Spring is here and I’m very excited to attend my first House of Delegates in Orlando and support the amazing team of Oregon delegates who are invested in bringing our collective voice into APTA policies and decision-making. I am also most proud to be attending the awards ceremony to honor OPTA student member, Adama Sanou, who is the 2018 APTA PTA Minority Scholarship Award recipient. Adama has an amazing story of resilience and service and is a powerful representative for Oregon and PTA students.

Your OPTA has been working hard to make sure we yield excellent outcomes and opportunities for advocacy, leadership, and professional development throughout 2018 and beyond. What is guiding our efforts? Clear goals for the next three years, and efforts to prioritize our actions so that we can achieve the greatest result.

At Spring Conference, I spoke about the importance of a filled bucket as an analogy for the collective energy for bringing a plan to life and reaching meaningful goals together. I’m happy to share that your Board approved these strategic goals to guide our work:

Goal 1: OPTA’s advocacy creates needed change to benefit physical therapy professionals.

Goal 2: OPTA members initiate events and opportunities that advance OPTA goals.

Goal 3: OPTA members have access to high quality, relevant professional development and other continuing education opportunities.

Goal 4: The general public and key audiences are aware of the value of physical therapy.

Goal 5: OPTA engages in effective 2-way dialogue with members.

Goal 6: OPTA’s Board of Directors is strong, vibrant, and committed.

Goal 7: Oregon’s APTA delegation continues to play a leadership role in national policy making for the APTA.

Thanks to the work of our member-leaders, we are now moving from visioning to targeted implementation and focused action that is

Continued on page 2
filling our bucket. For example, Spring Conference provoked some conversations from our early career members, and in June, we will be hosting our first continuing education event specifically for students and early career members. One event, led to one conversation, which became the means by which we show we really do mean it when we say “OPTA members initiate events and opportunities that advance OPTA goals.” This is what can happen when our members are committed to engaging in conversations that convert ideas into action. In order to fill our OPTA bucket, we need members to help with diverse, yet intentional actions to reach and surpass our goals.

Here is what you can do:  

**Contribute to the Oregon PT-PAC today.**  
We have some heavy lifting planned for the 2019 legislative session, including efforts to remedy the utilization management burden for our members and the patients we serve. Our Government Affairs Committee is working hard with our lobbyist and legislators in Salem to develop a bill that will make sure patients can access physical therapy without prior authorization requirements that delay initial implementation of the physical therapy plan of care. We are networking with the APTA and engaging in conversations with chapters from across the nation to learn from our colleagues and develop the best strategy for Oregon.

We need financial support through the Oregon PT-PAC to pay for our lobbyist and build legislative support. All OPTA board members have contributed to the 2018 Oregon PT-PAC and **our $10,000 matching campaign is underway;** your contribution will count double toward our patient advocacy efforts. Remember, your contribution to OPT-PAC is eligible for an Oregon tax credit of up to $50 per individuals with an adjusted gross income of less than $100k, and up to $100 for couples filing jointly with an adjustable gross income less than $200k. If you have already contributed in 2018, thank you! If you have yet to contribute, please help us get the resources we need to improve patient access to physical therapy.

**Start a conversation.**  
Whether it’s on our social media channels, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn or at a PT Night Out, or an email to me or info@opta.org, let’s keep talking to each other about opportunities to reach out and tap into the collective intelligence and energy that I know lives within PTs and PTAs across Oregon.

**Reach out to your Board members, APTA delegates, or your committee leads with an idea or initiative that will fill your bucket as an OPTA member.**

Thank you for your membership and for what you do every day for patients in our community.
As your Vice President, one of my primary roles is to recognize members of our profession who are doing amazing things, and to support ongoing member initiatives through the development of grants and scholarships for innovative projects. In case you were unable to attend our annual conference in March, I wanted to share with you the individuals who have gone above and beyond to contribute outstanding service to the profession of physical therapy locally, regionally and nationally. I am pleased to share with you our award recipients for 2018. The awards committee is developing new programming for awards, recognition and member-led initiatives-please contact me directly if you would like to be involved in the planning process. (carolann.nelson@gmail.com)

The Mercedes Weiss Service Award was first given in 1976 as a way to honor members who have significantly contributed in several significant areas to the profession of physical therapy at large. This year we honor Tyler Cuddeford with the Mercedes Weiss service award for his many contributions to the development of novel practice models, mentoring students, and furthering the role of Physical Therapy in Oregon.

The Distinguished Service Award is given to someone who has made a significant impact in furthering the goals of the OPTA through their service. Tasha MacIlveen has received the 2018 Distinguished Service Award for her numerous contributions as Chief Delegate for the OPTA. A close colleague shared this about her: “Her collaborative spirit and calm demeanor in asking probing questions at the APTA House of Delegates served as favorable attributes to select her as a member of the Task Force to revise the Vision Statement for the Physical Therapy Profession. She is a self-described “big picture” person and was instrumental as the Chief Delegate of the OPTA in the recent years when the chapter moved two significant motions at the House of Delegates, one to determine best practice in clinical education and another to analyze and determine the impact of student debt on students and our profession.”

