC St. Margaret Hospital with refreshments provided by the Rehabilitation Department at UPMC St. Margaret Hospital. **Dr. Marc Adelsheimer and Michael Ricchiuto, MPT, EMT-P** presented on "The Present and Future of Regenerative Medicine and Physical Therapy Practice. " Dr. Adelsheimer and Mr. Ricchiuto provided an informative discussion regarding the implications for regenerative medicine and the role of the physical therapist.

The SWD is collecting nonperishable food items for the North Hills Community Outreach Food Bank at each of their meetings. The SWD plans to continue collecting food items throughout the Spring 2015. In addition, the SWD will be working with the Physical Therapy Assistant Program at Butler Community College to collect athletic shoes for children through the Shoes4Kids program. During APTA Annual Conference, Butler Community College PTA Students and other APTA members will provide these shoes to children in need. Thank you in advance to all members who provide donations to either of the above. Thank you to **Mandy Gallagher and Christine Thomas-Dunham**, SWD Public Relations Co Chairs for organizing these activities. In addition, the SWD will be hosting a 50:50 drawing at each of the Spring 2015 meetings to raise money in support of the PPTA PT Advocacy Fund. The SWD looks forward to making these annual events to support the PPTA and our local community!

The Southwest District is greatly looking forward to hosting its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual SWD Mini Combined Sections on March 14, 2014 at UPMC Shadyside. Please stay tuned for updates on programming that will be available at this meeting.

In addition to conducting business meetings, hosting very informative educational programs, and newsletter publications, the SWD committees have been very busy. Here are a few highlights:

- Membership Committee (**Susan Krenibrook and Rebecca Stevens**) has partnered with student liaisons of PT and PTA Programs and initiated activities to welcome new and transferring members. They have also been providing educational sessions at PTA programs and other clinics.

- The Education Committee (**Pat Mahoney and Jamie Dunlap**) continues to coordinate outstanding educational programs compromised of widely applicable topics for the valued membership.
- Jeff Rothman, Patrick Mahoney and Jamie Dunlap have worked together to organize speakers for the SWD Mini Combined Section as well as sponsorship for this event.

A special thank you to **Christy Neltner**, SWD Vice Chair, for her continued support for the SWD and assisting multiple committees. In addition, thank you to the entire SWD Executive Board, Committee Members and the entire SWD membership for their continued support to the PPTA and APTA and for their continued active participation at the local and state level!

## **COMMITTEE NEWS**

### **PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY**

By Karl Gibson, Chair

The Public Policy and Advocacy Committee (PPAC) includes members Carole Galletta, PT, MPH, Ivan Mulligan, PT, DSC, SCS, ATC, Doug Slick, PTA, and Paul Slocum, PT, MS. Additionally, Judy Bowman, PT, serves as Coordinator of its Legislative Advocacy Work Group (LAWG), and Steve Gough, PT, DPT, OCS, serves as Co-coordinator of its Payment Work Group (PWG). Carole is completing her term on the PPAC as of 12/31, and as we extend our thanks to her for her service and her valuable knowledge of the payment and regulatory environment in Pennsylvania, we are looking forward to continuing to collaborate with her as she assumes her new role as the Chapter's Reimbursement Specialist on 1/1/2015. Replacing Carole on the PPAC will be Steve Gough, who was appointed by the BOD to a 3 year term beginning in 2015.

The PWG sponsored a Payers Summit on 11/19 in Harrisburg, the first time this has been conducted in 3 years. The purpose of the summit is to facilitate an exchange with the payer community in which we have the opportunity to better explain the practice of physical therapy. Presenters included Steve Gough, Carole Galletta, Sandy McCuen, and Ivan Mulligan. Details on payer participation will be provided in the next newsletter as this article is being submitted prior to the program date. Additionally, the PPTA BOD took action at their October meeting to make this program an annual event, anticipating the changing world of reimbursement and the need to be the primary source of information for payers on the practice of physical therapy.

The LAWG has posted new documents on the PPTA website, including the *PPTA Legislative Ambassador Network History*, the *PPTA Legislative Ambassador Job Description*, and the *PPTA Legislative Ambassador Activity Report*. We are requesting that any Ambassador who has contact with their legislator in the future go online and complete this simple *Activity Report* so that the PPTA has a record of your interaction for future reference. Also, Judy Bowman hosted approximately 50 people at a Legislative Ambassador's luncheon at the PPTA Conference. State Representative Bryan Cutler, from Lancaster, gave an excellent presentation on the workings of the legislature and the ways in which our Ambassadors can assist members of the legislature to better understand health issues. We look forward to hosting this event again at the 2015 PPTA Conference in Seven Springs, so if you are an Ambassador, please plan to attend. Anyone interested in serving as an Ambassador should contact their District Legislative Chair, as we continue to have positions to be filled for both state representatives and senators.

The Critical Issues Survey Work Group, coordinated by Paul Slocum, with members Craig Ruby and Deborah Alexander, received budgetary approval from the PPTA BOD to conduct a member survey. The survey is currently in development in conjunction with the APTA, and we anticipate that it will be distributed online to PPTA PT and PTA members early in 2015. The PPTA BOD is anticipating that the information from the members will assist them in prioritizing initiatives for the Chapter and in gauging the level of satisfaction the members have with the services being provided by the Chapter. PPTA members are urged to participate and respond to the survey. Your involvement helps shape PPTA!

