



NEWSLETTER

www.dptaonline.com

Fall 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM FROM GEORGE T. EDELMAN, PT, MPT, OCS, MTC

It's hard to believe I'm writing my last message as president to the membership. These 4 years have flown by and I would like to personally thank the membership for allowing me to steer our ship. The Delaware Physical Therapy Association (DPTA) has accomplished much the previous 4 years. Physical therapy is an incredible profession and we have a great deal to be proud of in our little state.



DPTA President
George T. Edelman

Our membership has grown 30% over the last 4 years. While this is considered substantial growth, it would be wonderful to see 50% of the state's licensed physical therapists (PTs) and physical therapist assistants (PTAs) as members. We currently represent approximately 33% of licensed professionals. I encourage you to expand that number by getting your colleagues involved!

DPTA is well represented in the worker's compensation arena. Glenn Brown, our legislative chair, has worked diligently the previous 7 years on the Health Care Advisory Panel to reform worker's compensation and ensure physical therapy is foundationally sound.

Two years ago, we revamped DPTA investments. Through sound direction from Treasurer Doug Huisenga, I am pleased to report DPTA's finances are in excellent shape.

The Payer Relations Committee continues to work with Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) Delaware to ensure fair payment for our services. 2014 yielded a 7% increase in reimbursement for physical therapy services.

Jamie Blackley is DPTA's new executive director. She worked tirelessly with Stacie Larkin to push DPTA into the modern world of technology by redesigning our web page and creating a presence on Facebook and Twitter (be sure to follow). These have been wonderful additions and great tools allowing us to discuss current events with all current members.

Lastly, the Physical Therapy Practice Act went under Sunset Review in 2014, the first time since 1992. Sunset Review is an opportunity to capture and update physical therapy practice. This was a daunting task by the Division of Professional Regulation, which spent 2 years updating the act. When it was introduced to the Joint Sunset Committee and General Assembly, we were met by a tremendous amount of opposition from a handful of groups in the state. The DTPA Executive Board and membership should be congratulated for their efforts to ensure House Bill (HB) 359 was passed through the House and Senate in June and signed by the Governor in August. The membership sent nearly 200 letters to legislators in support of the HB 359. The result of these efforts is that we now have the most modern practice act in the country.

DPTA ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT George T. Edelman

VICE PRESIDENT Phil Allen

SECRETARY Lynne Sturgill

TREASURER Douglas Patrick Huisenga

CHIEF DELEGATE Cathy Ciolek

PTA CAUCUS REP Jason Dougherty

DPTA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jamie Blackley

1055 North Fairfax Street

Suite 205

Alexandria, VA 22314

800/999-2782 ext 3159

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRS

ETHICS Cathy H. Ciolek

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS Annalisa Na

GOLF TOURNAMENT Phil Allen

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR Steve Rapposelli

MEMBERSHIP Kitt Iffland

NEWSLETTER Phil Allen

NOMINATING COMMITTEE Stacie Larkin

PAYER RELATIONS George T. Edelman

PROGRAMS & EVENTS Rebecca Tinsman

Stacie Larkin

DPTA NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Chas Barker

cbarker536@gmail.com

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Cindy L. Burritt, PT, DPT
Courtney Marie Nice, PT, DPT
Mallory Clare Black, PTA
Tami Lynn Miller, SPTA
Jennifer Elaine Pile, PTA
Kristina M. Cox, SPTA
Krzysztof Robert Krajewski, DPT
John Howard Dill, II, SPT

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While we have plenty to be proud of, there remains an abundance of work ahead of us. Reimbursement for our services is changing quickly and system development may be based on intensity and severity as soon as

2016. Get involved and ensure the profession and DPTA maintain strong footing in any environment.

Thank you!