Derek Fenwick is our outgoing OPTA President, and he has served in many additional roles, including as an Oregon Delegate to the APTA, recipient of the APTA Emerging Leader Award, and a member of many national workgroups and committees. Here are some quotes that we collected from several other OPTA members:

“Derek has a remarkable understanding of the power of the collective. His focus on engaging allies for the profession has pushed the OPTA further along the path to transform society.”

“Derek is one heck of a guy. I am constantly amazed at his skills as a leader, a teammate, a family guy, and friend. He has a way of genuinely hooking you in and creating another leader for the association. I would not be part of OPTA the way I have been if it wasn’t for him.”

“Derek has always been an incredible mentor and support for me. I have always admired his ability to push the boundaries while maintaining great structure and strategy to his efforts. He really has a unique ability to get stuff done and mobilize the people around him. He balances all of his commitments with grace, and has inspired the next generation of leadership to engage in a new and more significant way.”

I am excited to share with you that this year we have established a new award in recognition of one of our longstanding and most respected members. We have titled it the Ricci Susick Advocacy Award to honor Ricci Susick for her outstanding contributions to our profession in Oregon and nationally. The Ricci Susick Advocacy Award has been created to recognize individuals who have made a significant contribution in the areas of advocacy and mentorship.

Chris Murphy, who has worked closely with Ricci for many years, has shared his thoughts: “Ricci Susick and advocacy have been synonymous among OPTA members for more than two decades, so it’s only natural that our state advocacy award should be named after her. Ricci has been a leader, mentor and friend to so
Greetings from the SOWH Representative

Susan Weedall, PT, WCS

Greetings, fellow OPTA members,

I am Susan Weedall, PT, WCS, and Oregon Representative for the Section on Women’s Health-American Physical Therapy Association (SOWH).

SOWH is a professional association of over 3,000 physical therapists treating patients with pelvic, breast, bone and abdominal health issues worldwide.

Our section name is in the process of being changed to represent SOWH expansion in the educational offerings that are provided to our members. Many of our SOWH members also work to provide the latest evidence-based physical therapy services to everyone, regardless of gender expression. Education is available to members to help them treat conditions related to childbearing, athletic activities, surgeries, injuries, menopause and cancer treatments. These conditions can be experienced by all people, regardless of age or activity level.

In addition to providing top-quality continuing education, certification, a biweekly clinical update newsletter and Clinical Practice Guidelines, the Section also publishes the Journal on Women’s Health Physical Therapy.

SOWH has a very active special interest group for students and provides scholarships to support students who attend professional conferences.

Becoming a SOWH member entitles you to significant course discounts – the cost of membership is often covered simply by attending one SOWH-sponsored course. An upcoming SOWH course entitled Menopause Matters in Physical Therapy will be held on July 14-15 at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center in Portland. You can click on http://www.womenshealthapta.org/ then click on “Education” tab in the left column of the home page for more information.

For more information about the Section on Women’s Health: http://www.womenshealthapta.org/

PT Locator tool for finding specialists in your area: http://pt.womenshealthapta.org/

Student Special Interest Group and upcoming scholarship opportunities: http://www.womenshealthapta.org/ssig/

I am happy to answer questions and relay your suggestions as we continue to improve our services. Please feel free to contact me at susanw@connectoregon.com.

OPTA Offers a Medical Screening for the Physical Therapist Home Study Course!

OPTA offers a Medical Screening course in a home study format! You can now purchase the DVD home study program and take the course when it is convenient for you.

A home study course offers you the advantages of...

Self-paced— you can take the course at your own pace at your office or at home (must have DVD access on your computer or through your TV)

Comprehensive—the course is identical to the “live” version of the courses that we have offered including all of the handout materials

Time Saving—you can take the course when it is convenient for you—24 hours a day, seven days a week

CE Credits—the course is a great way to earn CE credits on your time and schedule.

The full course is a 12 hour course

The refresher course is a 6 hour course

If you are interested in purchasing a home study program contact OPTA at 503.262.9247 or toll free at 877.452.4919 or order on-line at www.opta.org

OPTA Members Only Section Log-In

It's like your log-in for the APTA website. Your APTA membership number is your User Name. Your first initial and last name is your Password. In the members only sections of the site you have access to: past Log Newsletters, government affairs information, committee reports, community forums and more.

Take a look for yourself at www.opta.org.
With the primary elections just a week behind us, the Oregon Physical Therapy PAC is anticipating a substantial amount of activity this summer into the fall election season. In this highly-anticipated election year, campaign contributions and fundraiser attendance are received much more warmly by legislators. We have a number of legislators in key healthcare committee positions up for reelection and hope to support them and educate them regarding our perspectives. Currently, the OPT-PAC has a balance of $6,732, which includes a total of $4,060 in cash contributions made by members in 2018. As mentioned elsewhere in this issue of The Log, the OPTA Board has approved a $10,000 matching campaign to motivate members to help grow the PAC. To date, $410 has been made contributed toward this effort. We need your help!

