

VIRGINIA PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION INC.
THE VIRGINIAN

A Chapter of
APTA
American Physical Therapy Association
The Science of Healing. The Art of Caring.

KIM SIMMS, EDITOR

SUMMER 2005 NEWSBRIEF

President's Message

You have been hearing a lot from APTA about Vision 2020. This vision statement is moving our profession down an exciting path. Achievement of the Vision will serve the public well. Increasingly, the term "practitioner of choice" is viewed as an outcome measurement for achievement of this Vision.

What does "practitioner of choice" really mean? Here is the world I envision when we achieve full "Practitioner of Choice" status: When a person experiences a functional mobility problem they go to their physical therapist. If the PT evaluation concludes that the problem is within the scope of physical therapy practice, the PT will initiate a treatment plan. If the problem is outside the scope of physical therapy practice, the PT will refer the person to the appropriate health care provider. In this Vision 2020 world, consumers are well informed about the role of physical therapy in managing movement disorders. Consumers are also aware of their right to directly seek physical therapy services. Individuals have a connection with a specific PT or physical therapy clinic. Just as we all identify a primary physician and dentist, consumers choose a primary PT. They visit that PT every year for a movement analysis check-up followed by intervention, referral, or educational sessions as indicated.

According to Vision 2020, PTs are recognized as experts in the examination and management of movement disorders. All consumers have the legal right to seek physical therapy services without initial referral from a physician; consumers are aware of this right and avail themselves of it. Insurance companies reimburse for services that meet predetermined necessity requirements, regardless of physician referral.

Third-party payers and legislative bodies are fully cognizant of the positive benefits of early utilization of physical therapy, and seek out physical therapy to keep their clients healthy and speed up the recovery

process. Finally, staying up-to-date with emerging scientific evidence supporting best practice is an integral component of all physical therapy practices.

VPTA is actively engaged in helping Virginia PTs achieve Vision 2020. You should be very proud of the numerous VPTA members who volunteer many, many hours to advance physical therapy in our state. In the upcoming year, we have planned many events: We will evaluate current Virginia laws regarding direct access, title protection of the term "physical therapy," and self-referral. We will educate our Virginia legislators about physical therapy through a health fair at the statehouse and an organized "Visit Your Legislator" Day. We will also send representatives to a federal legislative day to visit your state representatives to the national government. These visits inform our legislators about physical therapy and the impact of state and federal legislation on the health of Virginians.

The payer relations committee will educate local insurance companies about the skills and capabilities of PTs and PTAs in keeping their constituents healthy and/or shortening recovery time. Our VPTA Annual Conference, October 21-23, 2005, will provide numerous opportunities for staying up-to-date with best clinical practice. Each VPTA district will offer low-cost continuing education courses emphasizing current best practice.

This is an exciting time for physical therapy. PTs and PTAs are ready for Vision 2020. VPTA will continue to actively pursue this Vision. Success requires active engagement of all members. Please participate when you get the call (or e-mail) to write your legislator, talk with your insurance company, or provide informational sessions about physical therapy to the community. Our profession, and our patients, will benefit greatly.

*Rita Wong, PT
President*

Congratulations to VPTA "Stars"

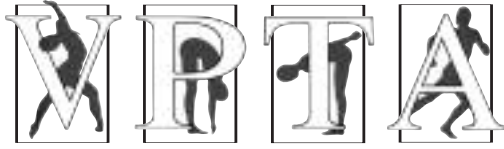
VPTA is proud to announce the following chapter members as recipients of APTA 2005 Awards:

Bianca Bass, SPT, Marymount University: Mary McMillan Award; **Dennis L Hart, PT, PhD**: Chattanooga Research Award; **Daniel L Riddle, PT, PhD**, FAPTA: Helen J Hislop Award for Outstanding Contributions to Professional Literature; **Debra Perry, PTA**: Recognition of Advanced Proficiency for the Physical Therapist Assistant; and **Rochelle Pringle, SPT**, Virginia Commonwealth University: Minority Scholarship Award for Academic Excellence.

