

Volume 24  
Number 2  
Summer 2010

[www.aptasce-wm.org](http://www.aptasce-wm.org)

## President's Message

The Section now has an official Executive Director, Anne Dougherty. Anne began the job a few months ago, and working with Sharon Kneebone, has helped begin a process of coordinating and improving internal Section communications. We have initiated a monthly conference call program for the Section Board and separate calls to coordinate various committees and special interest groups.

We have focused on a re-analysis of our strategic plan with emphasis on implementation and follow-up on the prioritized items in the plan. Specifically, we have collected the data from the recent survey on the possibility of a Section Journal. We had approximately 100 responses representing about 10% of membership. The majority of the respondents indicated that we need a Journal and that the Journal should be on-line and peer reviewed. We have decided to form a small task force to perform a feasibility study on the On-line Journal concept. Dr. David Greathouse has agreed to help with this project and as of this writing the other members of the task force were not confirmed.

The task-force will be asked to report to the Section Board prior to CSM in New Orleans. The task-force is charged to investigate the cost and work hours needed to establish and then manage an on-line journal. Any members interested in having input into, or joining this project, please contact me at your earliest convenience. Once the task-force completes its work, and if the project is deemed feasible, we will begin work on establishing the journal. If and

when that day comes, we will need organizational, editorial, and reviewer support, as well as submissions of manuscripts for review. I will keep everyone posted on the progress of the Section Journal Task Force.

The Section Board has authorized another task force, under the direction of Harriett Loehne, to officially pursue clinical specialization in wound management through the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties. Harriett will report back to the Wound Management SIG and the Section periodically on the progress of this task force. Harriett and the Wound Management SIG are also working on the development of audio conferences in Wound Management. The other two arms of the Section are planning on following up in the future with possible audio conference programs.

All three arms of the Section receive frequent requests for both information and support in a variety of specialty related issues. Unfortunately, the vast majority of this activity is related to threats to various aspects of our practice. There is a continued effort in various states (Mississippi, North Carolina, and New York) as I write this article, to limit or eliminate physical therapists from providing and billing for clinical electrophysiologic testing. The Section has been working with the American Congress of Electromyography to oppose these threats.

Pam Unger continues to be very active with Harriett Loehne and the Wound Management

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Newsletter of the  
CEWMS of the  
American Physical  
Therapy Association

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## EMG Corner 2010

By Jeff Slear PT ECS

As has been noted previously, legislative action in regard to physical therapists performing EMG studies has been minimal. That trend continues over the past several months. However that is not to say all has been quiet.

Recently, workers compensation boards in both New York and Mississippi published guidelines that were not favorable to physical therapists doing EMG studies. Each board inserted language that would provide payment for EMG studies only to physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians or neurologists. This continues to be a trend that has been reported on previously i.e. the payment for EMG studies being restricted to physicians, thus eliminating PT's in this manner. Both the Section and the APTA are working with the respective chapters to remedy these situations.

Also the educational guidelines concerning electrophysiological testing continue to be revised. Sonny Mills and Andy Robinson have made much progress in this area.

As a final reminder, please contact the Section, APTA, or your state PT organization if you become aware of any situation that may seek to limit the performance of EMG testing by a physical therapist. Only in this way can we all maintain our freedom to perform EMG studies.

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Newsletter (ISSN 0889-7824) is published three times per year. Annual subscription rate is \$30/USA and \$40 foreign. ©1991. All advertisements in the newsletter are accepted on the basis of conformance with ethical standards of the CEWMS. No effort is made to verify accuracy, nor does the printing of advertisements imply endorsement.

**Advertising prices:** Full-page/\$800, 3/4 page/\$600, 1/2 page/\$400, 1/4 page/\$200. These rates are for all three issues. The price is prorated for ads placed in less than three issues.

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## President's Message

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SIG in their efforts to respond to threats to wound management practice in physical therapy.

