



American Physical Therapy Association
South Carolina Chapter

SCAPTA Bulletin

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Don't forget about the upcoming CI Credentialing Course sponsored by the Carolina Consortium for Clinical Education (CCEC). It will be held on March 18 & 19, 2005 at Elon University. If you have questions, please contact Marianne Jansen, PT, EdD, ATC at Elon University at 336.278.6356.

HPRC (Human Performance and Rehabilitation Centers, Inc.) in Columbia, SC is seeking a qualified PT candidate to work in our industrial rehab program and outpatient physical therapy area. One year orthopedic experience required that includes and work comp caseload. Current or previous work conditioning experience a plus. HPRC is a privately-owned company with a 50-year history of providing the highest quality rehabilitation in three states. Competitive pay and excellent benefits package to include medical/dental/life, PTO, 401K, APTA dues, generous continuing education, relocation assistance and more! For more information, contact the Director of Recruiting at 706.322.7762, ext. 5466 or email dwoodrow@hprc.net. HPRC, PO Box 8068 Columbus, GA 31908-8068 EOE/AAP/BI. www.hprc.net

President's Message

It is a sad state of affairs when our lives become so busy that we do not spend the few precious minutes it would take to congratulate others on a job well done or to thank them for their commitment, their mentorship, their outstanding clinical skills, their service or their leadership. Last year at the SCAPTA Awards ceremony, awards in many of the categories were not handed out and it was not due to a lack of outstanding candidates. It was due to the fact that very few people took the time to nominate a deserving colleague or mentor for an award. While the nomination deadline was officially December 1 for the 2005 SCAPTA Awards, I happen to know that we still have some categories with no nominations and that nominations will continue to be accepted for some of these awards. Let's not waste another opportunity to honor those who give so much to our profession and to the clients we serve. The Awards are as follows:

Clinical Awards: For excellence in a clinical specialty.

- Butch Buchanan Clinical Excellence Award for a Physical Therapist
- Chris Junkins Clinical Excellence Award for a Physical Therapist Assistant

Service Awards: To honor members for noteworthy service to SCAPTA and APTA.

- Emily Cate Award (for a physical therapist)
- Willette McKamey Award (for a physical therapist assistant)

Student Award: To acknowledge a PT or PTA student for their noteworthy contributions to SCAPTA, their school and the profession of physical therapy.

- Outstanding Student of the Year Award

Legislative Award: To acknowledge a member of the SC legislature for noteworthy support of SCAPTA.

- Legislator of the Year Award

The awards will be presented at the SCAPTA Annual Conference on Saturday, April 9, in Myrtle Beach. Please join us in honoring the nominees and the award recipients. For more information, please contact Erica Rouvlais at rouvalie@musc.edu or Amy Ferguson at fergusoa@musc.edu. Or, you can download the Nomination Form from the SCAPTA website, www.scapta.org.

Lisa K. Saladin, PT, PhD
SCAPTA President

Got news to share? Send it in to office@scapta.org to be included in the next Bulletin!

PAC Productions...



Last Chance to Enter to win the \$100 Outback Steakhouse Gift Certificate! Tickets are \$5 each or \$25 for 6. The drawing will be held at the Annual Conference. Contact the SCAPTA Office for tickets, 803.802.5450. Thanks to Alan Livingston and ERMI for donating the gift certificate.

Make plans to attend the "Contribute and Pay Tribute" Awards Reception/PAC Fundraiser at the Annual Conference. We will meet at Damon's next to Springmaid Beach on Saturday, April 9, 2005 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. The cost is \$20 per person to include beer and appetizers. Sponsored by Precise Medical.



All proceeds from the Outback Giveaway and the Conference Reception benefit the SCAPTA PAC which supports the election of members to the South Carolina Legislature who support Physical Therapy.

Annual Conference Reminder...

By now, you should have received the 2005 Annual Conference information in your mailbox. If you did not receive it, you can find everything on the SCAPTA website, www.scapta.org. Don't forget that to secure the great hotel rate we have set-up with Springmaid Beach, **you need to make your reservations by March 22, 2005** by calling 800.770.6895. If you have questions regarding the conference or registration- please call the SCAPTA office at 803.802.5450 or email office@scapta.org.



ATTENTION STUDENTS!!

