

## **Oncology Section E-News**

### **October 2006**

This is a PACKED issue of the Oncology Section E-News. We hope that it is helpful to you. Remember that if you have news or a story to share, we would love to hear about it! Contact us at [oncology@apta.org](mailto:oncology@apta.org) with your contributions.

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#### **\*\* 2006 SECTION BALLOTS MAILED THIS WEEK \*\***

You should receive your Oncology Section ballot by early next week. Please take a moment and vote in this year's elections. The ballot and candidate statements can also be downloaded at [www.oncologypt.org](http://www.oncologypt.org).

#### **\*\* NEW FACT SHEET FOR SECTION MEMBERS: CHEMOTHERAPY-INDUCED PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY \*\***

Sincere thanks to Section member Meredith Wampler, PT, DPTSc for authoring our newest fact sheet, "Chemotherapy-induced Peripheral Neuropathy." This fact sheet is available to Section members only by clicking on "Member Resources" at [www.oncologypt.org](http://www.oncologypt.org). If you would be willing to author a fact sheet for PTs or consumers, please contact Maggie Rinehart-Ayres (Section Publications Chair), at [margaret.ayres@jefferson.edu](mailto:margaret.ayres@jefferson.edu).

#### **\*\* FEATURED SECTION MEMBER: KAREN RUSHBY TAKES LYMPHEDEMA EDUCATION ON THE ROAD! \*\***

Karen Rushby, PT, MScHA, CLT of Washington State has been busy raising lymphedema awareness in her community this summer! Karen has put together a lymphedema information table and has taken it to four tribal health fairs, one general community health fair, two women's cancer support groups, and a "Walk for the Cure" event.

Besides handing out general information, Karen developed a screening/referral tool that uses check marked boxes to identify a person's risk for lymphedema or other swelling disorders. Karen and her co-worker Pam Predovich, PTA sit with individuals to talk them through the tool and assess their risk. The person can take the form to their doctor,

who can fill it in and use it to refer to physical therapy. “It’s very exciting,” says Karen. “I will often find someone who has lymphedema and didn’t know it, and many people who know someone that has lymphedema or a swelling disorder that would benefit from an evaluation.” Karen has generously offered to share her screening/referral tool with fellow Section members; just email her at [krushby@olympicmedical.org](mailto:krushby@olympicmedical.org).

For a full story, pictures, and tips on putting together your own awareness table for health fairs, please visit [www.oncologypt.org](http://www.oncologypt.org), and click on “Section News.” Thanks to Karen for her awareness efforts, and for sharing her story with the Oncology Section!

**\*\* APTA OPPOSES NEW SENATE BILL TO RELAX QUALIFICATION STANDARDS FOR MEDICARE PROVIDERS \*\***

From APTA's [PT Bulletin Online](http://www.apta.org/ptbulletin), [www.apta.org/ptbulletin](http://www.apta.org/ptbulletin), 10/6/06:

The Access to Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services Improvement Act of 2006 (S 3963), introduced late last week by Sens Craig Thomas (R-WY) and Arlen Specter (R-PA), would overturn the current Medicare "incident to" rule and recognize athletic trainers and lymphedema therapists as covered providers under Medicare. APTA opposes S 3963 and strongly supports Medicare's qualification standards that therapy services should be provided only by qualified practitioners. The Association's position is that physical therapists are the only professionals who should provide physical therapy examinations, evaluations, diagnoses, prognoses, and interventions. Interventions should be represented and reimbursed as physical therapy only when performed by a physical therapist or by a physical therapist assistant under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist. To contact your senators and urge them to oppose this legislation, visit the [Medicare Personnel Qualification for Physical Therapy Resource Center](#) at the following link.

[http://www.apta.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Medicare\\_Personnel\\_Qualifications1&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=293&ContentID=34079](http://www.apta.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Medicare_Personnel_Qualifications1&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=293&ContentID=34079)

Related news from the Section: Nicole Gergich, Oncology Section President, has resigned from her positions on the NLN Medical Advisory Committee and the LANA Board in response to this legislation. Says Nicole, “I have worked diligently in the past to bridge the gap between the organizations that I serve, hoping to come to resolve over many of the issues surrounding certification. However, now that this bill has been introduced, I cannot claim to remain neutral in all camps and therefore respectfully submit my resignation to the NLN and LANA.”