We have two large legislative undertakings planning to be undertaken in 2019: utilization management and dry needling. Both of these issues are anticipated to require a substantial amount of political and monetary capital to be successful. In an election year, PAC dollars go further as we are able to support candidates who are “fighting for their seat.” Our support for these candidates, the majority of whom sit on House and Senate Healthcare Committees, helps us gain access to educate them on these issues from our perspective. Compared to other state PACs, we are relatively small, yet our activity remains strong and growing. Our message is one thing, but without an audience it falls silent.

The OPT-PAC exists solely on voluntary contributions; no dollars come from membership dues or other sources. PAC funds are used as campaign contributions, not to “buy votes,” but to gain access to state legislators to educate them on topics of interest to physical therapists. These monies are distributed on a non-partisan basis by the Government Affairs Committee using a variety of factors including 1) candidate electability, 2) candidate “friendliness” toward PT issues, 3) appropriate contribution amount, and 4) timing of contributions. Without your generous and voluntary donations, we are unable to support our PT-friendly legislators. Legislative involvement at the state and federal levels is vital for our profession now and moving forward.

Please note that OPT-PAC contributions support Oregon state legislators and are separate from PT-PAC contributions used to support federal legislators through APTA. No money is exchanged between the OPT-PAC and APTA's PT-PAC.

Please support your profession and your patients here in Oregon by donating to the OPT-PAC today. Remember that Oregon’s tax credit (not deduction) allows individuals to take $50 ($100 for couples filing jointly) off of their Oregon State income tax obligation, with some income restrictions.

If you would like to make a contribution by check, please mail to:
Oregon Physical Therapy PAC
c/o Jeremy Hilliard
401 Donald Lane
Newberg, OR 97132
Dear APTA Component Leaders,

I wanted to alert you to a final rule released yesterday by the U.S. Veteran Administration that is a game-changer for physical therapists (PTs), physical therapist assistants (PTAs) and the patients they serve in the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The VA is following through on a proposal to dramatically expand the use of telehealth services for VA beneficiaries in all US jurisdictions. The change, strongly supported by APTA, would also allow these services to be conducted in nonfederal sites, such as the homes of VA patients.

In addition to providing comments in strong support of this change when it was proposed in October 2017, APTA met with VA representatives to advocate for the expanded use of PT and PTA services provided via telehealth.

Some important things to understand about the new rule:

- **The rule doesn’t expand authority or scopes of practice.** VA providers must continue to abide by federal law and the practice acts of the provider’s state of licensure.

- **The rule applies only to VA-employed providers and VA beneficiaries—not to contracted providers such as providers in the CHOICE program.** The limitation to VA-employed providers and VA beneficiaries was necessary to prevent conflict with state licensure laws.

- **Copays for telehealth services will go away.** Congress authorized VA to waive copay requirements for telehealth services, which VA did.

- **The rule doesn’t go into effect immediately.** The changes will go into effect 30 days after publication in the Federal Register, which hasn’t happened yet. Don’t expect that publication until sometime in December at the earliest.

- **The rule won’t solve all the issues with telehealth service delivery.** VA acknowledges that the change addresses only 1 challenge to telehealth services, and has resolved to continue to work on technical elements that interfere with effective delivery, including patients’ and providers’ access to technology.

Telegram services currently are allowed in the VA system, but only if both the provider and patient live in the same state. Additionally, many VA medical centers currently restrict telehealth activities to federal government property—for both the VA beneficiary and the VA provider. The new rule would take those concerns off the table.

Special thanks to the APTA Federal Section for their collaboration and work on this important issue. Please let me know if you have any questions.

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Recent VA Rule a Game Changer

Justin Elliott, Vice President, Government Affairs, APTA

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What I’m Proud of as an OPTA Board Member

Jeannie Thompson, PTA, Oregon PTA Representative

In the 22 years that I have been a PTA, I’ve come to know many amazing PTAs and PTs. I’ve met people through my clinical work, in my time as an instructor in the PTA program at Mt. Hood Community College, and in my work within the OPTA. I am in awe of the compassion and dedication of the people who work in this wonderful profession.

I have been lucky to have held the position of PTA Rep for 3 years, Alternate PTA Rep for 1 year, and Board Director for 1 year as well as many years working on numerous OPTA committees.

In my role as the PTA Representative, I have a position on the OPTA Board of Directors and the OPTA Delegation to the House of Delegates. I am so proud to be a part of the work that these groups do every day, representing all of the PTAs and PTs in Oregon, and showing that we are an active, engaged and caring part of the APTA.

I recently retired and have found an easy transition to getting up a little later and enjoying a second cup of tea each morning. I am filling my time these days by enjoying my family (husband, 4 children, 3 grandchildren), baking (for anyone with a sweet tooth), and gardening (because who doesn’t like to be outside).

