

## X-ray Rules Update

### An update on x-ray rules and regulations from the Physical Therapy Examining Board meeting on December 6.

The Wisconsin Physical Therapy Examining Board (PTEB) met in Madison on December 6. **Kip Schick**, PT, DPT, MBA, WPTA Member, and **Annie Early**, WPTA Lobbyist, attended the meeting on behalf of the WPTA.

The PTEB discussed a draft of proposed rules and regulations, which is accessible at: <http://dsps.wi.gov/Boards-Councils/Agendas/Physical-Therapy-Examining-Board-Agenda-Materials> by clicking on the agenda for December 6, 2016.

As a highlight, here is the draft of the proposed rule for a new Chapter 10.02:

**PT 10.02 Qualifications.** A physical therapist may order x-rays to be performed by qualified persons if the physical therapist satisfies one of the following qualifications:

- The physical therapist holds an entry level clinical doctorate or transitional clinical doctoral degree in physical therapy from a college or university that has a physical therapy program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education or a successor organization recognized by the Board.
- The physical therapist has been issued a specialty certification from the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties or other national organization recognized by the Board. The clinical practice hours leading to the specialty certification shall include training in the practice of ordering x-rays.
- The physical therapist has completed a residency or fellowship certified by the American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education or other national organization recognized by the Board. The residency or fellowship shall include training in the practice of ordering x-rays.
- The physical therapist has completed a formal x-ray ordering training program approved by the Board under s. PT 10.03.

The PTEB made some changes to the draft in a new Chapter 10.03, with the most substantive change being that the PTEB will be proposing that individuals who complete a formal training program will not have to complete an application to the Board for approval. Instead, the WPTA expects the proposed rule to require physical therapists who order

*X-ray Update continued on page 3*

## President's Message

Connie Kittleson, PT, DPT



"Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right."

—Oprah Winfrey

As we look back to 2016, we can reflect on many things that we, as a Chapter, have achieved. Our x-ray legislation passed and has led to action in other states in areas of research and practice. Our consumer-facing marketing campaign, Visit Your PT, was a bold initiative for our Chapter

and has led to WPTA being more engaged in social media than ever before. Revision of our strategic plan gave us renewed and new avenues of focus for our endeavors. Throughout the year, the board of directors, committees, SIGs, taskforces, staff and our many members have poured energy and enthusiasm into promoting our profession, helping our patients, and contributing to the health of our society.

As we welcome in a new year, we have many opportunities to continue our involvement in the various aspects of our profession where our individual passions lie. In this issue of *PT Connections* you will find new information related to:

- WPTA fall election results – Congratulations to the newly elected board members and delegates.
- New CPT Codes effective January 1, 2017 – Proper use of these codes is important for our profession.
- Information regarding the new draft rules from the Physical Therapy Examining Board related to the x-ray legislation – Once the rules are finalized, WPTA will begin offering education related to the new law.

We are also entering a new legislative session here in Wisconsin. At the beginning of the year, legislators will be working on the state budget. As the session progresses, WPTA intends to pursue passage of the Interstate Licensure Compact for Physical Therapy. This compact would be a contract between participating states that would allow physical therapists in those states to treat patients in other participating states, much like your Wisconsin driver's license allows you to drive in other states. There are a number of health care professions with similar compacts and more are in development. The purpose of the compact is to facilitate interstate practice of physical therapy with the goal of improving public access to physical therapy services. A Compact Commission will form when 10 jurisdictions pass compact legislation. This commission will

*President's Message continued on the next page*



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**Statement of Purpose**

PT Connections is a quarterly newsletter published by the Wisconsin Physical Therapy Association online in January and June, and in print in March and October. It provides information on local, state and national issues affecting PTs and PTAs in the State of Wisconsin. It's three functions include disseminating information, soliciting involvement and educating members on current issues.

All articles should be submitted for review to: WPTA, 3510 East Washington Avenue, Madison, WI 53704 or to [wpta@wpta.org](mailto:wpta@wpta.org).

The WPTA welcomes your feedback. All letters to the editor must be signed, and include a phone number and address. Names will be withheld upon request. Letters to the editor and responses do not necessarily reflect the opinions or official policies of the WPTA or its Board of Directors. All materials submitted are subject to editorial review for inclusion and editing.

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Full Page – \$250	1/4 Page – \$100
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There is an extra charge for typesetting. Please call WPTA office at 608/221-9191 for details.

Next Issue – April 2017

Editorial and Ad submission deadline is March 1.

Non-member subscriptions are available for \$100/year.

**President's Message (cont.)**

be a government entity that will establish rules to govern the compact. States having passed the compact legislation will have representation on the commission. Currently four states have done so: Arizona, Missouri, Oregon and Tennessee. Fourteen additional states have indicated their intent to introduce compact legislation in their next legislative session. More information is available on-line at <http://www.apta.org/StateIssues/InterstateLicensureCompact> and <http://www.fsbpt.org/FreeResources/PhysicalTherapyLicensureCompact.aspx>

Also new this year is the first ever Wisconsin Physical Therapy Student Conclave being held on January 28. The WPTA Student Special Interest Group has organized a full day of programming for students to attend. All students in Wisconsin PT/PTA schools who are WPTA members are also members of the Student SIG. Keep informed by following them on Facebook.

Again this year, WPTA will send a delegation to the APTA House of Delegates. Motion concepts are already being developed and rich discussion is taking place online throughout the year. Delegates are already discussing the concept of "administrative burden" and its effects on physical therapy practice, as well as physical therapy participation in "lifestyle medicine". Although not every motion concept evolves into a motion for consideration at the House, the discussions are engaging and highly thought provoking. Our Chapter welcomes your ideas for influencing the direction of our profession at the national level.