The Practice Act Work Group, coordinated by Ivan Mulligan with members Ann Dennison, Craig Ruby, John Tawfik, and Greg Waite, submitted a report and recommendations to the PPTA BOD at their October meeting. This document will serve to inform the BOD as they deliberate the merits and impacts of pursuing changes to the practice act.

Thanks go out to the District Chairs and Doug Slick, PPAC member, for conducting a successful Advocacy Fund campaign that culminated at the PPTA Annual Membership meeting. The raffle generated \$2,340 in contributions and the winners were Elisabeth Wheeler, PT, DPT, Robert Palisano, PT, ScD, FAPTA, and Tim Schell, PT. We would also like thank Tim Schell for donating his winnings back to the Advocacy Fund!

My thanks to each of these volunteer members for their service on behalf of the PPAC and the PPTA.

## **SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP NEWS**

### **ACUTE CARE**

By Colleen Chancler, Co-Chair

Well, it is the end of the year (yikes!) and no matter how much Aimee and I promise to be on time, we seem to be very well intentioned, but just a little late. Let's hope we both do better with our taxes than our newsletter submissions.

It has been a busy year with article reviews we have used for conversations, clinical focus and contact hours. Thanks to all our facilitators and we hope to invite more of you in the upcoming year. Our range of topics from clinical, to operational to new practice paradigms has created opportunity for practice expansion. The result has been better understanding of the stats, better use of the outcomes we have discussed and hopefully some contacts and ideas for future research. Wouldn't it be amazing to read our next article from one of our members??

As healthcare continues to evolve and morph, we can all expect some challenges but there have been some exciting and positive events as well. Research presented this year at state conference was well represented by ACSIG members. Early mobilization in the ICU is all over the literature and we had one of our newer ACSIG members present at State Conference on this topic-thanks Dan Evans; mobility for the patient on the floor (a trauma unit) was presented by Kaila Burklow; we heard about predicting discharge destination after hip fracture by a new friend, Kate MacPhedran. If you would like to start research and are feeling overwhelmed, we have some mentors that would like to talk to you and help.....

We have been trying to provide some resources for you from APTA and other organizations. The APTA has provided a resource including acute care but spanning the continuum of care “Health Systems Rehabilitation Communities (HSRC)”. This web site is maintained by APTA and welcomes all willing participants whether APTA members or not. From the APTA web page----

- The Health System Rehabilitation Community (HSRC) was established in 2011, in collaboration with APTA, by a network of rehabilitation leaders including: Directors, managers, and administrators responsible for the provision of physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech language pathology services across the continuum of care (inpatient through ambulatory care) within academic medical centers, community hospitals, and integrated health systems.

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The community meets via online networks and at times in person and National conferences. APTA.org home page-Practice and Patient Care-Practice Administration-Collaborative Care. This is an opportunity to post and share unique practice models in which you are engaged, communicate with other health systems across the country for practice and staffing issues and gain knowledge of best practice.

And outside APTA, consideration for mobilization and ICU related topics by invitation--

-ICU Rehab sponsored and supported by Dr. Dale Needham and Johns Hopkins ICU mobility community. Great information on upcoming conferences, recent articles, learning opportunities and other considerations for those providing excellence in the ICU....

-“ICU Recovery Network” (IRN): If you have not yet signed up for the “ICU Recovery Network” (IRN), please email Courtney Bennett -- [cbenne31@jhmi.edu](mailto:cbenne31@jhmi.edu). IRN is a FREE interactive web-based “virtual community” for ICU Rehab clinicians/researchers (no commercial vendors). It is a like a simplified version of Facebook and has many ICU Rehab resources and event postings. IRN permits interactive communication with more than 700 ICU Rehab members from around the world.

You can ask questions, network with others in the field, and participate in future research projects. Note that IRN is available via the free MedConcert App for the iPhone.

From a recent IRN email, an internet posting that is a must see. A video worth your time to remind us of the importance of empathy in every day clinical care. Dr. Rana Awdish from Henry Ford Hospital discusses her personal experience related to empathy, titled "On Sepsis and Empathy" via [vimeo.com/ 106443775](https://vimeo.com/106443775).

If you missed State conference this year, congratulations again to Esther Bae, PT, DPT for receiving the Acute Care SIG Award. Esther is a PT at University of Pennsylvania for Good Shepherd Penn Partners specializing in Cardiac care. She started her career in acute care and continues to mentor newer staff, participates in operational management as a Team Leader, teaches in area Universities and participates in the acute care internship model all while maintaining a full clinical caseload.

We hope you have a wonderful holiday season-wrapped with time to spend with those important to you. As we wrap up another year, we look forward to your support and ideas to continue to serve you in the ACSIG. We thank PPTA for their encouragement and support of our SIG for another great year.