On the electrotherapy front, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services are changing the regulations regarding how therapy services in skilled nursing facilities (SNF) are reimbursed for residents receiving subacute care (Medicare Part A). The new rules are scheduled to go into effect on 10/1/2010. Mark Richards, of Accelerated Care Plus, made us aware of these proposed changes and sent the following summary:

In their instructions on how to account for a therapist's time when treating Medicare Part A patients, Medicare uses an example that includes a physical agent modality, TENS. In the example, Medicare states that certain aspects of a TENS treatment provided in a SNF therapy department are "unskilled". Therefore, those minutes of therapy cannot be counted toward the patient's total treatment time. This directly contradicts Medicare's National Coverage Determination on Wound Therapy where Medicare states, "Unsupervised use of ES or

electromagnetic therapy for wound therapy will not be covered, as this use has not been found to be medically reasonable and necessary." (*Medicare National Coverage Determinations Manual, Chapter 1, Part 4 (Section 270.1, B, 3)*). In other words, for the treatment of wounds, Medicare states that all aspects of ES (electrical stimulation) and electromagnetic treatments require the skilled services of a physician or therapist, even if provided in an unattended, supervised manner.

Even though aspects of certain TENS and other modality treatments may be unattended, they are always supervised so that the skilled services of a therapist are applied on an ongoing basis to insure that the treatment of each patient is safe and efficacious.

Please join the Christine Conroy, [cconro@midwestern.edu](mailto:cconro@midwestern.edu) and Meryl Gersh, [meryl.gersh@ewu.edu](mailto:meryl.gersh@ewu.edu) in their efforts to help protect our scope of practice and the skilled therapy services involved when administering physical agent modalities.

Robert A. Sellin, PT, DSc, ECS  
*President*

## Nominating Committee Report

**By Rose Hamm, Committee Chair**  
**Sharon Lucich**  
**Lisa Van Loos**

In keeping with the revised by-laws, during Cycle 2 (2010), the following executive positions will be elected in December 2010, scheduled to take office in 2011: Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 2 Nominating Committee positions. The slate will be published in the November newsletter and elections will be held in December. Duties of the positions can be accessed on the Section's website.

Anyone interested in serving the Section in one of these positions, or in nominating someone else (with that individual's permission), should send the name and position to Rose Hamm at [rhammpt@msn.com](mailto:rhammpt@msn.com).

All nominees will be carefully considered by the Nominating Committee and a slate of qualified Section members will be submitted to the Membership in November. For the first time, the APTA support staff that is contracted to assist the Section will be assisting with the distribution of ballots. Many kudos to the previous Nominating Committee Chairs who have printed, folded, stuffed, sealed, stamped, and received thousands of ballots in the past. Thank you to all who give of their time and expertise to make our Section so outstanding and we look forward to receiving our nominations.

# 4 Membership Matters

## Membership Matters

For me, Fall is the time of year for goals. At the University we start working on our annual evaluations, tenure packets, and faculty goals in the Fall. At home, Fall is the time for yard work, landscaping, and outdoor painting or repairs (at least it is in Texas!). Reflecting on my work and personal goals made me also think about service goals and so I wanted to give you an update on the CEWM Membership Committee goals for 2010.

At the February 2010 business meeting the membership supported the idea of having the Section represented at three annual APTA conferences: Annual Conference (AC), National Student Conclave (NSC), and Combined Sections (CSM). Since the Section typically only exhibits at CSM, this was an exciting new goal for us.

Toward meeting that goal, Sharon Lucich took the booth to AC this past June in Boston – thanks to Sharon and the other Section members who helped set up and staff the booth! Thanks also to Marcy Turkos and Jen Gardner who are taking the booth to Cherry Hill, NJ in October for NSC. For CSM 2011, we are

already making plans to be in New Orleans. Working with Anne Daugherty, the Section's newly hired Executive Director, has made the planning and logistics of exhibiting at conferences so much easier. Thank you Anne for all you do!

Developing templates for improved communication regarding membership was also a goal. Having Anne involved with the Section has been a big help with this – we now have faster, more efficient welcoming of new members as well as follow up with dropped or lapsed members.

Setting up a listserv for the WMSIG was another goal. By now, all Section members should have received an invitation to join the WMSIG's new listserv. If you haven't and you would like to join, please email Sharon Lucich, WMSIG Membership Chair, at [slucich@iupui.edu](mailto:slucich@iupui.edu). We hope the listserv will foster easier networking and communication among WMSIG members.

Making a few changes to the website was also a goal. We've added a new tab called "Get Involved" that will list volunteer opportunities for the various Section committees along with

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Section Booth in Boston. From the left back, Bob Sellin, Sharon Lucich, and from the front, Meryl Gersh, and Pam Unger.

# WMSIG Update

Harriett B. Loehne, PT, DPT, CWS, FACCWS  
President, hloehne@earthlink.net

## SUMMER 2010

Hope your summer is cooling down temperature-wise, but that all are enjoying a fun and restful time.