Throughout this year, WPTA will continue to be here as a resource for members and advocate for the profession as a whole, including:

- Highlighting physical therapy as a safe alternative to opioids for the management of chronic pain.
- Advocating for fair reimbursement of physical therapy services.
- Advocating for consumer access to physical therapy services and preventing delay of care.
- Educating the public, payers and referral sources on the many conditions for which physical therapy offers evidence-based, effective treatment.
- Working with payers to decrease the administrative burden involved in procuring treatment approval and payment.
- Keeping our members informed on best practice and future trends across the national PT landscape.

At some time in 2017, you will be asked to renew your membership in APTA/WPTA. As you reflect on previous accomplishments and future developments, I hope that your passion for the profession remains steady or is renewed, and that it is an easy decision to continue to support and be a part of the association that supports this great profession. Stay informed, stay engaged, and most of all have fun loving what you do!

Cheers,

**Connie Kittleson, PT, DPT**  
President

## X-ray Update [cont.]

x-rays based on attending a formal training program to ensure they meet the training criteria as outlined in the proposed rule. Specifically, the WPTA expects 10.03 section 1 (a-e) to be replaced with the criteria in section 2 below it (a-f) and then sections 3 and 4 to be removed or modified.

The proposed rule is likely to be released by the end of the calendar year although this timeframe could extend into

January 2017. The WPTA will provide written comment on the proposed rule and will submit testimony whenever the time public comment occurs, which is likely to be the first meeting of the PTEB in 2017. Please direct any questions to the chapter office.

Submitted by **Kip Schick**, PT, DPT, MBA

## Committee News

### Health and Wellness

Watch for the kick-off of Rudy's Counting Steps community outreach program at the 2017 WPTA Spring Conference in Green Bay, April 20-21. Through this program, free quality pedometers and walking guidelines will be offered to members of the community to promote increased physical activity in the state of Wisconsin.

Submitted by **Becky Piazza**, PT and **Kristi Hallisy**, PT, Co-Chairs

### Federal Affairs

Despite limited movement from Congress on the Medicare Therapy Cap legislation to remove the annual cap on rehabilitation services, the APTA is hopeful to see movement regarding other key pieces of legislation before the end of the congressional session.

Legislation called the 21st Century Cures Act (HR 6) aims to promote innovation and increase health care funding. This legislation also combines several of APTA's key policy priorities, including:

- Rehabilitation Research components of the legislation would improve coordination of rehabilitation research at the National Institute of Health (NIH). The legislation would require development of a comprehensive rehabilitation research plan with updates at least every 5 years. This is similar to the "Enhancing the Stature and Visibility of Medical Rehabilitation Research" (H.R. 1631/S. 800).
- Medicare Locum Tenens for Physical Therapists is also addressed as part of the Cures Act. Locum tenens is the ability to bring in another licensed physical therapist during a temporary absence such as illness, pregnancy or continuing education. Locus tenens arrangements improve the overall continuity of care for patients by ensuring no delay in care exists. With the Cures Act locum tenens arrangements could be used in medically underserved areas, health professional shortage areas or rural settings. The APTA has advocated for locum tenens arrangements and has other existing legislation known as "Prevent Interruptions in Physical Therapy Act" (H.R. 556/S. 313), which seeks to allow locus tenens regardless of setting and situation.

- Telehealth Services in Medicare is also addressed in the Cures Act and would require the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to provide a report to Congress regarding the expansion of telehealth services and its impact. The report would include types of services that would benefit from telehealth and patient populations that would benefit from telehealth.

The Cures Act was passed in the House and Senate, and signed into law on December 13, 2016. To stay up to date on the Cures Act and other key APTA priorities join the PTeam on the APTA website by visiting <http://www.apta.org/PTeam/>.

APTA will continue to look for a timely introduction in the next Congress for other key issues.

Submitted by **Sarah Stineman**, PT, DPT, Chair

### Online Course: The Wisconsin Physical Therapy Practice Act

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*Presented by*

*Susan Griffin, PT, DPT, MS*

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2. Moral courage in healthcare: Practical ethics for PTs in Wisconsin

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or [www.educata.com](http://www.educata.com).



Wisconsin Physical Therapy Association

Online Ethics  
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## Committee News (cont.)

### Payment

#### How about making a few Reimbursement Resolutions this new year?

Please feel free to choose one or more of the following top eight reimbursement resolutions for 2017:

**#1** Verify that when your new patients call into your facility and they have financial concerns, that the person taking the call is able to address those concerns and communicate the incredible PT Value Proposition! WPTA has a PT Value Proposition tool on the website under Members - Reimbursement Issues.

**#2** Be certain that your therapists know how to promote their own value and discuss any financial concerns with their patients. The APTA has reported that >30% of patients are NOT completing their Plan of Care due to financial concerns! See the WPTA tool as noted above.

**#3** Seek updated knowledge and training on new CPT codes, their value and compliant documentation, to support your billing. The WPTA has a webinar series on Best Practices in Documentation and Billing and there are multiple resources available through the APTA as well.

**#4** Perform internal self-audits, or seek external audits of your billing and documentation, to be certain you are up to date and compliant in anticipation of a potential external CMS or other 3rd party payer audit. WPTA has a recorded webinar on self audits available.

**#5** Insure that you are using quality reporting measurers such as FOTO, Care Connections or a myriad of other standardized functional reporting tools to prepare your practice for value-based purchasing payment scenarios.

**#6** Perform a HIPAA self-audit or seek resources to help you ensure HIPAA compliance in your practice setting. HIPAA violations are growing each year in the rehab field.