## PEDIATRIC

By Theresa Crytzer & Heather Merkel, Co-Chairs

The PPTA Annual Conference was held during the last week of October at the Lancaster Marriot. Highlights of the Board Meeting held on 10/27/14 include the following:

- The PPTA wrote a letter saying that it is opposed to **House Bill 2290** for recreational therapists (RT) to obtain state licensure. Reasons for the opposition include that parts of the RT practice is defined in a similar manner to the PT and OT practice acts. The limited number hours of internship and the lack of clear definition of the curriculum were other factors for the opposition.
- **APTA Credentialing Course for Clinical Instructors** is no longer accepted for CEU credits. One of the reasons is that it does not apply directly to patient care.
- **Child Abuse Continuing Education Units (CEUs)** are not required for the upcoming 2014 license renewal; however, these credits will be required starting in 2015. It is *to be determined* what coursework will be accepted since the State Board was just recently notified of this new requirement. We will keep you posted on any updates.

We held the Peds SIG business meeting on Friday night, 10/31/14. Christy Neltner, DPT, NCS, ATC who is Physical Therapist at The Children's Institute, Pittsburgh, PA and Adjunct Professor at the University of Pittsburgh and was our featured speaker on *Pediatric Brain Injury and Return to Function*. Topics that Dr. Nelter discussed included the prevalence of traumatic brain injury (TBI); the mechanism of injury; the medical, social, cognitive, social and behavioral consequences of TBI, evidence based outcomes measures that she and her team collect, and the role of physical therapists in the treatment of TBI. She provided an overview of BrainSTEPS. Created in 2007, BrainSTEPS is a school consulting program for children who have sustained TBI.

There are 31 BrainSTEPS teams across Pennsylvania and over 300 school consultants who monitor students through their graduation from high school. If you are interested in inviting your school (in Pennsylvania) to train a *Return to Learn Concussion Management Team*, register at [www.brainsteps.net](http://www.brainsteps.net)

**PPTA Pediatric Award:** The pediatric award is presented annually at the PPTA Conference. Please consider nominating someone for that you feel is worthy of this award. More information is on the PPTA website, [www.ppta.org](http://www.ppta.org). The criteria include:

Candidate must be a PPTA member

- Candidate should demonstrate excellence in pediatric physical therapy in one or more of the following areas: academia, clinical skills, research, teaching
- All persons nominating someone must submit a letter describing why that person is a good candidate
- A copy of the candidate's CV must be provided

Please send nominations to Theresa Crytzer or Heather Heardsman (email addresses below).

**Pediatric SIG Membership update:** We are updating the Pediatric SIG database. It's important that you send us your information so that you continue to receive emails about continuing education opportunities, plan for future conferences and receive updates. Please email the following information to Theresa Crytzer at [theresapt00@gmail.com](mailto:theresapt00@gmail.com) by 12/31/2014.

- Name
- Address
- Place of employment
- Preferred email address
- Practice setting (e.g. Hospital, school-based, outpatient, private practice, early intervention, academic-teaching, academic-research)

## **Upcoming Conferences**

**2/5-7/2015** APTA Combined Sections Meeting, Indianapolis, IN

**2/25-27/2015** International Seating Symposium held at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel & Convention Center in Nashville, TN

**10/23-25/2015** PPTA Conference, Pittsburgh, PA

**11/6-8/2015** APTA Section on Pediatrics Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA

## **Resources for You and Your Clients:**

Connect your clients with user friendly articles on various conditions and treatments through the following APTA website: [www.moveforwardPT.com](http://www.moveforwardPT.com).

Videos and Podcasts are available on a variety of topics that maybe of interest to your practice at [www.moveforwardpt.com](http://www.moveforwardpt.com).

For example a list of activities for children can be found at this link within the site:

<http://www.moveforwardpt.com/Children/Activities/Default.aspx#.VGrKG010zIU>

Don't forget to renew your license before the end of December!! Please don't hesitate to contact Theresa or Heather with questions or suggestions for the Pediatric SIG!

## **PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS**

By Doug Slick, Chair

I am honored to have been elected to the Chair of the PTA SIG at our October conference in Lancaster. I succeed Ann Lowrey, who will remain on the executive board, and serve as secretary. I intend to lean heavily on Ann, and her wealth of experience, as I move forward in this new capacity. I will also be relying on LeeAnn Derr, who will continue to serve as vice-chair.

I wanted to share a few thoughts about the proposed by-law amendments put forth by the APTA board, and how they impact PPTA members. The bylaws I'm referring to are those developed by the APTA Board of Directors, after receiving feedback from the PTA-Board Work Group regarding inclusion of PTAs in the association. Three are directly as a result of the process of the work group, the fourth is one proposed by a board member. The word inclusion is a touchstone throughout these proposals.

The first is to allow PTAs to serve as non-officer members of the board, a big step toward inclusion. It is important to note that PTAs currently serve as members of CAPTE, state boards of physical therapy and FSBPT. PTAs serving in these roles are representing PTs and PTAs in the consideration of issues impacting the association and the profession. There was, at one point, a motion being floated to create a designated board position for a PTA. That is not what the current amendment proposes. Under this proposition, a PTA board member would represent all members, PT and PTA alike, just as a PT member does.

The next bylaw proposal is to permit components to alter their bylaws to permit PTA members a full vote. The one-half vote, currently dictated by APTA by-laws, is the second-most common reason for PTAs to not join APTA. Cost of membership is the most frequently cited reason among PT and PTA non-members.

