

August 16, 2007

To Members of School-Based Special Interest Group (SIG):

Greetings from the Executive Board of the School-Based SIG! We met last week by conference call and decided to send you this bulletin. It highlights the SIG and also includes news of the Section on Pediatrics, from APTA's Annual Conference, which took place in Denver during the last week of June.

To date, the SIG has 277 members. Please invite your colleagues to join, by submitting a registration form: <http://www.pediatricapta.org/pdfs/SIGSignupsheet.pdf>

The School-Based SIG held its first organizational meeting in February at the Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) in Boston. At that time, we began to discuss our mission and we established work groups. The work groups are listed below, along with their leaders and board liaisons, whom you may contact to join a group.

Post-School Transition for Young Adults

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Research

Chair & SIG Board Liaison: Laurie Ray

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Outcomes for School-Based Interventions

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One key issue we discussed last week is the role of the physical therapist assistant in educational environments. The SIG plans to conduct a study comparing state practice acts across the country, with regard to legal privileges and restrictions for PTAs. We will then be better able to contribute toward the development of future revisions to these practice acts. Lisa Protsman, PT, PhD, will be heading that effort. If you wish to assist, please contact her at: [LProtsman@nwresd.K12.or.us](mailto:LProtsman@nwresd.K12.or.us)

Laurie Ray, PT, the School SIG's Southeastern Region V Representative, has just written a news item on Response to Intervention for the Section on Pediatrics Newsletter. This might also be a topic for work group activity.

Regional III STEP Conferences have been successful and well attended. The purpose of these conferences is to share the information disseminated at the III STEP Conference that took place in Salt Lake City, July 15-21, 2005. The theme of the Summer Institute on Translating Evidence into Practice was *Linking Movement Science and Intervention*. It was jointly sponsored by the Section on Pediatrics and the Neurology Section. Regional conferences were held in Minneapolis on August 25-26, 2006, in Dallas on November 10-11, 2006, and in Philadelphia on April 13-14, 2007. The same conference will be repeated on October 5-6, 2007, in Portland, OR, and through a two-day preconference course at next February's CSM. The September issue of *PT Magazine* will feature an article about III STEP. A summary of take-home messages can be found on the Section's website at: <http://www.iiistep.org/IIISTEP/IIISTEP-Top-10.pdf> Also, a PowerPoint presentation summarizes the key points of each of the III STEP lecturers: <http://www.iiistep.org/IIISTEP/III-STEPpowerpointoverview.pdf>; it was written by Genevieve Pinto-Zipp, PT, PhD.

Many of us attended the superb Providing School-based Physical Therapy Under IDEA Course at UMDNJ in Newark, April 21-22, 2007, sponsored by the Section. If you missed it, you can attend another one in Chatanooga, TN, April 11-12, 2008. This conference is expected to be offered once per year, and from now on will be sponsored by the School SIG. Tentative plans are underway to hold the 2009 IDEA conference in Dallas, TX. A similar conference on early intervention is planned for July 2008, probably in a western state.

The World Confederation of Physical Therapy (WCPT) Conference was held in Vancouver, British Columbia, June 2-6, 2007. Barbara Connolly, PT, EdD, FAPTA, the immediate past president of the Section, spearheaded the initiative to adopt an international subgroup on pediatrics. The "International Organisation of Physical Therapists in Paediatrics" (IOPTP) was officially inaugurated, with 20 founding nations, listed alphabetically: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Cyprus, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Trinidad/Tobago, United Kingdom, and United States. Barbara Connolly was elected president, and Sheree York, PT, MS, PCS, the current president of the Section, was elected secretary. Other officers represent the Netherlands, New Zealand, and Norway. A meeting of the IOPTP is scheduled for 2009 in Barcelona. As APTA members, we are all members of WCPT, of which English is the official language: [www.wcpt.org](http://www.wcpt.org). The IOPTP has established an

international pediatric forum, similar to the Section's listserv; it can be accessed at: <http://www.wcpt.org/smfforum/index.php?PHPSESSID=51b1d56dcbd879371727884545de24ae&board=53.0> The next WCPT Conference will take place in Amsterdam in 2011.

The Section's Research Summit II is scheduled for October 26-28, 2008, in Alexandria, VA. Physical therapist researchers, along with researchers from related disciplines, will focus on interventions for children with disabilities in the birth-to-three population.