Shawne Soper, PT, has been appointed to the APTA Reference Committee.

Steven H Tepper, PT, PhD, will receive the first Robert C Bartlett Innovation in Fundraising Award, which recognizes donors who implement innovative fundraising activities that promote giving to the Foundation for Physical Therapy and the funding of physical therapy research. Tepper is the department director at Shenandoah University in Virginia and is past president of APTA's Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Section.

Kudos to all!



The Virginian, the newsletter of the Virginia Physical Therapy Association, is published twice yearly. The deadlines for submission of materials for the Spring and Fall newsletters are Jan 15 and July 15. Four-page newsbriefs are published Summer and Winter, with deadlines of April 15 and October 15.

VIRGINIA PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION 2004-2005

OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President
Rita Wong
703/284-5982 (W)
703/284-5981 (F)
rwong@marymount.edu

Treasurer
Tom Mayhew
804/828-0234 (W)
804/828-8111 (F)
tmayhew@vcu.edu

Vice President
Patrice Winter
703/385-8232 (W)
703/385-9335 (F)
trinitypt@verizon.net

Chief Delegate
Diana Venskus
703/284-5985 (W)
703/284-5981 (F)
diana.venskus@marymount.edu

Secretary
Lynn McDaniel
804/254-6632 (W)
804/355-1227 (F)
lmcDaniel@ivna.org

Executive Director
Debbie Kelly
800/999-2782 ext 3235 (W)
703/706-3235 (W)
703/706-8575 (F)
debbiekelly@apta.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Blue Ridge
*Doug Rohr
540/932-5938 (W)
540/932-5945 (F)
dvrohr@cfw.com

Francie Mitchell
703/689-4451 (W)
703/689-9649 (F)
flmpedpt@aol.com

Melissa Wolff-Burke
540/545-7238 (W)
540/665-5530 (F)
mwolff@su.edu

Central
*Anne Chan
804/281-8216 (W)
pretnr525@aol.com

Judy Witherell
804/281-8216 (W)
804/285-9137 (F)
witherell@vcu.edu

Northern
*Jody Gundrum, Interim
703/284-5978 (W)
703/284-5981 (F)
jody.gundrum@marymount.edu

Southwest
*Vacant

Kim Simms
540/342-6353 (W)
540/389-0001 (F)
kimsimms@aol.com

Tidewater
*Marilyn Randolph
757/727-5260 (W)
757/728-6546 (F)
marilys.randolph@hamptonu.edu

Jack Echternach
757/683-4518 (W)
757/683-4410 (F)
jechtern@odu.edu

*District Chair

Auction 2005 Is Up and Running!

The Annual Auction, one of the largest fundraisers for the chapter, will take place October 22 during the VPTA Annual Conference weekend. A **special thanks** to the 2004 Auction sponsors and donors—the list is so long, we didn't have room in this short *Newsbrief*, so watch for the full listing in the next *Virginian*—it will be hard to beat this year, but let's try to make it even longer for 2005!

The committee is actively seeking donations of items and sponsorships for 2005—please support VPTA with a donation as soon as possible by contacting your district captain (see below)! We are also in need of an Auction captain for Southwest, plus a volunteer coordinator and advertisement coordinator from Tidewater. Please volunteer by contacting Betty Cobaugh at cobaughbd@aol.com.

Auction Committee Members

Central Captain: Alison Seger, absklb@aol.com
Blue Ridge Captain: Bob Kane, rmkane1@yahoo.com
Southwest Captain: Kim Simms, interim captain, kimsimms@aol.com
Tidewater Captain: Amy Beatty, beattystinker@cs.com
Northern Captain: Secili DeStefano, secilid@hotmail.com

Betty Cobaugh, PT, and Mark Bouziane, PT
Co-Chairs

Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT
2005 June 8-11	Physical Therapy 2005: Annual Conference & Exposition of the American Physical Therapy Association, Boston, Mass.
July 15	Deadline: Applications for student stipends to APTA's 2005 National Student Conclave and to the VPTA Annual Conference.
Aug 15	Deadline: Submission of nominations for VPTA Awards.
Sept 1	Deadline: Submission of research abstracts for the 2005 VPTA Annual Conference.
Sept 30	Deadline: Applications for VPTA Student Minority Scholarship.
Oct 21-23	VPTA Student Conclave, site TBD. VPTA Annual Conference, Portsmouth.