The third amendment proposed, is to permit PTAs to run for the office of chapter delegate. This proposal also provides for the elimination of the PTA Caucus by 2020. The thinking being that the culture of inclusiveness this would create, would negate the need for the caucus to give PTAs a voice. The five-year buffer would permit time for PTAs to achieve proportional involvement in the House of Delegates. A historical note: prior to 1998, PTAs were permitted to serve as chapter delegates, and to vote in the APTA House of Delegates.

The final motion is the one proposed by an individual board member, and not brought to the table by the PTA-Board Work Group. Under this proposal, the House would be directed to consider the creation of a section-like component to represent PTAs. This is a fluid concept that is still under development. The caucus is listening to the conversations surrounding this amendment, and waiting for the details to be formulated, before taking a stance. This proposition would also disband the PTA-Board Work Group.

As PTA SIG Chair and alternate delegate to the PTA Caucus, I plan to attend the spring delegates' meetings to remain abreast of these topics as they develop and mutate on their journey to the floor of the 2015 House of Delegates in National Harbor, MD. I plan to communicate information along this journey to the PTA SIG that we all may stay informed and engaged.

I would encourage all PTAs and PTs to visit the APTA website and follow along with these and other motions using the new, user-friendly HUB.

Thank you all for your attention. I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season!

## **REIMBURSEMENT SPECIALIST NEWS**

**By Sandy McCuen**

### **Keeping up with Regulation and Reimbursement Issues**

The PA Chapter of the APTA offers members a direct and timely way to receive reimbursement and regulation information. If you are a member and would like to be on the Reimbursement Blast email list, contact the PPTA office through email at [PAPTASSN@aol.com](mailto:PAPTASSN@aol.com) and request that your email address be added to the Blast list. All PTs and PTAs requesting to receive Blasts must be members of the PPTA. If you are administrative staff working with a PPTA member, just give us the member number of your colleague and you can submit your email address.

### **Reimbursement Specialist Member Benefit**

As a PT or PTA member of the PPTA, you and your support staff may contact the PPTA Reimbursement Specialist for current information on reimbursement and regulatory issues or to help solve related problems. Contact information is [sandra.mccuen@verizon.net](mailto:sandra.mccuen@verizon.net) or 717.623.6135. **If you email, please include your name and, if you're not a non PT or PTA member, the PPTA member's name and number that you work with, in the message and always complete the subject line.**

**Announcement: Effective January 1, 2015 Carole Galletta will be your new PPTA Reimbursement Specialist. Her contact information is [csgalletta@gmail.com](mailto:csgalletta@gmail.com) or 412-266-8717.**

It has been a pleasure to serve you for the past 18 years. I will miss all of you who I have come to know but am looking forward to retirement.

## **Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule for 2015 is Published**

Each mid-year CMS releases the final rule for the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule for the upcoming year. After considering comments submitted, the final rule was released on

November 1, 2014.

Here are the physical therapy highlights of 2015 **final** rule.

- An estimated negative 20.9% beginning April 1, 2015
  - Federal legislation prior to April 1, 2015 will be required to avert this change
- Therapy Cap increased to \$1940
- Changes to the malpractice RVUs resulting in a positive 1% for physical therapy in 2015
- Functional Limitation Reporting to continue without change
- Continued Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) with significant changes
  - 50 individual measures deleted
  - 20 individual measures added
  - The back pain measures group deleted
  - Successful reporting of 9 individual measures (less if 9 are not available for PT reporting) in 2015 to avoid the 2% payment penalty in 2017

## **PPTA to Present a Webinar on 2015 PQRS Reporting**

There are changes to PQRS reporting in 2015 for both the incentive payment and the potential payment penalty in 2017. PPTA will host a webinar in late December or early January to discuss these changes in detail. This will be an important event for PTs new to PQRS reporting and for those who have previously reported.

Watch for registration information through your email, the PPTA Blast and on the PPTA website, [www.ppta.org](http://www.ppta.org).

**Manual Medical Review of Medicare Therapy Claims above the \$3,700 Threshold Remains on Pause**

The Medicare Part B Outpatient Therapy Cap Exceptions Process continues to be in effect through March 31, 2015. As of mid-November, the associated manual medical review (MMR) remains on pause. This pause is related to the contract bidding process for Recovery Auditors (RAs). It is anticipated that MMR will resume sometime in 2015 and PA will return to pre-payment reviews for therapy claims at or above \$3700 per Medicare beneficiary. All PA provider claims that are paid without MMR during the pause can be subject to post payment review when the manual medical review resumes.

Manual medical review (MMR) applies to all Part B outpatient therapy settings and providers.

**Less Denials of Medicare Claims related to Functional Limitation Reporting**

There was a significant reduction in FLR denials after CMS implemented a fix to the Medicare Common Working File (CWF) on May 6, 2014. Claim line splitting and the 60 day resumption of care without previous reporting of the discharge and goal status have continued to cause denials. CMS implemented a fix for these issues to the CWF in mid-September.

If you have claim denials related to FLR (and you are confident that you reported the G-codes as required) you should continue to resubmit the claims for reprocessing.

