Last Issue of 2017!
The School-based SIG Quarterly Newsletter is keeping you connected to the SIG with news, upcoming conferences, work groups & other updates. Let us know if you have anything you would like us to feature or discuss!
ACCESS Team: Sharon Antoszyk, Brett Erin King, Laurie Bainer, Joanne Szabo & Carlo Vialu

APPTAC 2017 Wrap-Up
with Cindy Miles, PT, PhD, PCS

The Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy’s 8th annual conference proved to be a wonderful educational and networking experience. The conference is the premier event for ALL pediatric therapists. 2017 brought record-breaking attendance from across the United States and Canada. 870 participants, up 10% from last year; 65 exhibitor booths, up 20% from last year, with 12 exhibitors already registered for Chattanooga 2018!

The conference provided a unique opportunity to attend over 50 educational sessions, including 2, 3 day and half day pre-conferences. It provided a variety of engagement activities for students, new professionals and expert clinicians. from various practice settings and disciplines.

President Cindy Miles, shared the Academy’s new mission and vision; which members will vote to approve at CSM in New Orleans. Dr. Shirley Sahrman’s keynote address challenged us to be visionaries and explore the science of the Movement System.

The daily schedule included time in the exhibit hall to explore new equipment and treatments ideas. The practice fair facilitated discussions between clinicians and presenters with open conversation about techniques and tools that are effective in the home setting, hospital, NICU, outpatient, or school setting. The poster presentations sparked lively discussion among researchers and clinicians. It was wonderful to meet the families and young athletes at the Reds Stadium social event, truly a night to remember.

The fitness activities will continue throughout the year as several lucky members were given Sqords’ moment trackers to track their clients’ fitness levels.

There are numerous advantages to attending a conference focused solely on pediatrics, and having the opportunity to hear the latest evidenced based knowledge and translate it directly into practice, makes the experience exceptional!

The School SIG Needs You!
The School-based SIG needs help with some new formed workgroups! The following workgroups are recruiting now:

- Sign and Symptoms of abuse, neglect, and addiction
- Participation for all students with disabilities
- Update the role of school –based PT
- Serving as a Clinical Instructor
- Educationally relevant PT
- Transition from EI to Schools

If you are interested in any work group please send an email to pediatricschoolsig@gmail.com

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

Your SIG Leadership Team
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Test Your Goals! Challenges for IEP Student Goals
with Laurie Ray, PT, MPT, PhD

Setting student goals can be one of the most challenging aspects of school practice. If you do not set goals well, the rest of your practice (intervening, demonstrating progress, progress monitoring, reporting) will be a struggle. How many hours have we invested in crafting these guiding lights of our daily work? It can be difficult to peer into the crystal ball and determine how progress should be measured or how much progress any student will make over the time frame of her/his Individual Educational Program (IEP). I have collected some questions or challenges to set to a goal after it is developed. Hopefully this can save eventual frustration with a goal that is lacking, before the first progress report. They help to highlight weaknesses in the goal before I learn it the hard way! Here they are:

- **So what? Test-** Ask if the goal is attained, so what? Will it make a meaningful difference in function? A corollary of this question is the Who cares? Test. If no one cares about this goal, one of two things are true: 1) I have not explained, demonstrated or connected the importance of this function/goal area → If it critical, we must help everyone understand why/how. or 2) It is not truly important → On occasion, we must accept that all things important to us as PTs is not important to everyone or overall.
- **Cadaver Test-** (Thanking Lauren Holahan, OT for this one!) If a dead person can accomplish the goal (e.g. Laurie will tolerate the stander for 10minutes daily…), it is not a good nor participatory student goal. ‘Nuf said.
- **Parent Test-** Can the parent of this student come in, observe the focal activity and determine if the goal is met or not met? If they can, the goal is clear, measurable and likely part of the daily routine.
- **Fit Test-** Does this happen naturally as part of this student’s school day? Is the criterion something that occurs or are you creating a criterion which requires something ‘extra’? Does this goal fit the school day, this class? Fitting well within the routine makes for more straightforward and easier progress monitoring.
- **Speaking of progress monitoring/data collection…** the next challenge is the Do I want to/can I collect this data? Test- If we do not want to collect this data, why not? This indicates it is too complicated or not important. Teachers should not be the only data collectors! Can the student collect the data? If we write the goal well for participation, all team members (parents, OT, SLP, paraprofessionals) should be interested and able to collect the data.
- **Sufficient Progress? Test?** Is this goal set high enough? Are we requiring all the progress we can get? Will the rate of progress be adequate to get to where the student needs to go?
- **Big Picture? Test-** Will this goal get her/him closer to the ultimate goal her/his education/time in school? Is it necessary from a big picture perspective? Is this a good investment of the student’s time? Is it important?

I hope you find one or more of these helpful. If you have any challenges or questions for student goals that are illuminating, please email them to me (laurie_ray@med.unc.edu)? I would love to add insights from everyone who reads this! I wish you all insightful, practical and lofty IEP development!

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Meet Your School-based SIG Team

**Brett King, PT, DPT, MPT** is the School-based SIG Secretary. She received her MPT from California State University, Northridge in 2004 and her transitional DPT from Boston University in 2008. She has been practicing in school based practice for 11 years and is currently working at the Tustin Unified School District in Tustin, California. She was a contributor on the 2012 Guidelines for Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy in California Public Schools. Dr. King is the APTA Academy of Pediatrics School Based Special Interest Group’s Secretary. In 2013, Dr. King spoke about assessments for school based therapy at the Section on Pediatrics Annual Conference with Dr. James. She has previously participated in a panel discussing the Guidelines for Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy in California Public Schools at the Orange County Department of Education OT/PT Focus Day. When not at work, Dr. King enjoys spending time with her three-year-old son Austin.