Visit www.vpta.org for more event announcements throughout the year.

Student Stipends and Scholarships

The following stipends and scholarships are currently available:
Student Stipend Award to Attend National Student Conclave
Amount: \$300. **Deadline:** July 15.
Student Stipend Award to Attend VPTA Annual Conference
Amount: \$100 to one PT and one PTA student. **Deadline:** July 15.
VPTA Physical Therapy Student Minority Scholarship
Amount: \$1,000. **Deadline:** September 30
Award to attend APTA Annual Conference
Amount: \$500. **Deadline:** March 15
Please see www.vpta.org for more details!

Secili DeStefano, PT
Chair

Southwest District Division

At the VPTA Board of Directors Meeting on April 8, 2005, the Board voted to approve the division of the Southwest District. There are two stipulations to this approval: The first is that there needs to be a bylaw change, and the second is that each position must be filled for district officers, committee chairs and work group chairs.

The bylaw change is for Bylaw Article VIII, Section 1, A., 3 which states:

The Board shall be composed of no fewer than ten, no more than seventeen members.

With the addition of the new district's chair and director, both of which will serve on the Board of Directors in the year when there is a president-elect, there would be 18 directors serving on the Board. This bylaw change will need to be submitted to the general membership at the Annual Conference in October 2005 for approval.

The district officer positions that need to be filled are for the Chair, Director, Secretary, and the Treasurer. The committee positions are: Legislative, Nominating, Ethics, Membership, and Student Relations. The work groups are: Conference, Practice, Research, Public Relations, Payer Relations, and Auction Captain. There are also representatives for Affiliate SIG, Pediatric SIG, Program, and Technology.

We need each member in the new district (from Christiansburg to Bristol) to become actively involved in whatever capacity you are able to fulfill these requirements. Your district leaders have worked very hard to make this happen—let's keep the ball rolling so the new district can be a success! Contact kimsimms@aol.com to sign up for your position.

*Kim Simms, PT
District Director*

Shenandoah University Student Reports on VPTA Retreat

What a great weekend I had at the VPTA Retreat at Smith Mountain Resort! The drive down on Friday was full of spring green, red buds, pear, cherry, and forsythia blooms, all with a backdrop of Blue Ridge Mountains. We were there to set the strategies to meet the goals and objectives for the 2005-2006 year. The directors of all five districts, and, of course, the VPTA officers, were at the table. Also, the VPTA state officers, Board of Directors, state committee chairs, and district committee members, along with representation from the state licensing board, attended. I watched and listened in a beautiful room overlooking Smith Mountain Lake with PT and PTA students from Virginia Commonwealth University, Old Dominion University, Marymount University, Jefferson College of Health Sciences, and Tidewater Community College. On Saturday, I attended several break-out sessions of committees and work groups. Listening to the VPTA lobbyist during the Legislative Committee break-out session helped me understand why VPTA is looking at issues related to our practice act and seeking term protection for the words, "physical therapy." It was exciting to be there when important decisions were made with respect to term protection. I hope to reap the benefits someday when "physical therapy" in Virginia has term protection. The only bad thing was that I had a test and two papers due Monday morning.

*Anna Dennis, SPT
Shenandoah University*

VPTA PAC Challenge Launched

The VPTA Political Action Committee is pleased to share some exciting news! The staff of Rehabilitation Associates of Central Virginia (RACV) in Lynchburg is stepping up and challenging all physical therapists and physical therapist assistants in Virginia. The 2005-2006 election cycle and legislative sessions are fast approaching, with June designated as the month for party primaries and November for the general election. VPTA is anticipating a very active role in the coming legislative session, which will require financial support for our Political Action Committee. We must be able to demonstrate the commitment and support to our legislative friends as they run their campaigns for election.