**#7** Review your charge master and be sure that your therapists are using contemporary coding and billing, and that your code pricing is reflective of both the increasing level of professional services you are providing and your cost of doing business.

**#8** Take a step back and better understand when and how you can charge your patients cash for services. Medicare currently does NOT allow physical therapists to "opt-out" and charge Medicare recipients cash for Medicare covered services. However, those services that are outside of coverage can be cash offerings. See this APTA members ONLY resource at <http://www.apta.org/Payment/Billing/CashPractice/ComplianceIssue>

#### Wisconsin ANTHEM BCBS (Anthem)

OrthoNet Samples of Issues:

Despite soliciting specific examples for Wisconsin Anthem BCBS review of OrthoNet issues at the fall conference, and through a few emails, only two providers submitted issues to Anthem for review! I am afraid that we might miss an opportunity here for great follow up and intervention from

our local Anthem provider representatives. If you have an example of an issue, please visit the WPTA website for the form to report these for review directly to Anthem.

#### Important information about billing habilitative and rehabilitative services for pediatric providers:

Anthem will apply separate and distinct benefit limits for habilitative and rehabilitative services for all individual and small group On-Exchange and Off-Exchange health plans beginning with dates of service on and after January 1, 2017. This means **these plans will no longer have a combined visit limit for habilitative and rehabilitative services**. Habilitative services help a person keep, learn, or improve skills and functioning for daily living which have not (but normally would have) developed. Rehabilitative services help a person keep, restore, or improve skills and functioning for daily living which have been lost or impaired after an illness or injury, such as a car accident or stroke. Please note that this regulation does NOT apply to early intervention services.

**Beginning with dates of service on and after January 1, 2017, the appropriate use of the modifier SZ is necessary when billing habilitative services to Anthem.**

#### CMS/Medicare Updates for 2017:

- Overall Medicare fee schedule (Part B) will have an increase in the conversion factor 35.8043 (2016) to 35.8887 (2017). Yes; this will yield a marginal increase in PT/OT/SLP fees but do not go out giving any bonuses based on that!
- The therapy cap for 2017 is \$1,980; it is still split by Speech and Language Pathology and Physical Therapy. Occupational Therapy will continue to receive the full \$1,980 compensation. The Therapy Cap Exceptions provision is in place through December 31, 2017; the same requirements apply as in previous years.
- Manual Medical Reviews for services over \$3,700 will be conducted on certain claims that exceed the \$3,700 threshold, focusing on those claims and providers who have aberrant billing behavior.
- The Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction (MPPR) will still be in place for 2017 and the Sequestration Payment Reduction (2%) will still be in place for 2017.
- Remember, new evaluation and reevaluation codes are effective January 1, 2017. Please see the APTA Learning Center for a podcast and information.

Submitted by **Lynn Steffes**, PT, DPT, Chair  
WPTA Payment Specialist

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# District News

## Southeast

Last month the Southeast District purchased 20 books from Chronic Joy Ministry entitled *Discovering Hope* by Cindee Snider Re. *Discovering Hope* is a powerful, practical, insightful and well-written guide for all those affected by chronic physical and mental illness. Chronic Joy Ministry was created to raise awareness of the overwhelming impact of chronic illness. They offer social media communities, speakers, and tools to help manage chronic illnesses. If you have a patient who you would like to donate one of these books to, please contact **Rachel Thiel**, PT at [rthiel@ptplus.com](mailto:rthiel@ptplus.com). If you are interested in Chronic Joy Ministries, visit their website at <https://chronic-joy.org>

Upcoming CEU:

### **Examination and Treatment of the Cervical Spine: A Manual Physical Therapy Based Approach**

Presented by **Jeff Davies**, PT

Orthopedic Clinical Specialist, Certified McKenzie Method of Mechanical Diagnosis and Therapy

**Date:** Saturday, January 14, 8am-5pm, and Sunday January 15, 8am-1pm

**Place:** Bryant & Stratton College 10950 W. Potter Rd. Wauwatosa, WI 53226

**Cost:** WPTA member \$200; non-member \$275 (lunch and snacks provided)

Submitted by **Becky Thomas**, PT, Chair

## Southwest

The Southwest District had another successful CE course in our ongoing Orthopedic Focus Series. Thank you to **Joe Tupta**, PT for his presentation on the low back and pelvis. If you have any suggestions for future topics, please contact **Kelcie Wittman**, PT, DPT at [kwittman@uwhealth.org](mailto:kwittman@uwhealth.org).

We are participating in the Well EXPO again this year and are looking for volunteers! Volunteer on January 20 or 21 and help educate the public on physical therapy. Please contact **Megan O'Connell**, PT, DPT with any questions at [MO'Connell@uwhealth.org](mailto:MO'Connell@uwhealth.org).

Elections are underway for a new Vice Chair and Secretary for the District. We would like to thank **David Lippi-Guerron**, PT, DPT, for his creation of our mentorship program and hard work over the last four years as Vice Chair. We would also like to thank **Jackie Spees**, PT, DPT for her time as Secretary over the last two years. Good luck to both going forward.

Lastly, if you are a second year student, third year student, or recent graduate and looking for a mentor, please email **Allison Hodgson**, PT, at [AHodgson@uwhealth.org](mailto:AHodgson@uwhealth.org) for more information. If you are an experienced PT looking to give back in the form of mentorship, please email Allison to start making a difference today.