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this great work throughout my career!
OPTA Advocacy Efforts

Chris Murphy, PT, Government Affairs Chair

OPTA advocacy efforts got off to a fast start this year with our first State Payment and Policy Forum at the Oregon State Library in Salem during the short 2018 legislative session. 40 key contacts received some words of wisdom about advocacy from Senator Elizabeth Steiner-Hayward and our lobbyist, Inga Deckert before launching into some policy discussions led by Jeremy Hilliard, Bethany Lukens, Chris Murphy, Mike Studer, Sarah Stuhr, and Noel Tenoso. Thanks to everyone who made the trip to Salem and to members of the Government Affairs Committee, especially Erin Kettler and Nicole Brun-Cottan for making our first annual event an overwhelming success.

We’ve been working with the OPTA staff to leverage our new technology infrastructure and improve communication with our key contacts and to provide a forum to take your payment questions. In the meantime, please look for a survey about the most recent changes to the CareCore pathways. OPTA will be joined by APTA and other chapter representatives in July for another round of in person meetings with Regence and EviCore and we’d like to be armed with the latest data on your experiences. We were finally able to get a meeting with MODA representatives as well to discuss their EviCore implementation and will keep you updated on those efforts.

All of these efforts to gather data about your experiences and stories of patient challenges with utilization management programs will help as bring legislation forward next year. The OPTA has been working with a coalition of several other provider groups including the Oregon Medical Association, the Oregon Chiropractic Association, and the Oregon Association for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine as well as patient advocacy groups to produce legislation that reduces the barriers to medically necessary care that our patients face due to utilization management programs that focus only on reducing care without improving value. This will be a challenging effort even with strong allies, so please do your part by completing the EviCore survey, continuing to supply us with patient stories, staying up to date through the key contact and payment forums, and donating to the Oregon PT PAC.

OPTA Awards, continued from page 3

many who’ve played a role in moving the profession forward in Oregon. Whether the issue was achieving direct access, defending against scope of practice restrictions, truth in advertising, or inclusion in the Interstate Licensure Compact, OPTA members could always count on Ricci’s reasoned judgement and leadership as her Government Affairs Committee colleagues debated the best path forward.”

Two student leaders were selected this year to participate with the delegation to the House of Delegates. Congratulations to recipients Tabitha Galindo, SPT from Pacific University, and Andrew Long, SPTA from Mount Hood Community College.

Thanks to all of our incredible OPTA members, we are furthering our profession through service, advocacy, education and community outreach in Oregon and nationally. We appreciate each and every member who is making an impact in their local community, and are looking to highlight individuals throughout the state. Please share stories and accomplishments with the OPTA Board by emailing info@opta.org

Walk With Ease Recruitment Underway in Oregon

Jose L. Reyna, PT, DPT

Looking for an evidence based walking program to give to your patients this year? Look no further! Walk With Ease is designed to help provide a structured walking program for all fitness levels and best of all, the guide book is free to participants who complete their registration. Walk With Ease is sponsored by the OPTA and is available to all members and their patients. Please e-mail reyn1741@pacificu.edu or call (503) 352-2615 for more details. Additional information can be found at https://www.arthritis.org/living-with-arthritis/tools-resources/walk-with-ease/.
The most recent OPTA Board meeting was held on April 5, 2018. As a reminder, Board meetings are open to all OPTA members who would like to attend.

The meeting began with an introduction to Geoff Horning, the new owner and President of the OPTA’s Association Management Company, Update Management. Geoff has a number of years of experience with management of other associations and was warmly welcomed by the Board.

Following the financial report, a discussion was had regarding reviewing portions of the OPTA Bylaws on a consistent basis. One of the items to be reviewed is the Ethics Committee. Although the APTA no longer requires this to be a standing committee, the recommendation is to have three members to receive and consider questions. The Board will be reviewing the language in the Bylaws regarding this over the course of the year. Additionally, discussion was held regarding the OPTA’s Strategic Plan. One element highlighted was Oregon’s selection to be part of the APTA’s Move Forward Program which will provide Oregon-specific information to members of the public seeking information regarding physical therapy. OPTA is also involved in Walk With Ease, a campaign to improve movement in those with lower extremity osteoarthritis.

Next, there was an extensive discussion regarding the Oregon Physical Therapy Political Action Committee (OPT-PAC). One of the growing pressures facing PTs in all areas of practice is utilization management (UM) and the administrative burden that it creates for practitioners and the barrier to patient access to care. The OPTA is a member of the coalition being led by the Oregon Medical Association to address this topic legislatively. However, the OPT-PAC is currently ill-equipped to adequately represent the interests of PTs for an issue like this. The hope and goal is to dramatically increase the amount of PAC money available for the Government Affairs Committee to contribute to campaigns. Because this is an election year, PAC dollars are more meaningful to those legislators supported by the OPTA. The Board unanimously agreed to help increase the PAC balance in two ways. First, 100%
of Board members were asked to contribute at least $50 to the OPT-PAC; this goal was met on April 18. Second, the Board approved a matching campaign up to $10,000. For every dollar contributed by a non-Board member, the OPTA will match that amount. Christina Howard noted that this is keeping with the Board’s Strategic Plan and the Board agreed that this is an important time to motivate others to contribute to the OPT-PAC. Further details regarding this campaign can be found elsewhere in this issue of the Log.

