

## EDITORIAL

# IT'S BEEN A GREAT THREE YEARS!

Michael L. Voight, PT, DHSc, OCS, SCS, ATC<sup>a</sup>

These are exciting times to be a member of the Sports Physical Therapy Section (SPTS). We should all be proud of and pleased with OUR organization and the direction that it is going. Over the past three years, it has been a true honor to serve as the President of the SPTS. During my tenure as president, I came to realize very quickly that as president, an individual is only a single cog in a wheel already possessing great momentum and direction. The long history and wide variety of people involved in the leadership of this Section before me left big shoes to fill, but also left an excellent foundation upon which to build – and build we have!! Many within the Section have contributed to the growth process of the SPTS, from members with novel ideas to appointed and elected leaders who serve diligently throughout the year. With the help of these individuals, too numerous to mention, we, like my predecessors - have kept the wheel turning, and enlarged the foundation upon which the next SPTS President Kevin Wilk and current Executive Committee will build.

In reviewing my position paper for the candidacy of President – I basically listed only a few goals I wanted to accomplish should I become elected. These could best be summarized under the global theme of *opportunities*: both in education and involvement. With the help of the Executive Committee, I wanted to further develop or grow the Section in order to provide the same type of opportunities for the next generation of Sports Physical Therapists that I had when I first got involved 25 years ago. John Quincey Adams once said: “To furnish the means of acquiring knowledge is the greatest benefit that can be conferred upon mankind. It prolongs life itself and enlarges the sphere of existence.”

<sup>a</sup> President, Sports Physical Therapy Section

With the SPTS Mission, Vision, and Goals as a starting point, the Executive Committee and I set out with that goal in sight.

### Mission

The mission of the Sports Physical Therapy Section, as a component of the American Physical Therapy Association, is to serve its members, athletes of all ages and abilities, the profession, and the community at large by promoting excellence in practice, research, education and professional development.

### Vision

The vision of the Sports Physical Therapy Section is to be THE resource for sports physical therapy.

### Goals

- Effectively represent and advocate sports physical therapy to our profession, the public, and other organizations.
- Actively facilitate efforts to investigate and document sports physical therapy practice.
- Disseminate information via various technologies and media to promote mentorship, enhance professional development, and optimize the practice of sports physical therapy.
- Provide responsible fiscal management to support the mission and promote the growth of the Sports Physical Therapy Section.
- Utilize the organizational structure to facilitate involvement of and communication with our members at multiple levels.

With the help of a large number of people, I am confident we have made great strides towards these goals. Let me share with you a few things that your Section is doing for you.

# N A J S P T



Sport Physiotherapy  
Canada

---

### **Goal 1: Advocating for and representing the SPTS**

- The SPTS has continued its close working relationship with the APTA Board of Directors. Throughout the past several years, the SPTS has been called upon by the APTA Board of Directors for advice and establishment of policy.
- The SPTS continues to have direct involvement with the WCPT and International Federation of Sports Physical Therapy (IFSP). Both Mark De Carlo and I serve on the Board of Directors of the IFSP. Through the IFSP the SPTS is promoted world-wide.
- Over the past three years, the SPTS has become more involved with the Joint Commission on Sports Medicine. This is a group of over 35 sportsmedicine organizations who meet annually to share information and discuss opportunities for collaboration. From this involvement, the SPTS was able to:
  - Establish direct communication with the NCAA and National High School Sports Federation
  - Develop a formal exchange lectureship with the ACSM, AMSSM, and AOSSM

### **Goal 2: Facilitate efforts to investigate and document practice**

- With the help of Mark De Carlo, the SPTS established the “Legacy Fund.” This is an external Foundation developed by the section to support and fund SPTS research and membership development opportunities such as a traveling sports physical therapy exchange program and other mentorship programs.
- The SPTS has continued to financially support the Foundation for Physical Therapy. In fact, this year the SPTS is being recognized by the Foundation for Physical Therapy with the “Innovation in Fund Raising” award as recognition of the support that the SPTS has provided over the past four years.

### **Goal 3: Disseminate information via various methods to promote mentorship, enhance professional development, and optimize the practice of sports physical therapy.**

- The SPTS has established and continually enhances a web-site to disseminate information. This web-site is the primary mode of SPTS communication and information sharing. If you have not visited the site recently, I invite you to do so at [www.spts.org](http://www.spts.org).