Submitted by **Jackie Spees**, DPT, Secretary

## West Central

The West Central District is once again in full force and I would like to thank all of our presenters over the last few

months. Our first course was by **Mary Kerrigan**, PT, DPT, presenting quick screening tools for vestibular patients. We presented our biennial ethics course hosted at Stoney Creek lodge, presented by **Shari Berry**, PT. This course examined the "Four Way Method for Ethical Decision Making" created by **Rick Kyte**, PhD. We finish our 2016 year with "Update on Multiple Sclerosis" presented by **Mary Goodsett**, MD. Stay tuned for the 2017 education offerings coming soon. If you have any ideas for courses or presenters, please contact one of the district leaders: **Mary Kerrigan** at [maryakerrigan@gmail.com](mailto:maryakerrigan@gmail.com), or **Jack Knudson-Stuhr**, PTA at [jaknudso@gundersenhealth.org](mailto:jaknudso@gundersenhealth.org).

We are also wish to introduce you to one of the District officers. **Kurt Van Auken**, PTA, is currently assisting us in the District. I was able to ask him a few questions to help get to know the real person behind the goniometer.

"I received my Bachelor's degree in Exercise and Sport Science from UW-LaCrosse in 2011. I worked outside of health care for a couple years but decided to return to school to follow my passion. I obtained my Associate's degree from Western Tech as a PTA in 2015. Since then I have worked one year in a SNF facility and recently at Outpatient Orthopedic PT at Gundersen Health System. I hold the PR representative position for the WCD. I have plans to become a CI starting next year. My favorite memories of my family are just the nights when we could all be together around a campfire or watching the little ones (fur and no fur) run around. I am a relatively new home owner so that is my biggest challenge/adventure at this time."

Submitted by **Jack Knudson-Stuhr**, PTA, Chair



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# Frequently Asked Questions

WPTA Practice Chair **Mike Edwards**, PT, and Payment Specialist **Lynn Steffes**, PT, DPT, provide answers to some of your most popular physical therapy questions.

## Practice

### QUESTIONS:

1. If a PT performs an evaluation for a Worker's Compensation Case and develops a PT Plan of Care billing 97001 - can an OT or OTA deliver the care?
2. What if the PT performs the evaluation and develops a Plan of Care billing 97750 instead of a PT Evaluation Code (97001) - can an OT or OTA deliver the care?
3. What if a PT performs the evaluation and develops the Plan of Care billing 97545 (Which implies a multidisciplinary Team) - can an OT or OTA deliver the care?

### ANSWERS:

The billing descriptors for the CPT codes referenced are outlined below. Neither of the codes are designed to be used in lieu of an evaluation. The evaluation includes not just a collection of information and/or physical performance measures, but includes analyzing the results and developing a plan of care. That is reserved for the evaluation billing code(s).

Billing aside, an OT/OTA cannot carry out a "physical therapy plan of care". That is limited to a PT and PTA. In Wisconsin, a PT may delegate certain activities to "unlicensed (i.e. non-PT/PTA) individuals but only under direct and immediate supervision and when the PT assesses the patient immediately prior to and immediately after the care provided by the unlicensed person is delivered. An OT/OTA would be considered an unlicensed person when providing care under the PT's supervision. PTs are authorized to refer to other health professionals (i.e. an OT.)

#### Physical Performance Test or Measurement (CPT code 97750)

A physical performance test or measurement may be reasonable and necessary for patients with neurological or musculoskeletal conditions when there is a need to evaluate the ability to perform specific tasks. It may include a number of multi-varied tests and measurements of physical performance of a select area or number of areas. **These services are not to be used in lieu of evaluation or re-evaluation services.** It would not be appropriate to report a code from the 95831-95834 or the 95851-95852 series in addition to 97750. **It is not medically reasonable and necessary to bill this service as part of a routine assessment/evaluation of rehabilitation services (97001, 97002). Direct one-on-one patient contact is required.**

#### Work Hardening (CPT code 97545)

Initial first two hours of service **(but is separate/distinct from evaluation 97001)**

#### Evaluation Code 97001 (for Physical Therapy)

The initial evaluation identifies the problem or difficulty

the patient is having which helps determine the appropriate therapy necessary to treat the patient. An evaluation is a comprehensive service requiring professional skills to make clinical judgments about conditions for which services are indicated. If a new diagnosis/problem is encountered, then an additional evaluation may be appropriate to determine what course of treatment is necessary for the separate identifiable diagnosis/problem.

#### Re-Evaluation Code 97002 (for Physical Therapy)

Re-evaluations are indicated periodically when the professional assessment indicates a significant improvement or decline in the patient's condition or functional status. The re-evaluation focuses on the patient's progress toward current goals. Professional judgment is used to determine continued care, modifying goals and/or treatment or terminating services.

Submitted by **Mike Edwards**, PT, Practice Committee Chair

## Reimbursement

**Q:** Will a majority of third party payers kick off the new evaluation and re-evaluation codes in 2017?

**A:** We have confirmation that Medicare and Wisconsin Medicaid will implement new eval/re-eval codes, as well as Wisconsin Anthem BCBS and United HealthCare.

**Q:** Will Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) be auditing therapists' documentation compliance to match the new coding in 2017?

**A:** CMS will consider 2017 an educational year, and while documenting to accurately support PT eval or re-eval requirements continues to be a compliance requirement, documentation will not be audited. Developing strong strategies to document the tiered codes is encouraged.

**Q:** Is it true that the three tiers of evaluation codes will ALL be valued and therefore paid the same by Medicare?

**A:** Yes; in 2017 there will be NO PAYMENT differential.

**Q:** What are the most significant documentation requirements in documenting low/moderate/high eval codes?

**A:** Most important is to carefully identify related comorbidities and complexities that might better affect the complexity of the patient and/or affect the patient's Plan of Care. Also important is specifically documenting the patient presentation as stable/uncomplicated (low), evolving/changing (moderate) or unstable/unpredictable (high).