A guest presentation was then given by the Dry Needling Task Force by members Sarah Stuhr, Matt Hayes, and Justin Dunaway. This task was appointed by the Board in summer 2017 to investigate rationale regarding the Oregon Attorney General’s opinion that dry needling is not within the PT scope of practice. Matt and Justin reported on work that they had done in other states (Tennessee and Arizona, respectively) to move legislation forward. While the Board expressed concern that this may distract from efforts regarding UM, it was felt that this would be unlikely given that the OPTA is part of a coalition regarding UM, not approaching it independently. Additionally, Christina expressed concern that Oregon is behind many states on this topic. The Board unanimously approved that the task force provide model language for a legislative concept to include dry needling in the scope of PT practice in Oregon and present that to the Board for review for introduction in the 2019 legislative session.

Lastly, the Board unanimously supported nominating Bethany Lukens for the APTA’s Emerging Leader Award. Bethany has been actively involved with the association in multiple capacities since graduating in 2013 and currently serves as the OPTA’s Payment Chair. Her contributions are far too numerous to detail in this small space; suffice to say, her nomination is well-deserved. Additionally, Christina reported that Adama Sanou, SPTA, was named APTA Oregon recipient of the Minority Scholarship Award. Congratulations, Bethany and Adama!

### Change of Email Address or Phone?

If you have a change of email, address, phone, or fax, you can send it to the OPTA office by calling 503.262.9247 or toll free at 877.452.4919, or email us at info@opta.org.

### COME JOIN THE PT NORTHWEST FAMILY

**PT Northwest** is looking for outstanding therapists to join the PT Northwest Family. Many members of our rehab team have been a part of the PT Northwest family for 10, 15, and even 20+ years. We would like you to join our family.

We offer the following:

- Strong Compensation
- Paid Holidays & Birthday
- Sign On/Relocation Bonus
- 401k Plan
- Excellent Continuing Education
- Multiple Paths for
- Clinical Research Opportunities
- Specialization & Leadership
- Tuition Assistance
- Section 125 Cafeteria Plan
- Health & Dental Insurance
- Clinical Mentoring Program
- Life & Disability Insurance
- Flexibility in Schedule
- Paid Time Off
- Clinical Research Opportunites
- PT NORTHWEST FAMLY
- 401k Plan
- Clinical Mentoring Program
- PT NORTHWEST

**PT Northwest** is a growing, locally owned, and nationally recognized physical rehabilitation group with 38 years of experience in Oregon. Therapist owned and operated, PT Northwest strives to provide the leading physical rehab services in the Pacific Northwest, while nurturing a family-friendly atmosphere. Our highly motivated rehab team provides physical, occupational, and speech therapy in the following settings:

- Our Outpatient Clinics
- High Schools & Universities
- Inpatient Hospitals
- Minor League Sports Teams
- Clinical Research Opportunities

If you are interested in joining the
PT NORTHWEST FAMLY,
please contact us at 503.540.8701
or email us at admin@ptnorthwest.com.

You can also check us out at:
ptnorthwest.com
OPTA 2nd Quarter Financial Report
Ashley Berry, DPT, Treasurer

This financial statement is current through March 31, 2018. Total income through March is $80,653. Compared to last year at this time, income is up by $12,780 mostly due to higher than projected income from membership and the annual conference. Income from membership dues is currently at $39,694 compared to $31,584 last year and is at 27% of budgeted projections for the year (Line 8000). The annual conference yielded $32,850 vs. $30,050 last year and exceeded our budget by 7% (Line 8006).

Total expenses through March total $51,570. This is a decrease in total expense compared to the 2017 YTD number of $56,453 in part due to: decrease in website, publication, legislative, printing, travels expenses thus far. Currently, we are at 24% of our budgeted expenses for the year so we are on track to fulfill our targeted budget.

Currently, the OPTA has a Net Ordinary Income of $29,083. As for other income and expenses, the OPTA currently has loss of $599 of investment income, which is down from the 2017 YTD gain of $15,741. Also, OPTA paid the $10,000 PT Foundation Pledge this past month along with paying out $1,021 toward the Walking with Ease Grant. Overall, the Net Income through March 2017 is $17,463 compared to $14,447 last year.

The OPTA continues to have a strong financial base with a total of $571,228 in cumulative assets.

If you have any questions please contact me at Ashley.Berry@providence.org

Thank you all for your support and contributions to our organization.