Students- don't forget to RSVP for the Student Luncheon Reception being held Saturday, April 9 at 12:00 pm at the Springmaid Beach Resort. You can fill out the registration form found online at www.scapta.org, or send your information to office@scapta.org. There is no cost to you and it will be a great time to network with your fellow students.



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APTA Reimbursement Chair Meeting Update... District Updates...

Erica Rouvalis, PT, MHS

APTA sponsored a two-day State Reimbursement Chair Meeting in December 2004. Nearly all 50 states sent representatives, including Hawaii. I was the fortunate one to represent SCAPTA and wanted to share a few pearls with the membership.

David Scalzitti, PT, MS, OCS, Associate Director APTA Reserach Services presented on Evidence Based Practice: A Perspective for Reimbursement. He would be an excellent future speaker for a SCAPTA course. He shared the following web sites for searchig "Physical Therapy & Reimbursement" www.google.com, www.alltheweb.com, www.altavista.com, www.dogpile.com, www.yahoo.com, www.hotbot.com, www.snap.com. The following are excellent evidence based resources: The Cochrane Collaboration, requires a subscription but is the gold standard. PubMed from the National Library of Medicine. PEDro an Australian database. Hooked on Evidence from APTA. A new site is www.gogglescholar.com.

Hot topics in Physical Therapy billing was presented by Julie Kass, Esq. In 2005, the OIG (Office of Inspector General) has identified looking for increases in PT and OT utilization with increased fees in the 2005 CMS work plan, especially in private practice settings. The OIG will be looking for the usual as well; reasonable and necessary, proper documentation and certified by the physician. The work plan can be found at www.oig.hhs.gov under Fraud and Abuse Compliance Work Plan. There is also a special fraud alert for rental space. Many contracts can be construed as a joint venture, especially if the renter pays more than market value for the space than it is assumed to be payment for referrals. A claims denial log was recommended to analyze and reduce claims denials through education and training once a problem has been identified. A prospective review of claims to prevent overpayment was also advised. "With the passage of time, amnesia seems to set in with regard to many payment rules". The bottom line message was to "instill a culture of compliance that requires employees to ask questions, seek guidance, comply with the law and report and concerns".

The Lower Coastal District is getting geared up to become an active district of SCAPTA. The co-chairs are Ralph "Luke" Lucarelli 843.298.2616, luke2616@aol.com and Nate Dixon 843.842.3222, natedixon@aol.com. Watch for details!

The Low Contry District held its winter meeting at Trident Technical College of February 2, 2005 with 80 in attendance. Brad Peterson with Motion Concepts presented "Beyond Power Tilt and Lift". The next meeting will be held at MUSC on March 22, 2005- The Annual Hot Topics Meeting. Thanks to all who attended- Michelle Hard, Lowcountry District Chair



Army Physical Therapists and Technicians from Fort Jackson Visit Dorn VAMC...

Seven physical therapists and five technicians from Moncrief Army Hospital visited Rehabilitation Medicine Service on February 7 to learn more about the care of patients who have had an amputation. They were greeted with a breakfast orientation, and given an opportunity to meet the Rehabilitation Department staff at Dorn VAMC. Following breakfast, they observed the Amputee Clinic and learned more about prosthetic components. Carol Guardiola gave an in-service on higher level skills for patients with amputations. Currently, Moncrief Area Community Hospital works with only a few amputees each year. It is hoped this initial collaboration will lead to future interaction among the Physical Therapy staff at both sites.

MUSC Research Study....

MUSC Department of Rehabilitation Sciences is looking for Sedentary Individuals with a Spinal Cord Injury for a research study. Participants in this 12-month study will receive Exercise Video & 4 physical examinations. Compensation is available. Please contact either of the following: Holly H. Wise, PhD 843.792.4051 wisehh@musc.edu or K. Jack Thomas, PT, EdD 843.792.4426 or thomaskj@musc.edu.

****APTA LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT**** Immediate Attention Requested

Congressmen Phil English (R-PA), Ben Cardin (D-MD), Roy Blunt (R-MO), and Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Senators John Ensign (R-NV) and Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) introduced legislation February 17, 2005 that would repeal the cap on therapy services for Medicare beneficiaries once and for all (HR 916/S.438). If Congress does not take action by January 1, 2006, the therapy cap will again be imposed on PT, OT, and Speech. We need to take action NOW to ensure the cap does not go back into place.