**Q:** Are there significant differences in documenting re-eval?

**A:** Yes; in addition to reassessing both function and impairments, and creating an updated Plan of Care, there must also be a specific reference to review of patient's medical history in the re-eval.

*FAQs continued on the next page*

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## Frequently Asked Questions [cont.]

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**Q:** I have heard that the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) requirement for private practice PTs is “sun setting” 12/31/16. What does this mean?

**A:** The PQRS reporting program is shifting to a program referred to as Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), which PTs are NOT eligible to use in 2017. Therefore, reporting for PQRS requirements will NOT BE REQUIRED in 2017. See <http://www.apta.org/PQRS>

Submitted by **Lynn Steffes**, PT, DPT,  
WPTA Payment Specialist

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## Featured DPT/PTA Programs

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Each *PT Connections* newsletter section “Topics in PT/PTA Education” features a DPT and PTA program selected by alphabetical order. Programs have been asked to submit, “What is new or innovative about your program in recent years, and what changes do you foresee in the next few years?”

### Northeast Wisconsin Technical College

The Northeast Wisconsin Technical College Physical Therapist Assistant Program is the largest PTA program in the state of Wisconsin. We serve a very wide geographic area, from Stevens Point and Wausau in the west to Sheboygan and Manitowoc in the east, and from Fond du Lac in the south to Iron Mountain and Escanaba in the north. We have two campuses; our main campus in Green Bay accepts 36 students every year and our Marinette campus accepts 12 students every other year. Both campuses start in the fall. Our program runs over five semesters, including the summer session between the first and second years, graduating students every May.

We have three full time instructors on staff. **Leah Smejkal**, MPT, LAT is our Program Director and has a background in outpatient orthopedics and spine treatment, with certifications in pilates, dry needling and other manual techniques. In addition to many years as a CI and CCCE, **Mary Cumbers**, PTA brings experience in outpatient orthopedics, sub-acute rehabilitation, and PTA education. **Chuck Castleberg**, MPT, ACCE who is the clinical coordinator, has a background in acute, home health care, and ergonomic settings.

Our curriculum is similar to the other PTA programs in Wisconsin, with the exception that we have put in place a clinical pathology course. We put a strong emphasis on service learning opportunities for our students, which includes Keep Stepping. This is a group prevention and wellness program that we provide for local community dwelling adults in which students provide individualized training to improve strength, balance, and aerobic endurance, in addition to group education on general

health and wellness topics. We have also recently begun a partnership with a local elementary school where our students provide functional movement screens for students, who are then guided in improvement activities and exercises by the instructors.

Our clinical program places students throughout our wide coverage area, as well as out of state when students wish. We require all students to have at least one outpatient placement and one placement at an inpatient setting, either short or long term. Clinicals are selected by students as part of a lottery system. Our formal placements all take place from January to May of the final semester in the program. Our Keep Stepping program functions as two “in house” clinical experiences which take place during the second and fourth semesters in the program. For further information and admission requirements, see our website: <http://www.nwtc.edu/academics/degrees/health-sciences/Medical/Pages/PhysicalTherapistAssistant.aspx>, or contact Leah Smejkal with program questions at [Leah.Smejkal@NWTC.EDU](mailto:Leah.Smejkal@NWTC.EDU), or Chuck Castleberg with clinical questions at [Charles.Castleberg@NWTC.EDU](mailto:Charles.Castleberg@NWTC.EDU).

Submitted by **Chuck Castleberg**, MPT, ACCE

### Reminder

**Please make sure the APTA/WPTA has your correct e-mail address.**

We email important updates to keep you informed. Contact the WPTA Chapter Office at [wpta@wpta.org](mailto:wpta@wpta.org), call 608/221-9191 or go to APTA’s website: [www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org) to update your membership information.

**Thank You!**



# Get to Know a Board Member

In this ongoing feature WPTA board members are interviewed to learn more about them, personally and professionally. This issue's member is the WPTA Southeast District Chair, **Becky Thomas, PT**.

## What inspired you to go into the physical therapy profession?

My journey of becoming a physical therapist began in high school after a sports injury landed me in physical therapy. After working with my therapist and having a love of sports, I was determined to become an athletic trainer with a physical therapy degree.



## Please share a synopsis of your PT career, including your formal education.

I spent every summer after my freshman year of high school attending athletic training camps and became one of the student trainers for Arrowhead High School's football team. I was awarded a full scholarship to the University of Kentucky as a student athletic trainer and attended there from 1994–2000, receiving my Bachelors of Health Science and my Masters of Science in Physical Therapy. My dreams of becoming an athletic trainer for an NFL team never came to fruition, as my love for acute care and wound care grew during my clinical rotations in PT school. I spent the first five years after graduation working in these setting, but after moving back to Wisconsin with my husband and two kids in 2005, I transitioned into an outpatient role. In 2013 I received my certification in trigger point dry needling and have found it to be one of the most rewarding tools I have learned thus far. I started lecturing on wound care for Carroll University and developed a love for teaching and then became the Program Director of the PTA program at Bryant & Stratton College. I am currently working on my Master of Health Education Certificate from Rosalind Franklin University.

## What is one of the most rewarding experiences you've had in a leadership role in the WPTA?

Besides getting to work alongside of some of the most amazing PTs in the state, I would have to say the most rewarding part is gaining a better understanding of the depth of what the WPTA does for our profession. To be a part of the changes that are being made at a state level that benefit our profession and move us forward is awesome. Although, budget conference calls are a close second!