Questions Regarding Your Physical Therapy License or Practice?
Contact the Oregon Physical Therapist Licensing Board
971.673.0200
Count ‘em, yes, 57 motions for the APTA House of Delegates (HOD) this year when it meets in Orlando, FL on June 25-27! This is extraordinary, given that a typical number of motions is around two dozen. The reason for this is because we have begun a 2-year comprehensive review of all the policies and positions of the HOD. Some are outdated or no longer apply and should be rescinded, some should be amended to reflect current practice, and others should be consolidated when they address similar issues.

Although this may not seem exciting, 34 of these motions include very important updates. In addition, there are several other motions being presented by various chapters that address significant issues relative to our profession, and how we address the health needs of society.

Topics of the motions that are more significant include the role of the PTA in the clinic, the opioid health crisis, sexual harassment, essential health benefits, curricular guidelines for DPT education regarding pain management, the role of PTs and PTAs in disaster management, improvement standard for receiving physical therapy, professional well-being, advanced practice in physical therapy, and voting privileges for section delegates to the HOD. Additionally, we have candidates to review for national office, and one of them is our own Derek Fenwick, for a position on the Nominating Committee.

Your delegation to the HOD has been hard at work on promoting the motions and Derek’s candidacy. We have been meeting monthly since January, and have expanded our meeting schedule to ensure that we adequately address all the issues. Individuals have been assigned to motions and candidates, and we report the latest findings to the group for consideration of action.

Besides the 7 delegates and 1 alternate delegate allocated to our chapter, we include our PTA Representative and alternate rep, the 2 students who received the Emerging Student Leader Award, and our Chapter President, Christina Howard, in our delegation meetings. This provides a broader perspective of input on the topics we address.

So how will we manage all this? One mechanism is to put motions that have little or no controversy on a Consent Calendar (CC). The House Officers have the authority to do this, and in large part, they base this on the nature and degree of comments posted on a website for issues pertinent to the House. Motions that are placed on the CC are dispensed with one vote, without debate. Delegations across the nation also use a website to post comments in support or opposition to motions as well as suggestions to amend motions so that there are few surprised by the time we get to the House. If you are interested in any of this, you are welcome to visit the website to review the motions and any supportive documents at: http://communities.apta.org/p/co/ly/gid=16. Navigating this site may be a bit cumbersome, but the 2 most informative areas are “Motion Discussions” under the Forum section for a thread for each motion, and Packet I for all the motions and supportive material, which can be found in the File Library under “Motions, House Reports, and Background Papers”.

If anyone has any questions or comments to share on any of this, you can contact me as the Chief Delegate of our chapter, and I will either reply or put you in contact with the person in our delegation assigned to that motion. Our delegation continues to work on your behalf and that of our profession and society, which we faithfully serve. We will keep you informed of the major outcomes of this year’s HOD in the next issue of the PT Log.

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Employment Opportunities?

Check out OPTA’s website for employment postings at http://www.opta.org/employment.aspx, or from the home page click on Employment and then review the opportunities that are posted.

If you have a job listing that you would like posted, please visit the OPTA website at http://www.opta.org/employment.aspx. Job posting rates are $100 for a 30-day posting. Take advantage of this great opportunity to market your position!
Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) Releases Request for Information (RFI) on Direct Provider Contracting

As part of its process to gain further insight from the public in this area and ask more focused questions, CMMI is seeking broad input on direct provider contracting (DPC) between payers and primary care or multi-specialty groups to inform potential testing of a DPC model within the Medicare fee-for-service program (Medicare Parts A and B), Medicare Advantage program (Medicare Part C), and Medicaid. A DPC model would aim to enhance the beneficiary-physician relationship by providing a platform for physician group practices to provide flexible, accessible, and high quality care to beneficiaries that have actively chosen this type of care model. The public is encouraged to provide feedback on their experiences with, and perspectives on, DPC and how CMS can use DPC models to reduce expenditures and preserve or enhance the quality of care for Medicare, Medicaid, and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) beneficiaries. Comments are due May 25, 2018. For more information: https://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/direct-provider-contracting/

Rulemaking Season is Upon Us

CMS released the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Inpatient Prospective Payment System (PPS) and Long-Term Care Hospital PPS proposed rule. A few highlights of the IPPS rule include –

- Projected increase of 3.4% of operating payments or an increase of $4 billion to acute care hospitals.
- 1.15% increase to LTCHs that meet certain clinical criteria under the dual rate LTCH PPS required under the Pathway for SGR Reform Act of 2013.
- CMS will eliminate 25 percent threshold policy in a budget neutral manner to maintain aggregate LTCH payments at the estimated levels.
- CMS is focusing on EHRs and interoperability. They are proposing to enhance the Medicare & Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs to promote interoperability between patients and providers and make participation in the program less burdensome. For example, they are renaming the Meaningful Use Program to “Promoting Interoperability” Beginning in CY 2019, CMS is requiring all eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals under the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs to use the 2015 Edition of certified EHR technology.
- CMS is requesting information from the public regarding barriers preventing providers from informing patients of their out of pocket costs; what changes are needed to support greater transparency around patient obligations for their out of pocket costs; what can be done to better inform patients of these obligations; and what role providers

Be on the lookout: There are several rules to be on the lookout for, including the FY 2019 SNF PPS proposed rule, FY 2019 Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility PPS proposed payment rule, the CY 2019 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule, and the Non-Discrimination in Health Care Programs proposed rule, as well as the Authority of VA Health Care Providers to Deliver Telehealth final rule.