**"Healthy Pennsylvania" – Medicaid Reform in Pennsylvania**

In response to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Pennsylvania has developed a Medicaid reform program called *Healthy Pennsylvania* (Healthy PA). It is a two level Private Coverage Options (PCO) program; Healthy and Healthy Plus.

For this program, PA is divided into 9 county based Regions of Operation. The region distributions and the PCO plans currently offered in each region can be accessed at <http://www.healthypa.com/>.

There are also informational videos available at <http://www.healthypa.com/>.

Member enrollment begins December 1, 2014 with coverage as early as January 1, 2015.

It is estimated that 600,000 PA residents will be eligible for the Healthy PA program.

**Highmark Blue Shield PMMP**

Provider profiles, representing 12 months of authorization and treatment data, were issued to enrolled providers in November. Based on your profile, you will be identified as a “Qualifying Provider” or a “Non-Qualifying Provider”. For 2015, Qualifying Providers will not be subject to the same medical necessity procedures as Non-Qualifying Providers.

Additional details of this change to PMMP will be provided to you directly by Highmark Blue Shield.

## **ABSTRACT**

Authors: Anne K. Galgon, Angela Tate, Margaret Fitzpatrick, Wendy W. Schoenewald

Title: Diagnostic accuracy and effectiveness of management of Lateral Canal Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo (LC BPPV) by physical therapists, using two intervention approaches.

The purpose of this study was to examine the agreement between physical therapists to identify nystagmus and diagnose BPPV and examine the effectiveness of two intervention approaches at managing LC BPPV. In the agreement study thirty eight subjects with complaints of positional vertigo and six clinicians participated. Clinicians independently identified nystagmus and made a diagnosis from video recorded eye movements of subjects during positional testing. Physical therapists showed moderate to almost perfect agreement in identifying nystagmus and almost perfect agreement in diagnosing BPPV. Data collection in the intervention study is ongoing and results will be available in 2015.

## **SCHOOL NEWS**

### **CCAC – BOYCE CAMPUS**

The Fall 2014 semester began with 26 returning second year students and 30 newly admitted first year students. Elections for the class of 2016 included:

Elizabeth Wick, President

Jessica Tomlinson, Vice-President

Chris Herrera, Treasurer

Glenn Bush, Secretary

Connie Phillips, Education Liaison

The fall has been busy for the faculty and students with the following activities:

- Four, 2<sup>nd</sup> year students Christy Blaker, Dennis Jendrzewski, Beth May and Charlene Steffel, were chosen to be student volunteers at the PPTA Annual State Conference in Lancaster, PA on October 31- November 2, 2014.
- Joe Bourgart, Educational Liaison of Class of 2015 Student Physical Therapy Association received the PPTA Student Leadership Award. Joe is the third student physical therapist assistant to receive this award. Joe's classmates and faculty are very proud of his achievement.
- Hosted PPTA Reimbursement and Regulations Update October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014.
- The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Poster Night was held on Thursday, November 13, 2014. Started in 1997, Poster Night provides graduating 2<sup>nd</sup> year students an evening before finals to showcase their academic work via their poster and portfolio. It also provides a means of program feedback from program graduates as well as an opportunity to discuss current PT/PTA issues.
- The Student Physical Therapy Association held several service learning projects for Physical Therapy Month in October including a backpack screening on campus as well as a coat and holiday toy collection for local families in need. They are also conducting the third annual Help Give Thanks: 2014 in collaboration with the Woodland Hills High School Interact Club and Churchill Wilkins Rotary Club to provide 50 complete Thanksgiving dinners to feed a family of 4-6 members through food/turkey donations to the Rainbow Kitchen Community Services in Homestead, PA.

## **DREXEL UNIVERSITY**

### ***Kudos***

DPT student, **Megan Watson**, won the PPTA Student Leadership Award!!! **DPT Students successfully LOGGED & BLOGGED for PT Research:** DPT students earned 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 2 categories: running and wellness! **Robert Longenecker** was 1<sup>st</sup> overall in running and **Danielle Addonizio** was a top fundraiser! **Dr. Maggie O'Neil**, associate professor, was invited to the White House Summit and Research Forum on Improved Health and Fitness for Americans with Disabilities, which took place in Washington in October.

### ***Welcome September's New Students***

DPT Class of 2017 was officially introduced to Philadelphia with an orientation scavenger hunt visiting many of the city's iconic sites. We also greeted our new PhD, DHSc and Certificate students!

### ***Department Offers New Doctoral Degree***

The Doctor of Health Sciences (DHSc) in Rehabilitation Sciences is an advanced academic doctoral degree program open to PTs and OTs seeking leadership roles in education and/or clinical practice. The program is available part-time and provided primarily online. The program includes foundation courses in the health professions, teaching, research, and the opportunity for focused study in a specialized area of clinical practice such as pediatrics, orthopedics and hand rehabilitation.

### ***Orthopaedic Residency Earns Accreditation***

Guided by residency director, **Dr. Noel Goodstadt**, our postprofessional Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Residency earned accreditation by the APTA!