Points to Make - Repeal the Cap

** Don't discriminate against the sickest and oldest Medicare beneficiaries - The therapy cap would apply to all Medicare beneficiaries in all Part B health care settings, except hospital outpatient departments. Most Medicare beneficiaries would never exceed the annual cap, but it would force many senior citizens who need physical therapy care the most to choose between forgoing necessary care or paying 100% of the cost out-of-pocket over their Medicare coverage that is capped. Beneficiaries who suffer from a stroke, or have Parkinson's disease, or osteoporosis are more likely to be the type of patient needing such care.

** Congress has already recognized the shortfall of the beneficiary cap on therapy services - Congress has three times imposed a moratorium to keep the beneficiary cap on therapy services from limiting beneficiary coverage (1999-two years, 2000-one year, and 2003-two years). In addition, a bipartisan majority of Members of Congress in both chambers recognized the problems associated with the beneficiary cap by supporting legislation in 2003 and 2004 to repeal the cap.

What You Can Do

It is important that you send a strong message to your Members of Congress to request that they become cosponsors to repeal the therapy cap once and for all. Please contact your Members of Congress and ask them to cosponsor HR 916/S. 438. You can contact your Members of Congress by calling 202/224-3121 or by utilizing APTA's Legislative Action Center at http://www.apta.org/Govt_Affairs by clicking on "Legislative Action Center". You can write a letter or e-mail your Members of Congress regarding this important issue.

In your call or letter to your Members of Congress, include specific examples of your patients that will be affected if the therapy cap is imposed again. Also, have your patients contact their legislators. Provide them with a letter they can sign and you can mail. If you have any questions please contact APTA at 1/800-999-2782, ext. 8533.



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South Carolina Chapter

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Upcoming Continuing Education Courses

#326 Sensory Integration- 16 Hrs
Kathryne M. Cammisa, MHE, OTR/L
April 29-30, 2005 - Columbia, SC

This course is designed for occupational, physical and speech therapists, as well as teachers and special instructors, who have a beginning to moderate level of knowledge of sensory integration theory and treatment. The course will begin with an overview of the theory of sensory integration and information on sensory system function and dysfunction. The case method of learning will provide opportunities for participants to explore assessment of sensory dysfunction, documentation and treatment strategies for sensory problems that are appropriate to their client population and setting. Participants will have an opportunity to learn about the classic sensory integrative treatment approaches and how to apply the principles of sensory integration theory to a variety of diagnoses and in a variety of settings.

#216 Facial Rehabilitation - 16 Hrs
Sara Shapiro, MPH, PT
May 13-14, 2005- Columbia, SC

Participants will gain understanding of basic concepts of Biofeedback and programmed electrical stimulation; be able to select appropriate programs for different stages of facial recovery; understand the balance of muscle activity within the face and instruct patient in appropriate exercises for specific diagnoses. Recovery through synkinesis will be discussed as well as the support needed for a person with loss of facial expression. Recent research will be reviewed. This is a lecture and hands-on lab course. Therapists work in groups of two with their own facial unit.

#180 Geriatric Orthopedics - 16 Hrs
Jennifer M. Bottomley, PhD, MS, PT
May 14-15, 2005- Charleston, SC

This is a two-day seminar that focuses on orthopedic conditions most frequently encountered in the elderly client. There are four primary areas of concentration in Geriatric Orthopedics: cervical and shoulder problems, thoracolumbar spine, common hip and knee problems, and foot and ankle conditions. Common problems and resulting disabilities are approached from a functional outcome perspective. Evaluation and treatment suggestions are presented utilizing critical pathways as a mode for clinical decision-making. Case presentations are provided as examples for evaluation and intervention based on outcome analysis in each of the primary areas of focus. Some hands-on lab sessions are utilized to demonstrate and practice assessment techniques and expand on case presentations.

#144 Exercise in the Management of COPD- 7 Hrs
David Sword, MS, PT, CCS
June 24, 2005 - Columbia, SC

This presentation will focus on techniques to facilitate optimal upper extremity use in children. Neurodevelopmental treatment strategies will be emphasized through lectures, patient demonstrations, and lab practicums. In addition, sensory components and manual therapy techniques will be included to expand the therapists' repertoire. Participants should leave with an understanding of treatment principles to guide the child to higher functional skills.