X Modifiers

Modifiers XE, XS, XP, XU were developed to provide greater reporting specificity in situations where modifier 59 was previously reported and may be utilized in lieu of modifier 59 whenever possible. Because payers are unclear in whether they want physical therapists to use the 59 modifier or an X modifier, PTs should ask payers whether they are moving towards the use of the X modifiers in replace of the 59 modifier and which X modifier payers expect physical therapists to use when billing timed codes.

APTA Regulatory Advocacy

In April, APTA met with the Administration for Community Living to discuss ideas on potential collaboration on topics that include assistive technology, caregiver support, the opioid epidemic, and more. APTA, in conjunction with AOTA and ASHA also attended a follow-up conference call with CMS to discuss the SNF RCS-I model

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and mechanisms the agency may employ to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries receive adequate levels of skilled therapy services under any future regulatory changes to SNF payment system.

Federal Legislative Updates

Administrative Burden
The House Ways and Means Committee has been holding roundtables and meetings with associations regarding ways to reduce the administrative burden. APTA has been actively engaged with the Committee to see how we can be included in an upcoming roundtable so we can provide our input.

Opioids
The Senate HELP Committee advanced legislation that addresses the opioid crisis. Among other things, the legislation:

- Reauthorizes funding for the 21st Century Cures Act State Response to the Opioid Abuse Crisis grants, address research and innovation.
- Provides flexibility to NIH to approve projects addressing opioids.
- Enhances FDA authority regarding expedited pathways for non-addictive pain or addiction treatments.
- Addresses privacy issues, including health information sharing with families during emergencies and display of opioid abuse history in electronic health records.
- The legislation will next be considered by the full Senate. The Chairman, Lamar Alexander, has expressed hope the Senate will consider the bill this summer, with additional opioid-related pieces of legislation from other Senate Committees including Finance and Judiciary.

The House of Representatives has considered more than 70 pieces of legislation related to opioids over the past 2 months, giving APTA staff and lobbyists ample opportunity to remind legislators of the role that physical therapists can play both as an alternative to opioids and as part of the treatment team in opioid addiction.

PROSPER Act
House of Representatives have written the higher education act reauthorization bill known as the PROSPER Act. APTA is working with four other groups to get rid of a capped aggregate loan amount a student can take out from the federal government, to get rid of the graduate loan amount they would cap at 28,500 a year, and other provisions. These are similar to what was in the original House Tax bill in late 2017 and were taken out due to the excessive emails, calls, and letters they received. APTA is currently discussing this with the appropriate Senate and House members so we can get an amendment or two added and will keep you apprised to the state of the bill. The Senate has still not dropped their own version of this bill.

Early Career and Student Member Con-Ed Event via Livestream Panel entitled “Our Life in a PT Residency: Perspectives from PTs and Mentors in Residency Programs”

On Monday, June 18th, 6:30-8pm, the OPTA is hosting a continuing event specifically for our early career (0-5 years) and student members. Join in person at Lane Community College in Eugene, Oregon or online for a PT Resident Q&A panel. Resident and resident mentors will share their perspectives and experiences in pursuing and completing a residency.

Questions for the panel may be submitted in advance and there will be time for additional questions during the panel presentation.

Registration is FREE for OPTA students and 2018 OPTA Graduates and $20 for non-member students. Non-members attendees who join the OPTA by June 30th will receive a full refund for the June 18th event.

Watch for updates on our webpage and social media channels for registration information. This event is limited to 30 in-person registrants and 50 online registrants.

Register Online at: www.opta.org

Visit our Website at www.opta.org
A Call to Advocacy

Jeremy Hilliard, PT, DPT, PAC Chair

Depending on the order in which you read The Log, you may have already encountered content regarding utilization management, dry needling, and the Oregon Physical Therapy PAC (OPT-PAC). Currently, with a balance of $6,732, the PAC is ill-equipped to adequately manage these two issues on their own, much less during the same legislative session. The OPTA Board has agreed that these issues are sufficiently important that monetary motivation is warranted and voted unanimously to motivate contributions in two ways.

First, the Board approved a $10,000 matching campaign. All contributions made to the OPT-PAC after April 5, 2018, will be matched by the OPTA using monies from the Burles Fund. What does this mean? Your $50 contribution becomes a $100 donation to the PAC... double the donation! You can see this goal on the OPTA homepage; please help us reach $10,000! To date, just $410 has been donated toward this goal.