### ***Parkway Health & Wellness Clinic & Research Officially Opens its Doors***

With a 3.9 million dollar Drexel investment in more than 23,000 sq ft, the vision of new interprofessional clinical teaching and practice space and integrated research labs was realized in November with a ribbon cutting ceremony led by Drexel's President John Fry. A spacious fully equipped PT clinic and gym, and gait, biomechanics, pediatrics, and musculoskeletal labs are among our beautiful new spaces.

### ***Running Assessments & Research***

**Dr. Robert Maschi**, assistant clinical professor, and colleagues are offering a new multipronged assessment for runners geared toward injured runners and those aspiring to improve performance. **Dr. Clare Milner**, associate professor, and PhD student are conducting 5 running injury research projects with hopes of identifying reasons behind the high rate of injury sustained by runners as well as providing solutions for the problem.

## **DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY**

### **FACULTY**

Rob Martin assisted with organizing as well as participating as a presenter and faculty member at the most recent International Society of Hip Arthroscopy (ISHA) meeting in October in Rio DeJanerio.

Dr. Mary Marchetti had two abstracts accepted for presentation at CSM: "Results of an Educational Program Developed for Non-Professional Staff in Assisted Living Facilities and Personal Care Homes on Fall Risk and Fall Prevention" (Home Health) & "Development of an Educational Program for Non-professional Staff in Assisted Living Facilities and Personal Care Homes on Fall Risk and Fall Prevention" (Geriatric).

Drs. Martin & Kivlan had two abstracts accepted by the Orthopaedic Section for presentation at CSM: "Ischiofemoral Impingement: Defining the Ischial-Lesser Trochanteric Space" & "Greater Trochanter-Ischial Impingement: A Potential Source of Posterior Hip Pain."

Greg Marchetti was an invited speaker at the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine's annual conference in November. The title of his presentation was, "Evidence-Based Physical Therapy Care for Spine Pain."

Ben Kivlan successfully defended his dissertation, "The effect of ASTYM<sup>®</sup> treatment on muscle performance" in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Rehabilitation Science from Duquesne University.

Chris Carcia co-authored an article in the October issue of the *International Journal of Sports Physical Therapy* entitled, "Validation of a new method of assessing scapular anterior-posterior tilt".

## **STUDENTS**

In honor of National Physical Therapy Month, the Duquesne University Physical Therapy Association student organization, through the coordination of student Rachel Kotiah, raised over \$1000 for the Alzheimer's Association annual Walk to End Alzheimer's, held at Heinz Field on October 11, 2014 (award.

Congratulations to Talia Scozio, Class of 2015, recipient of the pt GROUP Scholarship. THE pt GROUP Scholarship is awarded to a final year student based on outstanding clinical performance.

Congratulations to Alicia Timmins, Class of 2015, recipient of the Daniel V. Unico Scholarship. This scholarship was created by the Unico family and is awarded to a final year student in recognition of their outstanding academic achievement in the PT program.

## **ST. FRANCIS UNIVERSITY**

Multiple research poster/presentations from Saint Francis University will be on display over the course of the fall/winter. They include:

-“The Effectiveness of Physical Therapy as a Supplementary Treatment for Asthma Patients: A Literature Review” will be presented by Dr. William Hanlon, PT, DPT, MSPT, OCS; Brittany Aaron SPT; Liza Catania SPT; Teodorico Heckman SPT; Jennifer Ravotti SPT; Desirae Skadal SPT; Lauren Xiques SPT at Nemaocolin Asthma Conference.

-“The Relationship of Proximal Factors to Foot Adduction Strength in a Healthy Population”, presented by Derek Heisler SPT, Curtis Kindel PT, MPT, OCS, Lauren Klein SPT, James Seifried SPT, Mitchell Straub SPT, and Nathan Turco SPT at PPTA Annual Conference in Lancaster, PA.

-“Funding a Physical Therapy Education: Concerns of Rising Student Loan Debt Compared to a Starting Salary” presented by Nicholas Bancroft SPT, Kathryn Chelko SPT, Clay Dodson SPT, Joseph Gocek SPT, Kathryn Robinholt SPT, Mark Boland PT, DPT, OCS, and Ivan Mulligan PT, DSc, SCS, ATC, CSCS at PPTA Annual Conference in Lancaster, PA.

-“The Effects of Lifetime Physical Activity and Other Factors on Occurrence of Total Knee Arthroplasty and Recovery Time” presented by Brittany Shall SPT, Irene Boyle SPT, Zykia LaRue SPT, Kelsey Stoner SPT, Rebecca Webster SPT, Stephen LoRusso, Ph.D at PPTA Annual Conference in Lancaster, PA.

- “Urinary Incontinence: The Silent Embarrassment of Female Athletes” by Lauren Wingard SPT, Heather Kindel, PT, MPT, and Stephen LoRusso, PhD, will be presented at Combined Sections Meeting of the APTA in Indianapolis, IN in February 2015.

-“Relationship Between Measurements of Medial Longitudinal Arch Height and Selected Foot Muscle Strength in Vibram Fivefingers® and Shod Runners” by Gurtizen, Gregory; Lee, Julia; Penksa, Maria; Schuh, Matthew; Staily, Christy; Stodart, Bill will be presented at Combined Sections Meeting of the APTA in Indianapolis, IN in February 2015.

