

Message from the Chair

By Susan L. Whitney, PhD, PT, NCS, ATC, FAPTA
VR SIG Chair

What an amazing CSM! We had almost 200 people at our Vestibular SIG meeting and probably had the worst time slot on the program! Everyone has to take turns being the last on the program and this year it was the Vestibular SIG's turn. Thanks go to Dr. Susan Herdman for her outstanding talk related to differential diagnosis. Her eye videos and information were invaluable and her drawing power made the difference in the attendance.

During the SIG meeting, we recognized Dr. Denise Gobert for her 6 years of service to the section and raffled off 12 items. We are already planning to get many more items for next year for the raffle including books, DVDs, CDs, etc and will let you know before CSM in San Diego why you should come to our meeting. We had a lot of fun and had over 85 people express interest in building the SIG. The room was filled with energy about moving our special interest of practice forward.

Helene Ferone took questions at the end of the meeting related to the CPT coding issue for BPPV. She answered our questions at the end for programming for almost 45 minutes. CMS has resolved the issue and CMS will pay for the canalith repositioning maneuver (see the article by Kim Gottshall, our practice committee chair). More than Section members charge for the canalith repositioning maneuver so it is important to get our message out to all APTA members.

Julie Tilson, our SIG Vice Chair, did a superb job obtaining outstanding speakers for CSM. She organized our Vestibular SIG programming and had significant input into the Neurology Section programming. The vestibular topics were well attended and all were well done (evidence based with outstanding speakers).

We have some new initiatives related to the SIG. We now have 18 drafts of our new patient data sheets. Our writing task force group has about 25 other topic areas that have been assigned. When these are completed, they can be used to enhance your practice. Providing consistent information to patients should assist you and the consumer. Our task force team agrees with me that knowledge is power and we are working to empower our patients. Our hope is that you will soon be able to download and print the sheets in order to provide them to your patients. Our team is hoping that this will help to improve your practice. Stay tuned for further progress of this project.

The Vestibular SIG will be the first to try the new bulletin board format. If you are interested, please join in to participate. More information will be forthcoming related to this initiative. We will try the bulletin board for several months to see if it catches on with the membership.

The Neurology Section is being very supportive of our SIG's efforts. Your SIG officers attended several meetings at CSM with the Neurology Section Board of Directors, other SIG offers, plus had our own SIG meeting and a meeting of the patient education task force. We are also working hard to plan for additional tools that can enhance your practice. I will be choosing a new taskforce leader to roll out the fact sheets for physicians and we will be calling on people who volunteered at CSM to see if any are interested in participating.

We are also discussing ways to help physicians and the external community better recognize expertise in the area of vestibular rehabilitation. The Executive Board will be discussing this over the next few months and will try to have a report to all of you during CSM 2010 in San Diego.

We guarantee that we will have more prizes for the CSM business meeting and will try to incentivize you to join the SIG. It is just a few clicks on the Neuro web site. The procedure to sign up for a SIG on line is to visit www.neuropt.org.

Stay tuned to updates on our web page at www.neuropt.org. You have a very talented team working hard to help you to improve practice. Let us know about any concerns that you have and we will try to work to address them.