In addition, all Board members have contributed AT LEAST $50 outside of this campaign. The Board hopes to maximize the money raised by this campaign and hopes that both members and non-members will take steps to contribute.

How can you help? If you or someone you know is impacted by either of these issues, contribute to the PAC. If you have colleagues or patients impacted by either of these issues, contribute to the PAC. If your business or your friend’s business is impacted by either of these issues, contribute to the PAC.

If you are a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in Oregon and have not yet made a 2018 contribution to a political organization, contribute to the PAC. Help us educate our legislators on the impact these issues and others have not just on our profession, but the health of the population we serve.

Help us advocate for the health of Oregonians.

PTA Advanced Proficiency Pathways

Jeannie Thompson, PTA, Oregon PTA, Representative, neannie41@gmail.com

Whether you are a recent grad or have been a PTA for a number of years, the APTA’s Advanced Proficiency Pathway for the PTA will help you set a course for the future of your distinguished career.

Through a series of continuing education and clinical experiences, and your work with a self-designated mentor, you will be on a straight line to furthering your clinical skills and receiving the recognition of your Association and peers in that endeavor.

Completion of the pathways program demonstrates your dedication to the profession and your patients. It also helps to identify you as having advanced knowledge and skill in your chosen area of physical therapy that will be useful to others in the physical therapy profession, health care communities, your employer, and the patients and families that you work with every day.

You can select your pathway from any of the following areas of practice:

- Acute Care
- Cardiopulmonary
- Geriatric
- Oncology
- Orthopedics
- Pediatrics
- Wound Management

If this sounds like the professional development direction you are looking for, here is the link to the APTA’s Advanced Proficiency Pathways site http://www.apta.org/APP/About/

Thanks to Our Sponsors

GOLD SPONSORS

PT Northwest

Therapeutic Associates, Inc.
Welcome New and Returning OPTA Members

Steven Anderson, PT, MPT
Kate Armstrong-Bard, SPTA
Stephanie Britcher, PT
Nicholas Chamley, PT, DPT
Stephanie Clark, PT, DPT, OCS
Marci Cody, PT, MPT
Leah Conchieri, PT
Erin Crawford, PT, DPT
Cyd Dashkoff, PT
Meghann Dietrich SPTA
Derek Fenwick, PT, MBA, GCS
Michelle Fernandez, PT, DPT
Justin Fischer, PT
Raul Gammaru, PT, DPT, GCS, NCS
Susan Giglio, PT
Kurt Gilbertson, PT
Jason Guenenn, PT
Sharon Guest, PTA
brenda hanson, SPTA
Petr Honek, PT
Dana Hughes, PT, MPT, LMT, OCS
Kelsey Jonas PT, DPT
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Chelsea Krotser, PT, DPT
Andrea Lairson, PT
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Carly Leland, PT
Ellen Maloney, PT
Megan McChristy, PTA
Crystal McMahon, PT
Peter McMillan, PT
Preeti Nair, PT, PhD
Christine North, SPTA
Vincent Paulo Panganiban, PT
Susan Perry, PTA
Gonzalo Ramirez-Saldivar, SPTA
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Cierra Santiago, PT, DPT
Kathleen Scanlan, PT, DPT
Gavin Schneider, PT, DPT, CSCS
Jeremy Searle, SPTA
Daniel Sheets, PT
Gregory Sjostrand, PT, DPT
Megan Smith, PT, DPT
Lyndsay Stutzenberger, PT, DPT
Jill Van De loo, PT
Rebecca Vilevac, PT
Ruth Will, PT
Noriko Yamaguchi, PT, DPT, GCS, CSCS
Hsu-Hung Yeh, PT
Stefan Youngs, PTA

Congratulations to OPTA’s Adama Sanou!

On April 4, 2018, APTA announced its 2018 Honors and Awards Program recipients, and Adama Sanou, SPTA, has been selected by the APTA’s Board of Directors to receive the Minority Scholarship Award for Student Physical Therapist Assistants. Great job on your achievement, Adama!
Oregon Log Advertising Policy

The Oregon Log is published quarterly (four issues per year) in March, June, September and December. All display ads must be pre-sized in camera-ready form. OPTA reserves the right to not publish advertisements or articles of OPTA’s choosing. Deadlines for the 2018 issues are: Aug. 15 for the 3rd quarter issue and November 15 for the 4th quarter issue.

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<th>Ad Size</th>
<th>Per Issue</th>
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<td>Half Page - 4.5” high by 7.5” wide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quarter Page - 4.5” high by 3.5” wide</td>
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OPTA Announces Advertising Package Opportunities!

The OPTA publications committee has a advertising package plan that offers a variety of advertising opportunities.

If you are interested in purchasing a package, please contact Kori Hasti at the OPTA office at 503.262.9247 or 877.452.4919 or via e-mail at info@opta.org.

Advertising Packages

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