George T. Edelman, PT, OCS, MTC

PAYMENT ADVOCAY UPDATE

FROM GEORGE T. EDELMAN, PT, MPT, OCS, MTC

July 1, 2014 marked the “hard” implementation of the Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) Physical Medicine Management Program (PMMP). As we learned during the “soft” implementation phase, this program is designed to deflect, discourage, and deny physical therapy benefits.

With the implementation of the PMMP, Highmark created an advisory committee that consists of physical therapists (PTs) and occupational therapists (OTs) in the state of Delaware to address pressing issues as it relates to the PMMP. Four DPTA member physical therapists and others on the committee meet every 3 months. To date, there have been 2 meetings, both of which have been largely unproductive. During the 3-month time span, Highmark has changed its leadership with the PMMP. Therefore, concerns raised in the May 2014 meeting

were mostly avoided during the August 2014 meeting.

This is our time to speak up! If you are experiencing challenges with the PMMP, please contact Executive Director Jamie Blackley so she can address your concerns appropriately. We want to hear your experiences. E-mail her at Delaware@apta.org.

Other updates and changes to pay attention to:

- It is expected that PQRS reporting will require up to 6–9 codes for each Medicare evaluation, effective January 2015, to avoid future penalty in payment. Details for the PQRS reporting codes will be published November 2014. Keep an eye out for APTA updates after November 1.

- ICD-10 was postponed to 2015. Keep an eye out for updates from DPTA/APTA after January 1, 2015.
- Value-based Modifier (VM) is a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) pay-for-performance program that was mandated in 2007 and works unlike PQRS. Details will become available after November 1, 2014.
- CMS is working towards eliminating time-based procedure codes while considering a payment system based on severity and intensity. This could be implemented as early as 2016. Continue to look for updates regarding this transition from DPTA/APTA sources.

PTA UPDATE

FROM JASON DOUGHERTY, PTA, MEd

It's been an exciting year for the physical therapist assistant (PTA). On the national level, we have seen great signs of progress specific to our role within the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). In 2011, language known as “RC 3-11” was proposed and adopted. This motion supported the use of physical therapy “care extender(s)” beyond the PTA. After over 3 years of debate and discussion, that position is no longer a part of APTA language. In addition, APTA is now working to expand the role of the PTA within the organization. While there are no specific plans yet, numerous positions exist within APTA governance that could potentially become available. While these discussions are in the early stages, there are signs of promise that the position, scope, and potential vote of

the PTA within the organization can grow significantly.

It is more important than ever for PTAs to capture and develop potential opportunities. We must remain active and expand our involvement within the organization. Attend a meeting or contact your state representatives (chief delegate, president, PTA caucus representative) and let your voice be heard. Urge fellow PTAs to join APTA as they continue to support greater roles for PTAs. Do at least 1 thing and commit to 1 action that you haven't before. Let APTA know that PTAs are engaged and will take on greater responsibilities if provided the opportunity.

One opportunity that will soon be available is Delaware's PTA caucus representative seat. It was an honor to serve 2 terms as the PTA caucus rep and I am hopeful that local PTAs will submit their names for consideration.

If you are interested in serving, but have questions about the duties of the position, please contact me and I will be glad to share my experience as the PTA caucus rep. If you would like to submit your name for the vote, send an e-mail to delaware@apta.org or contact one of our state board members.

Thank you to our board for immense support and dedication. More importantly, thank you to the membership for the opportunity to represent you and serve the profession that I love.

Student Corner

DELAWARE PT PROGRAM ACCEPTS 2014 CHALLENGE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR RESEARCH BY ALLISON CZAPLEWSKI, SPT, AND CAROLINE MILLER, SPT

A total of 109 schools participated in the 2013–14 Miami-Marquette Challenge to raise \$219,716 in support of the Foundation for Physical Therapy. The Foundation wishes to thank the students of the University of Delaware for their strong support. Congratulations for receiving an honorable mention for raising over \$4,700. Since its inception in 1989, 192 different schools have participated in the Miami-Marquette Challenge, with PT and PTA students raising a grand total of \$2,757,216!

