



Vestibular Rehabilitation SIG

Fall 2007

In this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Call for Nominations | 1 |
| Vision 2020 | 2 |
| VR SIG Mission and Objectives | 3 |

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A Giant Step toward Vision 2020

APTA urges physical therapists to be mindful of Vision 2020

By Denise Gobert, PT, Ph.D
VR SIG Chair

<http://www.apta.org/AM/TemplateRedirect.cfm?template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=41904>.

The American Physical Therapy Association's governing body encourages physical therapists to be mindful of Vision 2020, which views physical therapists as a doctoring profession in both clinical and secular communities.

However, PTs specializing in vestibular rehabilitation have been historically challenged as to

how physical therapy practice fits best within the multi-discipline team of specialists needed for comprehensive patient care and management.

As of May of this year, the APTA has provided an official statement of support identifying PTs as "the practitioner of choice for the care and management of patients with vestibular-related balance disorders."

The 63rd Annual Session of the House of Delegates of the APTA passed this position statement in the form of RC-26 with the approving vote from at least 13 state chapters, 17 APTA sections, and the APTA Board of Directors.

For more details review the official minutes on the APTA House of Delegates Web page:

What does this mean for our SIG members?

It provides the long-awaited national statement of support when faced with issues of reimbursement by third party payers.

What will be the clinical yardstick used to see how each of us as clinicians measure up?

It also supports the concept that PTs, as movement specialists, have the background and training to

treat patients with functional balance deficits resulting from a vestibular-related disorder.

However, along with the concept of being practitioners of choice also comes the professional responsibility to monitor and ensure that our VR practice skills maintain a level identified as gold standard.

What should that gold standard be as we progress toward Vision 2020?

What will be the clinical yardstick used to see how each of us as clinicians measure up?

Those will be some of the challenging questions addressed by the upcoming 2008 APTA Combined Sections Meeting in Nashville, Tenn.

We present this edition of the VR SIG newsletter to help us all prepare for an exciting meeting.

Call for Nominations

**By Elizabeth Grace, PT, NCS
Nominating Committee Chair**

It's that time of year again. The leaves are falling, there's a chill in the air and Sundays are all about football.

And it's time to start thinking about upcoming elections for the Vestibular Rehabilitation SIG.

In 2008, we will elect a new SIG chair and a nominating committee member. Becoming a SIG officer is a great opportunity to be involved in APTA and Neurology Section leadership.

You'll get to know many people in the neurology section and in the field of vestibular rehabilitation through service, education, and networking.

The chair and nominating committee member each serve a three-year term. Both positions require that candidates have been Neurology Section members for at least two years prior to running for election.

After six years of service, Denise Gobert is stepping down as chair and we thank her for her dedication.

We look to bring some fresh, new leadership to our SIG.

The SIG chair is responsible for:

- facilitating all meetings of the SIG and communicating with other SIG officers
- representing the SIG at all section meetings, including the business meeting at the annual Combined Sections Meeting

- preparing the annual budget and providing reports to the Neurology Section regarding SIG activities
- serving as liaison to other sections and organizations
- serving as a clinical resource to section in area of specialty

The nominating committee is responsible for preparing a slate of candidates for open SIG positions each year.

It also helps coordinate and facilitate the election process.

In the third year of the three-year term, the nominating committee member serves as the nominating committee chair.

We also have an appointed position of SIG Webmaster available.

This person does not need to be computer savvy, as they will not be responsible for the technical maintenance of the website.

The webmaster will be expected to regularly check the Web page for appropriate content and work with the executive officers regarding changes as necessary.

Please contact a member of the nominating committee if you are interested in any of these positions or would like more information about the positions, or if you have other questions regarding getting involved in the SIG.

We hope to see you at this year's Combined Section Meeting in Nashville!

Vestibular Rehabilitation SIG special CSM programming

There will be a short business meeting to review the VR SIG's activities over the past year and discuss future directions on Feb. 8, 4:00-4:30 p.m.

Friday evening's feature program will be "Vestibular and Balance Issues in Pediatrics" presented by Rose Rine, PT, Ph.D from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

The program will provide an overview of:

- The development of the vestibular system and its functional effectiveness for vision and postural control abilities
- The incidence of, and impairments identified consequent to, vestibular deficits in children
- The evaluation and intervention for balance and vestibular related impairments in children

Sue Whitney, PT, PhD, ATC will lead a roundtable discussion "When Mind does Matter: Psychology and Dizziness" Feb. 9 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

The roundtable will provide a forum for participants to share experiences about persons with dizziness and anxiety disorders.

Treatment ideas will be shared that appear to aid persons with anxiety disorders.

We will discuss re-weighting of sensory signals and how the approach to treating a person with vestibular dysfunction and anxiety is different than a more "typical" person with vestibular dysfunction.

Vestibular Rehabilitation SIG

Mission and Objectives

The mission of the Vestibular Rehabilitation special interest group is to provide a forum for APTA Neurology Section members who have a common interest in the promotion of health, wellness, optimal function, and quality of life for individuals with balance and vestibular disorders.

The VR SIG is committed to facilitating advances in physical therapy for patient management, education, research and health care policy that reflect the needs of those we serve.

The Vestibular Rehabilitation SIG's objectives include:

Communication

- Report biannually in Neurology Section publications
- Represent members with interest in vestibular rehabilitation issues practice to the Neurology Section
- Regular communication to the executive committee in direct meetings, conference calls, and semiannual reports
- Provide an avenue of communication and networking for clinicians, educators, and researchers working with or interested in vestibular rehabilitation practice methods, balance promotion and fall prevention
- Facilitate publication of articles and information regarding vestibular rehabilitation and balance in Neurology Section publications

Research

- Facilitate clinical and basic science research in the area of vestibular rehabilitation and

balance interventions

- Assist in establishing a network for communicating the results of research
- Assist in establishing clinical research collaboration related to balance and vestibular examination, intervention and outcomes assessment

Education

- Assist the public relations efforts of the APTA by support and organization of activities that promote physical therapy services for persons with vestibular-related deficits and balance problems
- Coordinate with the appropriate representatives to encourage the presentation of material related to vestibular rehabilitation and balance impairments at Combined Sections Meetings, regional educational offerings and national conference
- Support the publication of articles, book reviews, and reprints of reports and articles related to vestibular rehabilitation and balance deficits

Legislation

- Monitor legislation that would have an impact on the delivery of quality physical therapy services to persons with vestibular-related deficits and balance impairments
- Monitor changes in reimbursement systems that affect physical therapy services provided to persons with vestibular-related deficits and balance impairments

Take advantage of special room rates by booking before Jan. 5, 2008.

For best availability and immediate confirmation, make your reservations online on the APTA Web site, www.apta.org/csm.

Use housing code APTAATT0208.