- In 2003, the SPTS brought back the annual “Team Concept Conference” and has held it the first weekend in December each year in Las Vegas. This meeting continues to grow and provide current information to the membership. It will be held again in Las Vegas, this up-coming December, 2007.
- The SPTS is committed to providing at least two new Home Study Courses to the membership annually. These outstanding educational courses allow members to upgrade their knowledge in areas relevant to the practice of sports physical therapy and earn continuing education units (CEUs).
- First Responder training through the American Red Cross continues regionally around the country. In 2006, the SPTS combined with the APTA and Mississippi chapter to provide a first responder course in the Gulf Coast region as part of their hurricane preparedness training.
- The *Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy* continues to grow and evolve as one of the Section publications.
- In 2006, the *North American Journal for Sports Physical Therapy* was launched as a complementary publication. This publication was developed in partnership with Sports Physiotherapy Canada. The journal has served to draw our two organizations closer together on this and other issues unique to each country.
- The SPTS established a web-site to support the *NAJSPT*. This site allows immediate access to members and subscribers, as well as provide information to potential advertisers. Visit the site at [www.najspt.org](http://www.najspt.org)

### **Goal 4: Strong fiscal management.**

The SPTS is in a strong fiscal position to continue the growth process for its membership.

### **Goal 5: Facilitate involvement of and communication with our members at multiple levels.**

- Three new Special Interest Groups (SIGs) have been formed to facilitate communication and information sharing within the Section. These three new SIGs enhance involvement and offer quality information dissemination for those who have special interests in the Collegiate and Professional Athlete, Golf, and the Female Athlete.

- 
- The SPTS has worked with the Foundation for Physical Therapy to establish an annual gala at the Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) for socializing and networking. Over the past four years, this has become a highlight for many attending CSM, as well as an excellent fundraiser to support physical therapy research.
  - The SPTS has established a “Partner Program” which serves as a vehicle for those who are not eligible for APTA membership to become involved in the Section.
  - The SPTS web-site has been upgraded to allow for discussion forums.
  - Currently, the SPTS has the largest number of members in section history. The growth rate over the past two years has been 14%.

In addition to these accomplishments, in 2007 the United States Olympic Committee agreed to open their volunteer program to physical therapists. Physical therapists with a minimum of five years experience can now apply for involvement with the Olympic Sportsmedicine Program.

I believe that all of these accomplishments fall directly within the SPTS mission of serving our members, athletes of all ages and abilities, the profession, and the community at large by promoting excellence in practice, research, education and professional development. All of the accomplishments listed above did not happen because of me. They only occurred while I was in office. They happened through the hard work of many individuals within the Section. We have so many people with good minds, great ideas, keen insights, enthusiasm, and enormous energy. The wheels are turning, we have momentum, and I believe that it is only fitting to acknowledge some very important contributors to the Section that made my tenure as President an easy task.

A special thank you goes out to Bill Bandy, Joe Black, Tab Blackburn, Lori Bolgla, Gary Derscheid, Kecia Erickson, Gordon Eiland, Gail “Cookie” Friedhoff, Bryan Heidersheit, Barb Hoogenboom, Marty Huegal, Rob Manske, Scott Miller, Kevin Robinson, Bill Romani, Teresa Scheumann, Robyn Smith, John Stemm, and Tim Tyler.

In addition, I would like to recognize my colleagues on the SPTS Executive Board: Walt Jenkins, Allen Hardin, Danny

Smith, John DeBlasis, and Kevin Wilk. You guys have made it easy! Thank you.

There are three additional people to whom I owe a huge debt of gratitude. Nothing would have been possible without their guidance and support. Mary Wilkinson and Tammy Jackson are the ones behind the scene who ultimately make it all happen – thank you! And finally, my predecessor, confidant, colleague, and close personal friend: SPTS Executive Director Mark DeCarlo. What can I say? Without your guidance and support – none of this would have been possible – thank you buddy – I owe you one.

While we do have much to show for the past, I also recognize that we also have the resources in the Section to do more. We must be deliberate in our efforts to cultivate the science, evaluate diagnostic techniques, think critically about techniques, and demand careful and critical evaluation of our outcomes. While I may be stepping down as President, I look forward to the future with much anticipation and excitement. I am confident that the Section will continue to move forward. Incoming President Kevin Wilk, has already hit the ground running and has begun initiating activities to keep building. His commitment and dedication to the Section is infectious and I have pledged 100% of my support in his leadership for the future. The Section is definitely in good hands.

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to have served as the President of the SPTS.

Mike Voight  
President, SPTS