The annual Marquette Challenge is a grassroots fundraising effort carried out by PT and PTA students across the country to support the Foundation for Physical Therapy's mission of providing funding opportunities to outstanding PT researchers. Ryan Mizner, an assistant professor at the University of Montana, is the recipient of the 2013 Miami-Marquette Challenge Research Grant. His 2-year project, "A Novel Unweighting Technology to Address Psychological Impairments Limiting Outcomes After ACL Reconstruction," analyzes effects of using a bodyweight reduction instrument to deliver graded exercise (BRIDGE) on the outcomes of anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction. Mizner received both his master's in physical therapy and PhD in biomechanics and movement science from the University of Delaware. The Challenge also funded a PODS I Scholarship in 2014, which

2014-2015 MIAMI MARQUETTE CHALLENGE

went to Allyn Susko of the University of Pittsburgh.

For the second year in a row, the first place winner of the Challenge was the University of Miami, whose students raised \$31,625. Once again, we welcome the University of Miami as cohost for the upcoming 2014–15 Miami-Marquette Challenge. The University of Pittsburgh won second place, raising \$21,119. Sacred Heart University students raised \$16,860, earning them the third place title this year.

The Foundation for Physical Therapy was established in 1979 as a national, independent nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality and delivery of physical therapy care by providing support

for scientifically-based and clinically-relevant physical therapy research and doctoral scholarships and fellowships.

Students of all PT and PTA programs in the state of Delaware are encouraged to support the Foundation for Physical Therapy and physical therapy research. To learn how you can support the Challenge, please visit the Foundation's website (www.Foundation4PT.org/get-involved/Challenge/), call the Foundation (800/875-1378), or e-mail Marquette student coordinators (Challenge4PT@gmail.com). Contributions for the 2014–15 Miami-Marquette Challenge should be submitted by April 16, 2015.

DPTA TACKLES THE ISSUE OF STUDENT LOANS

Physical therapy school can be stressful enough without the worry of repaying costly student loans. Fortunately, Doug Huisenga and the University of Delaware's Student Special Interest Group have coordinated for a student loan repayment specialist to speak to DPTA student members on November 20 at 6:30 pm at the University of Delaware's Star Campus.



Student Corner

NEWS FROM UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE DPT PROGRAM—CLASS OF 2015

As we settle into the fall semester, we welcome the cooler weather and changing colors of the leaves in Newark. Our time to enjoy the weather is limited though, as schedules full of neurological and older adult (NOA) classes, sports and orthopedic (S&O) classes, or pediatrics integrated clinical experiences (ICE) get underway. Many of our classes this semester revolve around integrating what we have already learned and applying it to a patient scenario. This is especially true in our neurophysiologic evaluation and treatment class. Each Friday, volunteers who have suffered a stroke come to class. This offers us the extensive learning opportunity to treat a patient while under the supervision of a physical therapist.

The classes of 2015 and 2016 are working hard in the Marquette Challenge to raise money for the Foundation for Physical Therapy. We are just over one-third of the way to our \$6,200 goal. We would like to thank everyone who has helped with our “Rent-a-PT” student fundraiser and everyone who participated in the October 19 “Family Fun Day” fundraiser at the STAR campus in Newark. For more information, visit our Facebook page ([UDPT Fundraising](#)) or the “UDPT Family Fun Day” event page.

*Nicholas Reeb, SPT
President, UDPT
Class of 2015*

NEWS FROM UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE DPT PROGRAM—CLASS OF 2016

The fall semester is underway and we are excited to start delving further into our profession! Having spent so much time in the anatomy lab this summer, it is a nice change of pace to get hands on training. We are currently learning about physical therapy in the acute care environment and basic evaluation techniques. While these courses are challenging, the aid we receive from our faculty and the immense support from second-year students lighten the burden.