In addition to the numerous research activities, Saint Francis University has installed a Bonita 8-camera motion capture system along with a Trigno 8-channel wireless EMG system purchased in part through a Lee Initiatives Grant and support from the University. The systems will be utilized in the Human Performance Laboratory of the DiSepio Institute of Rural Health and Wellness for research, education of allied health students, sports performance, and gait analysis.

## **TEMPLE UNIVERSITY**

**Faculty News:** Congratulations are due to Dr. Geoffrey Wright and Dr. Richard Lauer who have both become tenured, Associate Professors! The college has a new Dean, Dr. Laura Siminoff, who is a nationally renowned researcher in the area of cancer treatment decision-making, informed consent, health communication, health disparities, bioethics, and issues of organ and tissue donation.

**Alumni News:** Six alumni (and two faculty members and 14 current students) traveled to Guatemala in August to provide therapy services to the poor, disabled, and sick. Our alumni continue to assist with applicant interviews and third-year student resume development and reviews. Thank you, alumni, for your continued mentoring of our current students!

**Student News:** The First Annual Pinning Ceremony was held on October 24<sup>th</sup>. In this emotional celebration, our current students were inducted by their peers and faculty into the Profession of Physical Therapy. The event was witnessed by almost 350 family and friends. Many thanks to Mary Lou Galantino, PT, PhD, MS, MSCE for being our keynote speaker.

Goodbye to Gustavo Leao Passos, our exchange student from Brazil. Gustavo has been an excellent addition to our classes providing an international perspective to our cohort of students. At our Evidenced-Based Presentation Day two scholarships were awarded. Congratulations to Assaf Zoor, the Hyman Dervitz Scholarship Award recipient and to Samantha Perone, the Rachelle DiSalvio Scholarship recipient.

**Department News:** Welcome to our DPT Class of 2017. Fifty- four students from 9 states and 3 countries began their DPT studies at Temple University in early July.

The Department of Physical Therapy at Temple University is proud to announce the inaugural Clinical Education Appreciation Day was held on the Health Science Campus on September 13, 2014. This event that was provided at no charge for Temple clinical educators.

Events included PA State approved continuing education content including: Management of Medically Complex Patients, Working with Students in the Clinical Environment, and Overview of Biomedical Ethics and Jurisprudence (required for PA licensure in 2014). For more information about our next event please contact, Jane Fagan, Co-Director of Clinical Education, at [jane.fagan@temple.edu](mailto:jane.fagan@temple.edu)

## THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY

### Faculty News:

#### **Presentations:**

Robertson E, Welk D, Dole RL, Hergenroeder A, Hogle L, **Johnston T**, Schrieber J, **Wainwright SF**, Hack LM. Educating Patients, Colleagues and Students in the 21st Century. Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association, October 2014.

Gorgey AS, Forrest GF, **Johnston TE**. The Outcomes of Clinical Trials Utilizing Electrical Stimulation Training in Persons with Spinal Cord Injury. American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, October 2014.

**Wainwright SF**, Ankeny M, Earle A. Implementation of an Interprofessional and Interactive Curricular System. Education session at Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions, October 24, 2014, Las Vegas NV.

#### **Posters:**

**Johnston TE**, Schmidt-Read M, Marino RJ, Oleson CV, Leiby BE, Modlesky CM. Musculoskeletal Effects of Two Functional Electrical Stimulation Cycling Paradigms for People With Spinal Cord Injury. Presented at two conferences: American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, October 2014. American Society for Bone and Mineral Research, September 2014.

### Student News:

Scholarships: Two students received Fox Scholarships: **Adrianna Carey and Rachel Yamin** These scholarships are awarded to students demonstrating a commitment to working with older adults. **Timothy Llewellyn** received the 2014 Otho Davis Scholarship at the awards banquet in November.

Fourteen students represented TJU at the National Student Conclave in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

## UNIVERSITY OF THE SCIENCES

Join us at **APTA's Combined Sections Meeting!** Many USciences students, alumni, and faculty will be presenting at CSM.

### **USciences reception for alumni, faculty, and clinical faculty**

Friday, February 6

6:30 – 8:30 pm

JW Marriott Room 312

USciences is happy to announce **new faculty members:**

**Margie Roos PT, DPT, NCS, PhD** returns to USciences as an Associate Professor after a hiatus at University of Delaware as a Research Physical Therapist while receiving her PhD in Biomechanics and Movement Science with a concentration in motor control. Her research interests include dynamic balance and walking activity in people post stroke and the influence of dynamic balance on walking.

**Michele (Shelly) Lewis PT, DPT** comes to USciences as an Assistant Professor and Associate Director of Clinical Education. She has 17 years of varied clinical experience, including involvement with the Philadelphia chapter of the ALS Association. Previously, Dr. Lewis was the Center Coordinator of Clinical Education at Pennsylvania Hospital.

**Britta Schasberger PT, MSPT, EdD** comes to USciences as an Assistant Professor. She is also a developmental specialist and educator with over fifteen years of clinical experience. Previously, Dr. Schasberger served as the developmental coordinator for the neonatal intensive care units of Main Line Health System. Her interests include neuromotor development and assessment, mixed methods research, family-centered early intervention, and torticollis.