From now until election day, November 8, for every dollar raised for the VPTA PAC, RACV will match that, dollar for dollar, up to \$10,000. As Andy Tatom, PT, stated, "Everyone interested in the future of physical therapy in Virginia should consider giving at least the same amount of money to our PAC as they do for their annual car insurance. This is nothing more than ... insurance [for] your career."

Let's all chip in and maximize this opportunity by giving now to our political action committee. Checks, made payable to VPTA PAC, should be sent to:

Sydney Sawyer, VPTA PAC Treasurer
11907 Henderson Ct
Clifton, VA 20124-2200

For purposes of full legal disclosure, please include your office and/or home address and phone number with your contribution.

Take the time right now to sit down, write the check, and mail it in. You'll be showing your support while helping all of our efforts.

*George Maihafer,
VPTA PAC Chair*

Call for Research Abstracts

It's time to begin submitting research abstracts for poster and platform presentations scheduled for 4:00 pm, October 21, at VPTA's 2005 Annual Conference. **Deadline:** September 1, 2005. Research studies, case reports, case studies, and presentations on topics of interest are welcomed. Guidelines and the official "Call for Abstracts" can be found at www.vpta.org. For further questions or guidance, contact Mike Krackow, research chair, at mkrackow@jchs.edu, or 540/224-4478.

Set Your Sails for Portsmouth and VPTA's 2005 Annual Conference: October 21-23

Don't miss VPTA's 2005 Annual Conference at the four-star Renaissance Hotel in the newly revitalized Portsmouth waterfront area. Topics include: Ethics, Deep Vein Thrombosis, Balance Rehab, Functional Neuroanatomy, Brachial Plexus Injuries, and the Shoulder.

Friday night is an opening reception with exhibits, followed by an issues forum. Saturday night promises a gala auction and reception. Watch your mail and check out our Web site, www.vpta.org, for further information, updates, and to register online. Be there!

VPTA–PAC Insignia Challenge

The VPTA Political Action Committee (PAC) has been in existence for a number of years as an organization. We have been successful in many ventures over the years due to the consistent support and diligence of our members and supporters. One limitation for the PAC to date is the lack of a design “brand.” The VPTA PAC is challenging the membership to submit an insignia or logo that could be copyrighted as the formal brand that will be adopted as its insignia for all stationary, literature, and any other articles the VPTA PAC will use in the future. Please submit your insignia/brand design to:

George Maihafer	or	Sydney Sawyer
VPTA PAC Chair		VPTA PAC Treasurer
3920 Holly Ave		11907 Henderson Court
Norfolk, VA 23504		Clifton, VA 20124-2200
gmaihafe@odu.edu		sydney.sawyer@healthsouth.com

Please make sure that the brand/insignia design is not currently owned or copyrighted by any other organization. PT and PTA schools may wish to join in this competition as well. A committee will choose from all of the designs submitted and announce and unveil the winner at the VPTA Annual Conference in October 2005.

*George Maihafer, PT
PAC Chair*

ASIG Update

ASIG had a very productive weekend at this year’s Annual Retreat. It was very encouraging to see the enthusiasm within ASIG and among VPTA leaders about the upcoming year’s events. This is a very exciting time for PTAs, with several RCs coming forth in the House of Delegates that directly affect the role of the PTA in the Association. Most notably is the proposed restructuring of the RBNA; but also, there is an RC that would allow states to choose to give the PTA a full vote on the chapter level. I strongly encourage those PTAs that can make the trip to Boston to be present for the RBNA session and the PTA membership vote on the proposed restructuring.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about this year’s Outstanding PTA Award. This award is given by VPTA ASIG and is meant to “recognize PTAs in Virginia who have made an outstanding contribution to clinical practice and to PTA development through participation in professional association activities.” The award will be presented in October at the Business Meeting during the VPTA 2005 Annual Conference. Nomination forms must be completed and received by August 15. If you have any questions or need to turn in a nomination, please contact me at siesta@adelphia.net.

*Sarah Schmidt, PTA
ASIG Chair*

Virginia Physical Therapy Association
1111 N Fairfax St
Alexandria, VA 22314

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