Apart from academics, we worked arduously to prepare for our first annual “UDPT Family Fun Day.” Held on October 19, it consisted of carnival games, food, face paintings, prizes, and more. It was a fun-filled day for all ages and provided us the opportunity to promote research in the field of physical therapy. Thanks to all who participated!

*Nicholas Milton, CSCS, SPT
President, UDPT,
Class of 2016*



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Ends December 17, 2014.**



 **APTA**
American Physical Therapy Association.
www.apta.org/CSM

ANNUAL SUSSEX COUNTY MEETING

The Delaware Physical Therapy Association (DPTA) held its annual Sussex County meeting, hosted by ATI Physical Therapy, in Rehoboth Beach on September 25. The speaker, Dr Edmund Carroll, orthopedic surgeon from Orthopedic Associates of Southern Delaware in Lewes, provided local PTs and PTAs clinical information on the rationale and protocol for the anterior approach to total hip replacement.

President George Edelman provided local membership with news and upcoming activities for DPTA. There are numerous important updates to the practice act that Edelman shared to keep all attendees up to speed with current legislative changes.



(Left) From left to right: DPTA President George Edelman, Dr Edmund Carroll, and DPTA Vice President Philip Allen. (Below) President George Edelman speaking to the membership in Rehoboth Beach.



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4TH ANNUAL DPTA GOLF CLASSIC

The Delaware Physical Therapy Association hosted the 4th Annual Golf Classic at Maple Dale Country Club this past August. The event successfully raised funds to strengthen our profession in Delaware. Funds raised will primarily assist the education of Delaware's therapists through 3 free continuing education seminars, sponsoring of continuing education programs, and a mentoring program for all students in the state. As the only representative body, we inform our members of the changes occurring in regulatory, technological, and scientific areas of concern.

A special thank you to Tami Miller, a student at Del Tech, and her 2 sons that volunteered to assist in the event. Their hard work and dedication to the DPTA is appreciated.

The success of the event is never possible without our sponsors. ATI Physical Therapy was the primary event sponsor. Barker Therapy and Rehabilitation, a Physiotherapy Associates company, along with Schwarz and Schwartz Attorneys, were the diamond sponsors. Core Physical Therapy was a gold sponsor and Tender Touch was a tee sponsor. The course beverage sponsor, NKS Beverage, was greatly appreciated. Again, appreciation to all for their valuable support!

Please take a moment and enjoy the pictures of our award winners for "Low Gross," "Low Net," "Closest to the Pin," and the men and women with the longest drive.

Philip Allen, Golf Committee Chair

(Clockwise Starting from Top Left)

"Low Gross" winners. Left to right: Dr Lynn Walsh, Phil Allen, and Sam Moncure



"Closest to the Pin" winner from Team Edelman.



Women's longest drive winner. Phil Allen with Carolyn Nichols from the Core Physical Therapy Team.

Men's longest drive winner. Left to right: Randy Smith, from the ATIPT Team, and Phil Allen



"Low Net" winners from Team Rybicki Left to right: Greg Rybicki, Phil Allen, and Jeff Rybicki



ADVERTISE WITH DPTA

DPTA has several advertising opportunities available on the website and in the chapter newsletter. These were created to increase your facility's reach and communication to chapter members. Our current opportunities include:

- E-Newsletter (published 3 times per year)
- Website banners
- Continuing education course listings

- Job listings
- Mailing labels
- Sponsorship (please contact the section for current opportunities)

If you are interested in advertising, visit the DPTA website and navigate to "Advertise with Us." Contact us at delaware@apta.org or call 800/999-2782, extension 3159 with questions.

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If you are not currently receiving e-mail communications from us and would like to, please contact us at

delaware@apta.org and confirm your e-mail address.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 20, 2014, 6:30 pm:
Making Smart Decisions
With Loan Repayment
(Sponsored by the SSIG)

February 4-7, 2015
Combined Sections
Meeting (CSM)
Indiana Convention Center,
Indianapolis, IN

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