

Imaging News & Updates

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With CSM nearing, much of the focus of this Imaging SIG report is directed at CSM, including adaptations made for the virtual format.

The Pre-Con Becomes Post-Con

As you may recall, the Imaging SIG co-sponsored with the Performing Arts SIG an extremely successful 2-day lower quadrant “hands-on” ultrasound course at CSM 2019 in Washington, DC. The goal for 2021 was to have a similar upper quadrant course, again co-sponsored with the Performing Arts SIG. The 2-day course was proposed and selected for the Orlando setting, but the COVID-related virtual format has caused a shift in this planned pre-conference course. With “hands-on” ultrasound instruction being universally affected, the decision was made to revise the proposal to an introductory ultrasound course more amenable to the virtual format. “Next Level Clinical Reasoning: Integration of Diagnostic Ultrasound into PT Practice” is the new course format and is specifically targeted at those individuals interested in pursuing the addition of ultrasound to their clinical practices. The presenters are Colin Rigney, Mohini Rawat, and Jon Umlauf—all of whom possess the RMSK or Registered in Musculoskeletal Sonography credential and have extensive experience in teaching.

This course will be a live/synchronous session on Tuesday, March 2 from 9:00 a.m. until 5:20 p.m. If you have an interest in augmenting your practice skills with ultrasound imaging, this is a course by physical therapists for physical therapists that will elevate your understanding of how ultrasound can expand your practice capabilities and perhaps provide a vision for your future practice potential.

Assuming we make a return to regular CSM programming for San Antonio in 2022, the tentative plan is to resubmit the originally planned two-day upper quadrant course for presentation as a pre-conference course then.

The Imaging SIG Educational Session

As some jurisdictions rely on existing practice acts and other codified language toward incorporating referral for imaging in physical therapist practice, other states seek to gain referral privileges through passage and enactment of specific legislation. The battles occurring in these states for legislative change are often opposed with hypothetical arguments around inappropriate or over-use of the imaging by physical therapists as well as the increased cost of care associated with that use. We now have, however, a growing volume of data from civilian settings in which physical therapists have imaging referral privileges. This evidence effectively negates those hypothetical arguments of increased cost and inappropriate or excessive utilization. These data, paired with the advocacy message from jurisdictions managing legislative efforts, serves as the basis for the Imaging SIG’s Educational Session at CSM. The session entitled “Advances in Imaging Referral: Generating a New Pulse in Autonomous Physical Therapist Practice” brings together

evidence and professional advocacy toward the expanding use of referral for imaging by physical therapists. Former Wisconsin Chapter President, Kip Schick, and current Rhode Island President, Michelle Collie, will offer their first-hand perspectives of the measures required to gain passage of legislation, while Steve Kareha, Evan Nelson, and Aaron Keil will present data from their respective areas on physical therapist referral for imaging. The session will be moderated by Marie Corkery, Imaging SIG Vice President and Education Chair.

Leaders within states with an interest in pursuing imaging referral privileges will likely benefit from this unique presentation to be more prepared for the challenge of legislative change. Please encourage your state leaders to participate in this session. While the session will be recorded and available on-demand, a live discussion panel is scheduled for Monday, February 15, 2021, from 9:30 - 10:00 p.m. More details of this will be forthcoming.

Imaging-Related CSM Programming

Approaching the time of CSM, the Imaging SIG will publish a list by email and social media of all the imaging-related presentations at CSM. Stay tuned for those announcements before the start of the conference. We certainly want to recognize new work, supporting those researching imaging and distribute the word such that all may benefit from the information available at CSM.

Scholarship

As of the time of this writing, approximately 10 applications for the Imaging SIG CSM scholarship were received by the November 1 deadline. By the time this *OPT* issue has been published, the work group, led by Lena Volland, will have reviewed the applications and accepted abstracts for CSM in order to determine a winner. This is the fourth year of the scholarship being offered with the winner receiving \$500 and being recognized by the Imaging SIG. Please keep this scholarship in mind as you move forward in your work with imaging and remind any colleagues conducting research with imaging in physical therapist practice of this scholarship is available.

AIUM & Inteleos Page

For several months, APTA/the Imaging SIG have been working with Inteleos and the American Institute for Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM) on a cooperative effort to expand musculoskeletal ultrasound education within the physical therapist practice and better allow physical therapists to advance toward earning the RMSK (Registered in Musculoskeletal Sonography) credential. Another step has been accomplished on this path and more will be evolving in the coming months. Recently published on the Imaging SIG web pages on the AOPT website is now a pathway toward outlining educational content serving as preparatory for the RMSK credential. By clicking on “MSK Ultrasound Education and Credentialing” on the left side of the Imaging SIG pages, a list of courses and resources from AIUM are now provided. Those interested in learning MSK ultrasound and potentially working toward the RMSK are encouraged to explore this information. A link to Inteleos and the process of earning the

RMSK is also provided. Soon, both AIUM and Inteleos will have physical therapist specific information on their websites.

The recognition by these external entities of physical therapists as experts in the care of patients with musculoskeletal disorders that is enhanced by the use of ultrasound is a significant step in imaging in physical therapist practice overall.

Imaging SIG Research Committee

The Imaging SIG Research Committee, headed by George Beneck, continues to produce remarkable work and reach into new directions. This has included several presentations at conferences and the recently published “A Survey of Physical Therapists’ Attitudes, Knowledge, and Behaviors Regarding Diagnostic Imaging” by Sean Rundell, Murray Maitland, Rob Manske, and George Beneck in the *Physical Therapy Journal*. The e-pub ahead of the print version of this manuscript appeared in October 2020. The Committee has other works in progress.

You may recall the Research Committee has previously published its listing of imaging research mentors on the webpages of the Imaging SIG. This remains available for those interested.

Membership

The interest in imaging as a part of physical therapist practice continues to grow as reflected in our expanding number of Imaging SIG members. In April 2016, we had marginally over 250 members. As of this writing, that number has doubled with approximately 500 members now being part of the Imaging SIG.

Elections and New Directions

At the time of this submission, elections for Vice President and the Nominating Committee were underway. By the time of publication, the new Imaging SIG Vice President and Nominating Committee member will have been announced with both assuming their roles immediately after CSM.

Thanks to Marie Corkery for finishing out the last year of the term from previous Vice President, Jim Elliott. Both contributed

remarkably to the mission of the Imaging SIG. Mohini Rawat has finished her term on the Nominating Committee with her last year as Chair and the SIG having an outstanding slate of candidates for those available positions. Please thank them for their service when you have an opportunity.

The new Nominating Committee Chair is Kimiko Yamada with Lynn McKinnis also serving on the Committee along with the newly elected at-large member. This Committee will soon begin its work for the next round of elections, which will include SIG President and Nominating Committee member, each for 3-year terms. Thus, the time will soon be present to think about transitioning for new leadership for the SIG.

PAIN SIG

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pain residency training as the process parallels specialty certification. In the future, we will need to find candidates and institutions for residency. She is working on collaborating with other programs. For additional information, make sure to view the virtual CSM presentation, “#PTtheClinicalPainExperts – Pain education, specialization, residencies, and fellowships. Are we ready to take our role as pain experts?”

In closing, the Pain SIG would like to thank President, Joseph M Donnelly, PT, DHSc, and all of the AOPT staff for their continued support and guidance.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our outgoing leaders, Vice President, Mark Shepherd, PT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT, and Nominating Chair, Brett Neilson, PT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT. Thank you again once again for all your hard work.

We presently have multiple opportunities for SIG involvement on the membership, public relations, and research committees. Please contact me or any other Pain SIG leader to volunteer to help our initiatives.

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