The WMSIG Council has been busy with three exciting new programs

these past few months. Thanks to Karen Gibbs and her team, we have a List Serve up and running on the Section website! Karen has done an enormous job, and we all are most appreciative. Check it out, and utilize it for questions, thoughts, etc.

A new initiative, approved by the Section Board of Directors (BOD), is a plan to provide Audio Conferences on wound management. This program will be directed by the Chair of our Education Committee, Melissa Johnson, and put into place with her committee members Jeanna Driscoll and Beth Altenburger. We hope to offer 1-2 a year the first year, and possibly increase after that. Details will follow as soon as Melissa and her committee finalize the plans. This program will provide an opportunity for continuing education at your leisure, as the broadcasts will be available on CD if you are unable to attend the live presentation. We hope especially to target the PT and PTA who are not wound specialists, but who treat patients with wounds and want and need to keep up with the current evidence-based standards of practice.

Our biggest task is ahead of us: the quest for PT Wound Management Specialization. The Section BOD created a Task Force at the August 17, 2010, meeting to pursue a petition to the American Board of PT Specialties (ABPTS) for the specialization. I am honored to accept the Chair position of this Task Force – and soon will be in touch asking for help in this important endeavor – for us and for those that come behind us for years to come. It will require work, that is certain, but with enough of us volunteering, it should not be a burden on any one person. And won't it be worth it to sit for that first exam and be one of the very first PTs recognized by the APTA as a Wound Management (WM) Specialist?!

I foresee eleven Sections for this Task Force, coinciding with the requirements of the ABPTS.

I soon will appoint Section Chairs, and they eagerly will be looking for PTs to work with them to fulfill the Petition Sections. Please look over the following, and if you know now that you would like to work on one of the committees, let me know as soon as you can, and I will pass that information along to the Chairs. They will be able to give you details of the responsibilities and time commitment – you will be under no obligation to accept appointment to the committee if it will not work with your schedule.

1. Demand
2. Need
3. Number of practitioners, time spent
4. Specialized knowledge (practice analysis)
5. Specialized functions (practice analysis)
6. Education and training
7. Transmission of knowledge
8. Petition signatures
9. Definitions: name, definition, title
10. Eight year pro forma financial statement
11. Minimum eligibility requirements

The Practice Analysis has been done by Joe McCulloch, Stan McCallon, and their group at LSU, and they have very graciously agreed to let us use it. So the majority of that work is done – it will involve extracting the data we already have.

This work is **Phase I**. Should the Petition be approved by ABPTS and the APTA HOD, we will move to **Phase II** – development of the Exam. That will be another Task Force. And the good news there is that if we can use enough questions from current Specialization exams, those that participate in item writing will be able to sit for the first exam! **Phase III** is to produce the Exam – another Task Force. And that adds up to at best 3 years, but probably closer to five. Depends on how many of us work and how hard we work!

Don't forget that there still are many opportunities for volunteerism in Haiti for victims of the devastating earthquake. One request we have received is from the University of Miami, Project MediShare, asking for PTs of all specialties, but especially those in WM. The commitment is a minimum of one week, Saturday to Saturday. The website gives details on vaccination recommendations, etc.:

<http://www.projectmedishare.org/how-to-help/volunteer/>

Lisa Goodfriend was a volunteer recently, and  
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## WMSIG Update

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is willing to communicate with anyone who has any questions about the experience. Her email is lhgoodfriend@aol.com. She writes that they now are in a building, rather than a field hospital.

If you are not on our membership list for WMSIG, please let our Membership Chair, Sharon Lucich, know at slucich@iupui.edu. There are no dues or costs, and the more members we have, the more we will be able to accomplish with regulatory, practice, and reimbursement issues – as well as seeking a PT WM Specialization.

Mark your calendars for February 9-12,

2011, in New Orleans, for CSM. We will have a preconference course, lecture and lab, on Debridement, and great programming throughout the conference. Stephanie Woelfel, the Program Chair of the Section, will have details. As for WMSIG, we will have our traditional roundtable and business meeting, during which we will elect a new *President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Nominating Committee member*. Let our Nominating Chair, Sharon Lucich, slucich@iupui.edu, know if you are interested in running for any of the above offices.

Look forward to working with all of you on our new projects!

