Everything Is Bigger in Texas
with Dawn James, PT, DPT, PCS

Combined Sections Meeting 2017 in San Antonio, TX set a record for attendance with over 14,000 attendees. Future PTs also made a strong presence with over 4,000 students attending. Many of them attending the PT Pub Night and STAND: The Haiti Project Fundraiser at Howl at the Moon which was the largest Pub Night in history with over 1,000 attendees (ptpubnight.com).

The School-based SIG also boasted the largest number ever of early rising members attending the 6:30 AM SIG meeting. Andy Ruff, SIG Region Rep provided a sweet roll so big it needed its own chair (in the middle) - 3 lbs. of sugar fuel for a long day of meetings and sessions.

Members discussed progress on current projects including the recently published Strategies for Physical Therapist Collaboration with School-based Teams for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder fact sheet, new workgroups, upcoming projects, and pending federal legislation which may impact the practice of pediatric physical therapy.

Safe Lifting and Transferring:
Is There a Universal Answer?
with Karen Greeley, PT, DScPT

School-based teams assist a diverse group of students with complex needs to access and participate in their educational programs. In some instances, these students require extensive physical assistance and/or adaptive techniques/equipment to support safe physical management in the school environment. How should we make decisions regarding the best strategies to use?

Is there a universal answer for every situation? In the US, there is no national legislation in the area of lifting. In 2004, OSHA published an industry related guideline for nursing home personnel. Although national guidelines for schools have not been developed, several jurisdictions have used available research in other work environments to create best-practice decision making tools.

When creating a school-based tool, consideration must be given to student safety, staff safety, maximizing student participation and independence, and promoting communication among team members. Below is an example of a decision-making algorithm developed in Maryland when transferring students from one chair to another or to a toilet. You can find more here.

(Source: Maryland State Department of Education, 2010)
Legislative Corner

The APTA Action App
with Dawn James, PT, DPT, PCS

Are you looking for a way to stay informed about current federal legislation issues that might impact the practice of pediatric physical therapy? Download the APTA's Action app. The app will connect you to your federal legislators allowing you to educate them on issues important to your practice and allow you to advocate for your clients and families. It also provides a schedule of upcoming Congressional and APTA events, key talking points, and access to the Take Action Center.

Upcoming APTA Conference

Innovations in School-Based PT Practice
July 14-15, 2017 in Washington, DC

The APPT's 12th annual school-based conference is back in the east coast. It highlights advanced practice issues, in addition to foundational information provided yearly. The sessions will provide information on decision-making & delivery of PT services to support the educational program for all students with disabilities. Nationally recognized speakers will address federal laws, the provision of school-based PT services, & innovations in practice. Click here for details & registration.

Check Out This School-based Resource

SeekFreaks.com is a website dedicated to helping school-based therapists grow professionally in knowledge and skills. This site is loaded with very useful and practical information that all effective school-based therapists can use. You can find information on 504 agreements, summer reading ideas, tests and measures for school based therapists, practical tips for classroom arrangement and much more! The articles are all supported by research and accompanied by cleverly-designed infographics that you can easily print, share and/or display. SeekFreaks is easy to navigate and you will find lots of different articles that you would want to read! You are guaranteed to find so many helpful links that you will not be able to stop at just one click! And be sure to sign up with an email to get notifications of new posts.

Your SIG Leadership Team

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Questions, concerns or ideas?
Email the board at pediatricschoolsig@gmail.com