## If you would like, please share a favorite family memory.

One of my favorite family memories is a summer trip I took with my husband and kids to Door County. We stayed in this hotel, that was apparently "historic" but still had a bottle opener in the bathroom and a TV that had a pull-out knob to turn it on. Despite the hotel, the rest of the trip was awesome and we still laugh about the dumpy hotel.

## Do you have a favorite book? What types of books do you prefer?

Although I don't have much time to read books for "fun", and I would rather be running or racing my paddle board, I did get a chance to read *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot last summer. It is by far one of the best books I have ever read, and I would recommend it to anyone who is in a healthcare profession.

## What's one of your favorite movies?

My favorite movies are romantic comedies: *Sleepless in Seattle*, *Pretty Woman*, *You've Got Mail*, *The Princess Bride*....and the list goes on.

## If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?

It is probably too late to learn how to do this, but I would like to learn how to become a speed skater. I feel like I have the strength to do it, but not sure my body would hold up well if I lost my footing and ran into the wall.

## If you could witness any event past, present or future, what would it be?

If I had a time machine, I would travel back to watch Jesus's birth and watch all of the miracles he performed. Then, I would go back to January 1, 1863 to see all of the slaves be freed by Abraham Lincoln, and July of 1969 to watch Armstrong and Aldrin land on the moon.

## If you could have a super power, what would it be?

Flying! I would fly all over the world to meet people and to see all of the amazing sights I have never seen, and give to those in need. Of course I would want to wear an outfit that resembles Wonder Woman!

I have met several incredible mentors who have molded my journey to becoming a PT, but I would like to give shout outs to **Mike Edwards, PT**, **Amy Snyder, PT, DPT**, **Barb Bauman, PT**, **Jenn Jeske, PT, DPT** and of course all of my incredible professors from PT school. You have inspired my journey and given me courage to be where I am today. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

**Have you visited  
the WPTA**

**CAREER**  
**Center lately?**

**<http://jobs.wpta.org/>**

# 2017 Calendar of Events

**January 14-15** – Southeast District presents “Examination and Treatment of Cervical Spine Disorders and Mechanical Headaches: A Manual Physical Therapy Based Approach”, Bryant & Stratton College, Wauwatosa

**January 21-22** – Northeast District presents “Practical Application of Muscle Energy Techniques in Managing Common Neuromusculoskeletal Pathology of the Thoracolumbar Spine & Pelvis”, Bellin Health - Bellevue, Green Bay

**February 15-18** - APTA Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) - San Antonio, TX

**February 25** – WPTA Board of Directors Meeting - Chapter Office, Madison

**April 20-21** – Spring Conference - Radisson Hotel, Green Bay

**May 5-6** – WPTA Board of Directors Meeting and Strategic Planning - Chapter Office, Madison

**June 21-24** – APTA NEXT Conference and Exposition - Boston, MA

**July 15** – WPTA Board of Directors Meeting - Chapter Office, Madison

**October 12-13** – Fall Conference - Madison Marriott West, Middleton

**October 13** – WPTA Board of Directors Meeting - Madison Marriott West, Middleton

## CLINICAL EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

### APTA Credentialed Clinical Instructor Program (CCIP)

The program (two days) addresses issues of planning and preparing for physical therapy students during their clinical experiences, developing learning experiences, and supporting ongoing learning through questioning and effective feedback. Skills of student evaluation are discussed, as well as the identification and management of students with exceptional situations. It includes information regarding student supervisory guidelines, as well as legal regulatory and ADA issues. An “Assessment Center” provides each participant with the opportunity to apply information from the program in simulated situations. **15 contact hours**

### APTA Advanced Credentialed Clinical Instructor Program (ACCIP)

The focus of this course is *best clinical practice* and *best clinical teaching*. This course is open only to physical therapists who have taken the original CCIP workshop. It includes two days of programming along with some online preparatory work to be applied in class. **16.75 contact hours**

### Annual Wisconsin Clinical Education SIG (CESIG) Conference

This one-day conference is held each year for anyone interested in topics related to clinical education. **7 contact hours.**

DATE	WORKSHOP/LOCATION	CONTACT
March 13-14, 2017 (Thursday and Friday)	APTA CCIP and ACCIP Marquette University	<b>Diane S. Slaughter</b> , PT, MS Phone: 414/288-3097 <a href="http://www.marquette.edu/chs/continuing_ed.shtml">http://www.marquette.edu/chs/continuing_ed.shtml</a>
April 27-28, 2017 (Thursday and Friday)	APTA CCIP UW-La Crosse	<b>Amy Taebel</b> , PT, DPT Phone: 608/785-5065 Email: <a href="mailto:ataebel@uwlax.edu">ataebel@uwlax.edu</a>
Spring 2017	Annual CESIG Conference	

Schedule provided by WPTA's Clinical Education SIG: [lori.keisic@aurora.org](mailto:lori.keisic@aurora.org). For additional updates and information please see [www.wpta.org](http://www.wpta.org) and follow the Clinical Education Special Interest Group (CESIG) link.