This year's Advanced Clinical Practice in Pediatrics Course will take place in Indianapolis, IN, November 2-4, 2007. This is an excellent course, particularly for those studying for the PCS exam.

Next year's Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) will take place February 6-9, 2008, in Nashville, TN. To date, the following schedule of pediatric programming is planned:

**Preconference Courses:**

- III STEP (cosponsored with Neurology Section)
- "The Body Electric:" electrotherapy, clinical trials, and future interventions for individuals with CVA, CP, & spina bifida, presented by Carolee Winstein, PhD, and colleagues.

**Thursday, February 7**

10:30 am-12:00 pm: Developmental Coordination Disorder: Update on PT Intervention; Lisa Rivard, PT, BSc

10:30 am-12:30 pm: Adolescents With Cerebral Palsy: Enabling Transition to Adulthood; Robert Palisano, PT, ScD & Doreen Barlett, PT, PhD

3:00 pm-4:30 pm: Developmental Motor Control: The Modifiers of Skill Acquisition; Jody Jensen, PhD

**Friday, February 8**

6:30 am-8:00 am: Section on Pediatrics Member Appreciation Breakfast

8:00 am-11:00 am: Test of Infant Motor Performance: From Research to Practice; Gay Girolami, PT, MS

1:00 pm-3:45 pm: Cystic Fibrosis: Musculoskeletal and Neuromotor Control Impairments as Children with CF Reach Adulthood; Mary Massery, PT, DPT

1:00 pm-3:45 pm: Introduction to Evaluation and Treatment of the Infant & Toddler with Sensory Motor Dysfunction; Donna Cech, PT, MS, PCS

**Saturday, February 9**

7:00 am-8:00 am: School SIG Meeting

8:00 am-11:00 am: The Role of the Physical Therapist in the Safe Transportation of Children with Special Needs; Jean Zimmerman, PT

3:00 pm-4:30 pm: Promoting Fitness in Children with Disabilities: Strategies for Success; Kathryn Oriel, PT, EdD

3:00 pm-4:30 pm: "3 Going on 21": Ideas to Promote Self-Determination; Suzanne Martin, PT, DPT

- The Regional Directors' Forum (school issues, early intervention, etc.) will be eliminated. Instead, the various pediatric SIGs will meet at CSM.

- The Regional Directors' Meeting will be changed to the Regional Directors'/State Representatives' Meeting (at both Annual Conference and CSM)

The Section's Research Committee is working to promote the funding of pediatric research by the Foundation for Physical Therapy. In the past, funding has been overwhelmingly focused on adult populations. The Section will nominate members of the Scientific Review Committee, which makes funding decisions.

The Early Intervention Special Interest Group (EI-SIG) bylaws have been approved and will be posted on the Section website. To join the SIG, click on the following link: <http://www.pediatricapta.org/members/earlyintervention.cfm>

The topic of transition to adulthood will be addressed increasingly by the Section on Pediatrics, in collaboration with some adult-oriented sections, such as those of Neurology, Orthopedics, and Women's Health. If interested in this topic, you may join the Adolescents and Adults with Developmental Disabilities SIG, chaired by Toni Doty, PT, PhD, PCS: <http://www.pediatricapta.org/members/dev.cfm>

Other Section SIGs are Pediatric Sports-Fitness and Neonatology: <http://www.pediatricapta.org/members/sigs.cfm>

The following fact sheets are currently in various stages of development by the Practice Committee and will soon appear on the Section website:

- Reimbursement Resource
- Head Molding in Infants
- Assistive Technology and the IEP
- Physical Fitness for Preschoolers
- Torticollis
- Role of Physical Therapist Assistant in Pediatrics

The new and existing fact sheets will be formatted (or reformatted) for overall consistency. The existing fact sheets and brochures can be found on the Section's website: <http://www.pediatricapta.org/members/publications.cfm>

The Section's Public Relations Committee is organizing a Speakers' Bureau. The committee is creating a policy for developing a database of speakers, correlated to their specific areas of expertise. If you are willing and able to volunteer to be listed as a speaker, you may contact the committee's chair, Donna Metzger, PT; she can be reached at [donnametzger@bellsouth.net](mailto:donnametzger@bellsouth.net)

The Specialty Council is planning the 10-year revalidation of the PCS exam, beginning with a revalidation survey for currently certified pediatric specialists. As an incentive for members to participate, two free Section memberships will be raffled, a \$55 value. The survey will focus on the scope of pediatric practice and is expected to be about 45 pages long; it is being developed by Laurie Hack, PT, DPT, PhD, MBA, FAPTA.