- **Awards:**
  - **USciences Leahy Scholarship: Martin Gaffey, Jessica Zarco, and Alex Skacel** (DPT 2015)
  - **USciences' Bright Idea Award** for teaching innovation:
    - **Lisa Hogleund:** "Using ApprenNet and Group Presentations to Promote Learning, Opportunities For Peer Feedback, and Reflection In A Large Face-to-Face Class"
    - **Eric Pelletier and Kimberly Ward:** "Academic-Community Partnerships for Experiential Learning, Evidence-Based Practice, and Knowledge Translation"
  
- **Presentations:**
  - Jefferson Center for Interprofessional Education 2014 Conference, Philadelphia, PA, October, 2014:
    - **Lora Packel** along with interprofessional faculty: "Pilot of an interprofessional communication workshop with standardized patients"
    - **Kimberly Ward**, along with interprofessional faculty: "An interprofessional education workshop integrating pharmacy, PT, OT, and PA students and faculty"
  
- **Publications:**
  - **Hogleund, LT**, et al. Physical performance measurement in persons with patellofemoral osteoarthritis; a pilot study. *J Back Musculoskeletal Rehabil.* Epub 2014 Aug 5.

## **WIDENER UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Robert Wellmon, associate professor of physical therapy, has been appointed to the Editorial Board of PTNow as the editor for interactivity and analytics. In this role, he will work to increase the interactivity of the PTNow ([www.PTNow.org](http://www.PTNow.org)) website and monitor usage. Sponsored and developed by the American Physical Therapy Association, PTNow is a web-based resource designed to help physical therapists make the best possible use of evidence in patient care. The peer-reviewed resources developed make the process of finding credible evidence easier for clinicians, researchers, and students.

Congrats to Dr. Kerstin Palombaro, PT, PhD, CAPS on received the PPTA's Humanitarian Award for 2014. In addition to teaching full time at Widener, Dr. Palombaro volunteers her time and talents. She has an active role in Love without Boundaries, and completed a service-learning project in China early in 2014. More locally, Dr. Palombaro teaches yoga, organizes a CYO cross-country team, and seizes opportunities to promote wellness, especially for older adults.

Widener's clinical education opportunities are expanding. Alanna DiBiasi, DPT class of 2015, completed a fulltime clinical experience at the Hillside International Clinic in Belize. Alanna was able to combine fulfilling her requirements for clinical education, and combine service learning in the Toledo district of Belize. She had the opportunity to provide home care services, as well as "outpatient" type services in a permanent clinic, as well as through a rolling clinic that traveled throughout the district. Alanna worked with patients with a variety of neuromuscular and musculoskeletal conditions, including overuse injuries related to machete use or grinding corn. She returned with many stories to share and with a culturally enriched view of physical therapy and people in general.

The Chester Community Physical Therapy Student-Run Pro Bono Clinic (CCPTC) is excited to celebrate 5 years of operation this fall. More than 250 uninsured or underinsured clients have received more than 3500 physical therapy visits over the past five years. More than 30 licensed physical therapy clinicians have volunteered their time in providing clinical supervision for the students. Thank you to all who have helped to make this endeavor a success! To learn more about volunteering supervision time in the clinic, go to <http://www.chestercommunitypt.com/volunteer-pt-supervisor>.

The Students have promoted the CCPTC locally and nationally. In early November, seven students represented the student-run pro bono clinic in Milwaukee, Wisconsin at the National Student Conclave. They had a booth in the exhibit hall and networked around student-run pro bono clinics and the PT Pro Bono National Honor Society. The same weekend, another seven students represented the student-run clinic at the PPTA conference the same weekend. They delivered a platform presentation describing the growth of the clinic across five years. The students will be hosting the 3rd Annual Physical Therapy Pro-Bono Clinic Conference and Networking Event March of 2015.

Widener University will be well represented at this year's CSM in Indianapolis, IN, Dr. Bob Wellmon and colleagues will present a paper, *Changing Student Attitudes Toward Interprofessional Learning and Collaboration: Evidence for the Effectiveness of Partnering with Health Care Mentors in the Academic Setting*. Dr. Ellen Erdman and Dr. Sam Pierce will present, *The Use of Hippotherapy with an Adolescent s/p Traumatic Brain Injury: A Case Study*. Poster presentations include, Dr. Kerstin Palombaro and colleagues, *The Impact of Staff Education on Improving Osteoporosis Knowledge Base and Clinical Practice Patterns in Physical and Occupational Therapists*; Dr. Kristin Lefebvre with class of 2014 graduates, Dr. A. Adel, Dr. D. Jensen, Dr. A. Himelright, Dr. M. Pevar, and Dr. N. Ribsam, *The Respiratory Benefits of Yoga*; Dr. Bob Wellmon, Dr. Dawn Gulick, Prof. Mark Paterson, and C. Gulick, *Concurrent Validity and Interrater Reliability of Two Goniometric Mobile Applications*;

Dr. Kristin Lefebvre with Dr. Bob Wellmon and D. Ferry, *Fostering Effective*

*Interprofessional Collaboration Skills Among Nursing and Physical Therapy Students Using a Patient Code Simulation Scenario.* This was also presented at a conference on Interprofessional Care for the 21st: Redefining Education and Practice, in October, 2014.