# 2016 WPTA Fall Conference...Optimizing Movement



## GOLD Level Sponsors

PT Pros Management Services	Greenfield Rehabilitation Agency
Aspirus Langlade Hospital	UW Health
Kurbi	US Physical Therapy Marshfield Clinic

## SILVER Level Sponsors

BellinHealth	CI Pediatric Therapy Centers
Home Health United	VGM Advantage
Advanced Pain Management	QuadMed
Froedtert Health	Select Medical
my PT solutions	

**Thank You to Our  
Fall 2016 Vendors for Their  
Support of WPTA and the  
Physical Therapy Profession!**

**The raffle prize drawing  
was a huge success!  
Many thanks to the vendors who  
donated prizes.**

## BRONZE Level Sponsors

Premier Medical Staffing Services	Mercy Health System
ATI Physical Therapy	Easter Seals Wisconsin Camps
Career Tree Network	2nd Wind Exercise
Ruby Orthopedic	Thedacare
Dynatronics	RollOut Therapy
HCR ManorCare	Dartfish USA



*Department of Safety and Professional Services Secretary Dave Ross, Lobbyist Annie Early, and WPTA President Connie Kittleson, among many others, provided important information and updates to members at the Business Meeting.*



# 2016 WPTA Fall Conference...Optimizing Movement



*It was a great turnout for the annual Business Meeting lunch.*



*The WPT-Fund basket raffle raised funds for PT student scholarships. Thanks to all who purchased tickets or donated!*



*Krystal Byers practices the Y-Balance Test during the "Current Concepts in Return to Sport Decision Making" course.*



*Calvin Deutsch sits down with attendees during the group breakout sessions in his "Regional Interdependence: Challenging Conventional Thinking About Musculoskeletal Disorders" course.*



*Thursday's lunch and sold out exhibit hall was packed. Attendees had the opportunity to network and check out the vendors.*

# 2015-2016 Miami-Marquette Challenge

## Wisconsin PT Students Help Break Record in 2016 Fundraising Challenge

Students from DPT programs in Wisconsin were among students from 150 schools that participated in the record-breaking 2015-2016 Pittsburgh-Marquette Challenge, raising \$354,320, the highest annual total in the history of the fundraiser. Since its inception in 1989, 264 schools have participated in the Marquette Challenge and have raised a cumulative total of \$3.3 million for the Foundation for Physical Therapy.

The Foundation wishes to thank the physical therapy students of Carroll University, Concordia University Wisconsin, Marquette University, University of Wisconsin-Madison and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for raising \$21,744 in support of the Challenge. Notably, Marquette University became a part of the Champion Society of the Marquette Challenge Philanthropy Circle this year for their cumulative donation of over \$300,000 through over 10 years of participation.

This year's top fundraisers include:

- 1st Place: Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)
- 2nd Place: Mercer University
- 3rd Place: University of Pittsburgh

As the top fundraiser, Virginia Commonwealth University will serve as co-host for the 2016-2017 VCU-Marquette Challenge, which is underway.

The Challenge annually supports grants, scholarships and a rigorous peer review process which results in the awarding of all Foundation scholarships and grants. **Karin Gräware Silbernagel**, PT, PhD, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of Delaware, is the recipient of the 2015 Pittsburgh-Marquette Research Grant. Her research will examine achilles tendon ruptures and the evaluation of their recovery. The Challenge also funded a Promotion of Doctoral Studies (PODS) I Scholarship in 2016, which was awarded to **Allison Gustavson (Kosir)**, PT, DPT, from the University of Colorado-Anschutz Medical Campus.

Faculty and students of DPT and PTA programs in the state of Wisconsin are encouraged to visit the Foundation's website at [www.Foundation4PT.org](http://www.Foundation4PT.org) or call 800/875-1378 to learn how they can support the Foundation and physical therapy research through the VCU-Marquette Challenge. Contributions for the 2016-2017 VCU-Marquette Challenge should be submitted by the April 27, 2017 deadline. Donations are tax deductible and can be made online at [www.Foundation4PT.org](http://www.Foundation4PT.org) or sent to its headquarters at 1111 N Fairfax St, Alexandria, VA 22314.

### About the Foundation for Physical Therapy

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. This is done by providing support for scientifically-based and clinically-relevant physical therapy research, and doctoral scholarships and fellowships.

Over the last 37 years, the Foundation has awarded more than \$17 million in research grants, fellowships, and post professional doctoral scholarships to more than 576 emerging scientists. Foundation funded researchers have gone on to receive an estimated \$753 million in external funding from the National Institutes of Health and other sources. Many of today's leading and emerging physical therapist researchers, clinicians, and academicians began their careers with a grant or scholarship from the Foundation.

Submitted by **McKayla Figueroa**, SPT  
Marquette University

## Election Results

**The results for the WPTA 2016 Election are in!**

**Newly elected members include:**

**Secretary – Nicole Marquardt**

**Treasurer – Bob Runge**

**Directors – Jane Bernatovich and Jack Knudson-Stuhr**

**Ethics Committee – Laurie Kontney**

**Nominating Committee – Rachel Thiel, Josh Zilm, Jason Koenigs and Jonathan Walton**

**Delegates – Carlynn Alt, Abby Inman, Chantel Hasman, Jane Bernatovich and Amy Helminski**

**Alternate Delegate – Rachel Jermann**

**PTA Caucus Rep. – Krissa Reeves**

Newly elected members will be sworn in at the Spring 2017 WPTA Conference in April at the Radisson Hotel in Green Bay

## Congratulations!



Be part of something  
**REMARKABLE**



Our world-class team of health care professionals is on a mission to provide the best health care experience at **Wisconsin's #1 hospital** in Madison, WI.

If you enjoy the field of **physical therapy**,  
you'll find remarkable opportunities on our team.  
Contact Kashana Surfus, senior recruiter, [ksurfus@uwhealth.org](mailto:ksurfus@uwhealth.org)  
or 800-443-6164, or visit [uwhealth.org/careers](http://uwhealth.org/careers) to learn more.



UW Health. Remarkable Careers.



# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

## Wisconsin Physical Therapy Association AWARDS 2016

### **Outstanding Service Award**

To acknowledge an individual who has made significant contributions to the profession of physical therapy in Wisconsin as evidenced by distinguished and conspicuous contributions in the area of service to the Association and in the areas of education, research, or practice which have been marked by excellence.

### **Award for Clinical Excellence**

To recognize an individual who has made significant contributions to the physical therapy profession in the area of clinical practice.

### **Hall of Fame Award**

To recognize individuals who have made lifelong contributions to the physical therapy profession as a member of the WPTA.

### **Clinical Instructor of the Year Award**

To recognize individuals who have demonstrated excellence in the clinical education of physical therapist and/or physical therapist assistant students.

### **Mentor Award**

To recognize individuals who have influenced and nurtured the development of PTs and/or PTAs in an outstanding or unique manner.

### **Physical Therapist Assistant Award of Excellence**

To recognize a physical therapist assistant who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in clinical practice, community service and personal commitment to the field of physical therapy.

### **Rookie of the Year Award**

To recognize an individual who has made significant contributions to the physical therapy profession in the areas of clinical practice or service within three years of graduation from an accredited PT or PTA program.

### **Otto A. Cordero Award for Lifetime Achievement**

To recognize an individual who has made sustained and significant contributions to the profession of physical therapy and to the Association over the course of his/her career.

### **District Volunteer Service Award**

To acknowledge an individual who has made significant contributions to the profession of physical therapy as evidenced by distinguished service to his/her district.

**Nominations are due January 31, 2017.  
All awards will be presented at the WPTA  
Spring Conference in Green Bay in April 2017.**

For additional information on the criteria and selection process for awards,  
please visit the WPTA Awards webpage

<http://wpta.org/about-wisconsin-physical-therapy/awards/>  
or contact the office by email, [wpta@wpta.org](mailto:wpta@wpta.org) or by phone, 608/221-9191

# Welcome to These New Members!

## PTs

Rajeshwari Iyer  
Kristen Musser  
Rachel Torlak

## PTAs

Jamin Chilsen  
Brad Pralle

## Students

Marilyn Abraham  
Taylor Albright  
Bryan Alm  
Matthew Besch  
Kristin Beyer  
Taylor Boehle  
Brett Boettler  
Kyle Brown  
Billy Bruggink  
Arron Buck  
Tacy Camenga  
Shannon Campbell  
Olivia Carlton  
Beck Chase  
Hannah Copeland  
Nichole Cruse  
Christian de Galicia  
Daniel Delach  
Heather Eck  
Barbara Eisenberg  
Alissa Elwing  
Corrine Engels  
Emma Erickson  
Daniel Farrenkopf  
Randi Fennig

Andrew Finnegan  
Gina Finnel  
Connor Ganzer  
Wendee Gardner  
Tiffany Gehl  
Jacob Giese  
Kati Gittens  
Aleya Goerlitz  
Rachel Grabowski  
Kaylee Gransee  
Cassandra Gray  
Ashley Hettich  
Stephen Hodgson  
Andrew Hovell  
Jessica Jaeckels  
Alyssa Jansen  
Andrew Jend  
Nicholas Jensen  
Ashley Keller  
Tori Kieler  
Briana Kissinger  
Taryn Kluess  
Kayla Knez  
Camille Koch  
Amy Konkol  
Kristin Kotzer  
Nicole Kovak  
Sydney Kozlik  
Jennifer Kroeger  
Molly Kujaua  
Quentin Lamers  
Allison Lash  
Daniel Lepkowski  
Chloe Leszczynski  
Noelle Linden

Lauren Lipker  
Brittany Luteyn  
Paige Lyford  
Tiffany March  
Jennifer McGarry  
Jacob Meleski  
Peter Menges  
Rachael Menos  
Matthew Michael  
Bradley Michalko  
Jennifer Nelson  
Andrew Nemcek  
April Okruszynski  
Taylor Olsen  
Chelsea Olson  
Jessica Onsager  
Melanie Oostdyk  
Leah Pape  
Veronica Patino  
Eric Paulos  
Caitlyn Persinger  
Nicholas Petronovich  
Amanda Pickel  
Kaila Potting  
Valerie Prusak  
David Rader  
Nicole Rauckman  
Victoria Rivera  
Maria Roman  
Jordan Ruedt  
Carly Schams  
Emily Schanock  
Bridget Schedler  
Morgan Scholfield  
Alex Schuler

Samuel Schwartz  
Colleen Scott  
Alyssa Szczepanials  
Carley Seibel  
Nicholas Selig  
Gary Shields  
Sarah Siembal  
Kaycie Simon  
Laura Simon  
Conner Simons  
Brandon Skolos  
Kayla Smith  
Corianne Strupp  
Christopher Suilmann  
Chelsea Swanson  
Samantha Tartaglia  
Tyler Thorsen  
Dominic Tomczyk  
Sarah Toy  
Haley Trom  
Kody Vaassen  
Annika VanRyzin  
Olivia Westhoff  
Megan Willger

**PTs = 1618**

**PTAs = 154**

**Students = 863**

**Total = 2635**

## Ste into the Future WPTA SPRING CONFERENCE

*April 20-21, 2017 • Radisson Hotel • Green Bay*

### Topics Include:

The Foot and Ankle Complex, Telehealth, Myofascial Pain and Dry Needling, HIPAA Compliance, Recruit and Retain Top Talent, X-ray Imaging, Cervical and Shoulder Dysfunction, Temporomandibular Disorders, Craniofacial and Orofacial Pain, Concussion, Student Session, Awards Dinner, Business Meeting, and much more! Watch for updates at [www.wpta.org](http://www.wpta.org).