The Oncology Section stands with APTA to strongly support Medicare's qualification standards that therapy services should be provided only by qualified practitioners.

**\*\* DECEMBER 1 IS WORLD AIDS DAY \*\***

The HIV/AIDS Special Interest Group (SIG) of the Oncology Section is working to add resources to its webpage prior to December 1 of this year. Plan to have an awareness event on December 1- even if all you do is copy our “HIV and Physical Therapy: What to expect” and distribute it to your patients/students/etc. For more info, and to join the HIV/AIDS SIG, click on “About Us” at [www.oncologypt.org](http://www.oncologypt.org).

**\*\* OCTOBER IS NATIONAL PT MONTH \*\***

You can receive free copies of *For Your Health* (in packages of 40) to share with patients during October. The 2006 issue features Olympic gold medalist Seth Wescott and his physical therapist, Mike Hersey, PT. You can display *For Your Health* prominently in waiting rooms, share with patients and clients, send to referral sources or provide to local gyms, health clubs, and other places where potential clients might visit.

**\*\* DEADLINE FOR CSM 2008 PRE-CONFERENCE COURSE PROPOSALS: DECEMBER 1, 2006 \*\***

Would you like to present a pre-con at CSM 2008? The proposal form can be found at [www.oncologypt.org](http://www.oncologypt.org) by clicking on “Section News.”

**\*\* 2006 PT PAC CHALLENGE \*\***

Remember, the section with the highest **percentage increase** in PT-PAC participation rates will win 2006 PT-PAC competition. The PT-PAC is a vital tool in APTA’s legislative efforts, and the Oncology Section would love to win this contest! **If 30% of the people receiving this e-mail go to [http://www.apta.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=PT\\_PAC&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=184&ContentID=18546](http://www.apta.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=PT_PAC&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=184&ContentID=18546) and give just \$10 to the PT-PAC, WE WILL WIN!** Thank you to all those who already contribute, and thank you for your Oncology Section Membership.

See how Chapters and Sections are doing with their PT-PAC participation at: [http://www.apta.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=PT\\_PAC&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=34081](http://www.apta.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=PT_PAC&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=34081)

**\*\* RECENT ARTICLES FROM THE SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE OF INTEREST TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ONCOLOGY SECTION: \*\***

(The title should be a link to the abstract on PubMed. If the link doesn’t work, please visit [www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org), click on “Research,” and then “Current Research in Physical Therapy.”)

[Phys Ther](#). 2006 Aug;86(8):1128-36.

Twice-weekly complete decongestive physical therapy in the management of secondary lymphedema of the lower extremities.

Holtgreffe KM.

Have you tried a search on APTA's new "Open Door" resource for members? Open Door gives you free access to ProQuest and CINAHL. Even if your facility already has a subscription, APTA's subscription may be different than yours, so you may get different results through Open Door. [www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org), click on "Research."

**\*\* JOIN THE ONCOLOGY SECTION LISTSERVE \*\***

Our listserv has been very active lately, with a wealth of information being shared. Some topics were: "Sentinell Node Biopsy and LE," "Ex in pts with breast cancer spinal mets," "PT protocols for Breast Cancer," and "APTA Legislative Action Alert - Therapy Cap Exceptions Process."

Being on the listserv is a benefit of Oncology Section Membership. To join, e-mail [oncology@apta.org](mailto:oncology@apta.org), and provide your full name or APTA member number. You can choose to receive individual e-mails or a weekly digest.

**Thank you for supporting the Oncology Section!**

Do you have anything you would like to share with US? Have you read a good research article? Tell us about your Oncology Practice. Send a synopsis to share with others. Contact the Section Office at [oncology@apta.org](mailto:oncology@apta.org) to submit material for this newsletter.