A survey related to the *Guide to Physical Therapist Practice* and its application to pediatrics will be funded by the Section. Participants will be randomly selected; if you are among those chosen, please take the time to complete the survey.

The Membership Committee is hard at work, seeking ways to recruit and retain Section members, in order that they may benefit from the myriad of resources offered by the Section. A new focus will be on increasing involvement by PTAs who work in pediatrics.

APTA is developing a position statement (a “white paper”) regarding physical therapy practice in early intervention. This is in response to a scope-of-practice issue among pediatric physical therapists in Illinois, with regard to the role of developmental interventionists. This may become an important issue for PTs who work in EI across the country, as we grapple with the question of whether PT licensure alone is sufficient for practice in EI, or whether PTs will be required to earn additional certification.

APTA’s Department of Practice is working on Defensible Documentation, and the Section’s Practice Committee is contributing input on pediatric practice.

Irene McEwen, PT, PhD, will serve as editor for a revision to the Section’s IDEA publication (“the green book”). Many authors will contribute to this book, which will reflect the new federal regulations. It is expected to be available in time for CSM in February 2008.

By the end of 2007 or early 2008, a new pediatric home study course will be available for purchase. The entire course will include eight topics, such as electrical stimulation, spastic diplegia, motor learning, and obesity. It may be presented in print format, online, and on CD. The Section is considering offering it for sale either as individual units by topic or as a whole package.

APTA’s Board of Directors has decreed that physical therapists are the experts in exercise across the lifespan. As such, the Board recommends that members of the public visit a PT at least once per year. There is an increasing focus on the continuum of care, as the Section on Pediatrics assists PTs who work with adults to accept our former pediatric patients into their practices. For information on APTA’s goals regarding this area of practice, check the website regarding Physical Fitness for Special Populations: <http://www.apta.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=34423>

APTA has recently become the fourth scientific partner for the Present’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, joining the American College of Sports Medicine, the National Strength and Conditioning Association, and the National Athletic Trainers’ Association. The Association will help to promote physical activity, of which exercise is a subset, in the form of *structured* physical activity.

The Section won this year's APTA Public Relations Award for its Ambucs bike-fitting event during National Physical Therapy Month in October 2006. Ambucs makes the AmTryke Therapeutic Tricycle: [www.ambucs.org](http://www.ambucs.org)

This theme for APTA's October 2007 National Physical Therapy Month is encouraging physical activity to prevent and manage childhood and adult obesity. The Section on Pediatrics is launching a community-awareness campaign and three-phase activity, called "Let's Get Moving!" The community-awareness campaign will feature a fact sheet for parents on fitness, nutrition, and exercise. The three-phase activity will be:

- Walk/Roll for PT Month
  - In October, children will walk, push others in wheelchairs, or ride bikes.
- Walk/Roll for Me
  - In November and December, children will do the same but just for themselves.
- Walk/Roll for Life
  - In January, children will make a New Year's resolution for a lifestyle change that incorporates daily physical activity.

The Section on Pediatrics will provide materials and awards for the children. In the coming weeks, Section members will receive more information from Donna Metzger, PT, Chair of the Section's Public Relations Committee: [donnametzger@bellsouth.net](mailto:donnametzger@bellsouth.net)

APTA has recently credentialed the nation's first pediatric physical therapy residency program. It is a full-time paid residency at the Leadership Experience in Neuro-developmental and Related Disabilities (LEND)/Child Development and Rehabilitation Center (CDRC) at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland. For details, go to: <http://www.ohsu.edu/oidd/LEND/fellowships/ptresidency.cfm>

Opportunities abound for Section members who want to serve in a variety of positions: <http://www.pediatricapta.org/pdfs/PEDSCurrentVolunteerNeeds.pdf> Volunteers may contact Caryn Barman, PT, DPT, at [cbarman@npgcable.com](mailto:cbarman@npgcable.com).

The School SIG is still in its infancy, and we appreciate any input that you, our members, can provide. We welcome your comments, suggestions, and questions.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Respectfully submitted,

*Marcie*

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