## Wound Management Special Interest Group Membership Committee Update

I would like to extend an invitation to any CEWM Member who has an interest in Wound Management to please join the WMSIG. There are no additional dues required and the benefits of receiving wound management specific information may help provide guidance for your professional growth.

We are very excited to have launched our very own **CEWM-WMSIG ListServe** on Yahoo Groups. Yahoo Groups is a private forum designed to allow communication among people who share the same interest, and in our case, wound management. We have to thank Karen Gibbs for all of her time and effort setting up this site. Our moderators will be Karen Gibbs, Kristen Thurman and myself. All WMSIG Members are encouraged to join this ListServe, since it will be an excellent way to stay up to date with WMSIG specific issues. If you are a member of the WMSIG and have not received an email with your invitation to join, please contact me so that I can get your invitation sent out.

I also want to make sure that everyone has marked their calendars to attend the WMSIG Business Meeting, which will be held at CSM in New Orleans this coming February (2011). The WMSIG Business Meeting is an excellent opportunity to learn firsthand what is going on with WMSIG, to meet your peers, as well as an opportunity to get involved in our many committees. We hope to see you there!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any membership related questions or issues.

Sharon Lucich, PT, CWS  
WMSIG Membership Chair  
slucich@iupui.edu

## Section Member Receives Awards

Dr. Meryl Gersh, a recent Lucy Blair Service award winner, has been recognized by Eastern Washington University by receiving the Eastern Washington University Trustees Medal Award. The award is the highest form of recognition for faculty achievement the University bestows. Meryl has also been recognized as the Physical Therapist of the Year by the Washington State Chapter. Congratulations Dr. Meryl Gersh!



Membership Matters  
*Continued from page 4*

key contacts. It is currently under construction but as our new President gets us working toward strategic plan goals, I expect there will be multiple volunteer opportunities listed here shortly. Be sure to check out the "Get Involved" section sometime in the next couple of months and pick out something you'd like to work on.

We are also developing a Facebook Fan Page for the Section. If anyone is Facebook savvy and would like to help with this project, please let me know. Per the strategic plan, the webmaster is working with APTA in developing a "members only" section of our website. I've also been working with our webmaster to locate a better way for us to store Section photos for easy viewing and downloading by members. I expect all of these changes to be implemented before the end of the year.

I think the Membership Committee has made good progress toward our goals so far and

## Welcome New Members

**March 24, 2010 to August 30, 2010**

Kelsey Brown	Katelyn Koeninger
Jenna Mueth	Matthew McLean
Amanda Bair	Blaine Gibson
Tirzah Davis	Sarah Luin
John Nunez	Melissa Marquez
Casey Heckman	Lauren Golliday
Lilliam Santa-Doak	Kate Dibbin
Sarah Britton	Daniel Draper

I fully expect us to have that website whipped into shape before the year ends. The Committee will meet during CSM in February to set goals for 2011 so if you have ideas on how we can better serve you, please let me know. Take care and have a great Fall – I look forward to seeing everyone at CSM ☺

Karen Gibbs  
*CEWM Membership Chair*

# 7 New Members



RMUoHP offers specialized programs in  
**Electroneuromyography**  
and  
**Electrophysiology!**

- **Basic Electroneuromyographic Training Program – September 19 – 25, 2010 and January 23 – 29, 2011** – Interested in getting into the ENMG field? Join us for two intensive weeks of study and hands-on experience in both upper and lower extremity!
- **Intermediate Electroneuromyographic Training Program – December 2 – 4, 2010** – Expand your skills in electrophysiologic testing and knowledge of neurophysiology, pathology, and pathophysiology.
- **ECS Examination Preparatory Course – January 7 – 9, 2011** – This course is designed to prepare physical therapists to successfully complete the ECS examination as offered by ABPTS.
- **22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Electroneuromyographic Symposium – March 25 – 26, 2011** – Join us for this evidence-based information exchange and learn from nation-wide experts!
- **Doctoral program in Clinical Electrophysiology – Fall 2011** – Earn your terminal doctorate in this highly specialized field! Students who enroll in RMUoHP's degree programs enjoy a **limited-residency model** which allows them to balance professional, personal, and academic commitments. Students attend several one-week instructional modules at our Provo, UT campus and complete all coursework and dissertation from their home community!

**To register or for more information, visit [www.rmuohp.edu](http://www.rmuohp.edu), email [info@rmuohp.edu](mailto:info@rmuohp.edu), or call 1-866-780-4107.**

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