

# Clinical Education Special Interest Group

## Summer 2009 Newsletter

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**We greet you as springtime moves into the exciting days of summer 2009!**

We hope everyone is excited to hear the latest news from the clinical education SIG. This newsletter will feature information on the current issues in the section and specifically the CESIG. Also the next section meeting will be in Baltimore, MD at PT 2009 followed by the fall Educational Leadership Conference: National Clinical Education Conference in Philadelphia, PA. Attending our profession's national meetings is a great way to keep up-to-date on the latest information in the section and a great way to learn, network and be a part of the team! Hope to see you all soon!

### **Updates on Current Issues**

#### **CMS Regarding Medicare Provider Feedback on therapy services Section 230 - Practice of Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology, B. Therapy Students**

Last year, CMS solicited widespread feedback regarding the applicability of Part B reimbursement rules to the Part A inpatient hospital, rehab and SNF environments. Of specific interest to the CESIG, was the section outlining billing and reimbursement of student provided services. The CESIG leadership disseminated a survey for feedback. No updates or changes in the current status of the Medicare regulations have taken effect. If we become aware of any updates, we will be in contact with membership.

#### **Physical Therapy Clinical Education Voluntary Uniform Mailing Date Survey**

##### **Background**

At the February 1998 CESIG meeting, both the Department of Education and the CESIG presented data from surveys of ACCEs and CCCEs. There was a discussion regarding the condition of clinical education and ways of easing the load for the CCCE. A motion was made to consider the concept of a voluntary uniform mailing date for requesting clinical slots. The motion included mailing dates of January 1 through January 15, the preferred dates noted in a poll conducted by the APTA Division of Education. Discussion indicated some schools might have difficulty with those dates, as many schools are not in session during that time and a window of dates could not be agreed to. The motion containing the January dates was defeated. A second motion was made "that we

voluntarily agree to a date for a national mailing request for sites by PT and PTA programs". That motion was deferred until the Scientific Meeting and Exposition in June 1998. Clinical educators in the room were encouraged to return to their consortia, clinical facilities and academic program and discuss the motion. The group recognized the impact of establishing a set of voluntary mailing dates and understood that significant compromises would be necessary in order for all programs to eventually accept the dates.

**At the June 1998 CESIG business meeting in Orlando**, clinical education representatives from across the country reported widespread acceptance of the concept of a uniform mailing date. The motion deferred from the February meeting "that we voluntarily agree to a date for a national mailing request for sites by PT and PTA programs" was passed unanimously. **Further, there was a unanimous agreement that the voluntary national mail-out date be between March 1 and 15 with a requested return date of April 30, and that the requests for slots be for the following calendar year only. The voluntary uniform mail-out date was implemented in 1999.**

*We received a significant amount of feedback indicating many programs are not complying with the March mailing dates for various reasons, sending requests out much earlier in the calendar year.* Thus an ANONYMOUS survey at the following link:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=4ptK C8M4tplEbmtRyvAoWw\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=4ptK C8M4tplEbmtRyvAoWw_3d_3d)

was mailed to membership and forwarded to CCCE's and CI's across the country for feedback regarding the current status of the Voluntary Uniform Mail-Out Date. We are collecting results currently and we hope to use the results of this survey to revisit the utility of the issue.

### **Education Section Web site**

The Education Section Web is your source for information on the section. Important links are posted in an organized, user-friendly format. If you have any ideas on anything else you would like accessible to you on the site do not hesitate to contact us via the website. Please do take a look by clicking on this link:

<http://www.aptaeducation.org/sigs/ce/index.cfm>

### **Membership Information:**

The CESIG officers have been working hard to increase active membership from both academic and clinical educators. In accordance with the Education Section Strategic Plan *GOAL I Connection: Promoting a joint effort of education to both clinical and academic faculty to promote Clinical Education Goals.*

Significant strides toward this goal have been made through CESIG members and the Education Section's Representative-at-Large for Section Promotion, Dr. Gina Musolino. She has worked with the Education Section officers, Education Section SIG members and APTA component services representatives. Education Section membership continues to increase. Dr. Musolino has worked tirelessly developing recruitment tools for new members, revising the new member letter, re-tooling and re-branding of the Education Section booth, and developing a SIG E-newsletter. She has worked to have Education Section Board and membership and SIG sign via the Education Section website. Please check out the latest membership info at [www.aptaeducation.org](http://www.aptaeducation.org)

### **Educational Leadership Conference: National Clinical Education Conference:**

Please mark your calendars for the 2009 ELC in Philadelphia, PA October 2-4, 2009. The meeting will take place at the **Loews Philadelphia Hotel** 1200 Market Street Philadelphia, PA 19107

The content of this ELC will primarily focus on activities related to the future Council of Physical Therapy Programs. Programming will be of interest to all educators (academic, clinical, PT and PTA) involved in the future of physical therapy education. Specific clinical education-related content will include the clinical education platform presentations, a presentation on the

evolving role of clinical education consortia and roundtable discussions on leadership and clinical education topics for PT and PTA educators. There will also be opportunities for breakout workgroups and involvement in discussions on the future of physical therapy education.

### **Research abstracts for clinical education platform presentations**

are now being accepted for the Educational Leadership Conference (ELC) to be held October 2-4, 2009 in Philadelphia, PA. Please submit abstracts in 2 forms: 1) an abstract with all identification omitted, and 2) an abstract with all authors listed, complete with school and/or clinical facility included and contact information. The deadline for submission is May 1, 2009. After all submissions have been evaluated, notification emails will be sent to the individual who submitted the abstract, by May 15, 2009. Send abstracts to Peggy Gleeson at [pgleeson@twu.edu](mailto:pgleeson@twu.edu) or Heidi Dunfee at [Dunfee.heidi@mayo.edu](mailto:Dunfee.heidi@mayo.edu)

Information regarding the conference and hotel registration is posted on the APTA Education Section Website ([www.aptaeducation.org](http://www.aptaeducation.org))

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the program chairs:

Heidi Dunfee: [dunfee.heidi@mayo.edu](mailto:dunfee.heidi@mayo.edu)

Peggy Gleeson: [pgleeson@twu.edu](mailto:pgleeson@twu.edu)

Reva Rauk: [Reva.Rauk@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:Reva.Rauk@hsc.utah.edu)

Alecia Thiele: [Alecia.Thiele@clarke.edu](mailto:Alecia.Thiele@clarke.edu)

### **Topic: Update and information regarding development of new PT Education Organization**

Information regarding the development of the new PT Education Organization was shared at the CESIG meeting in Las Vegas in February and e-mailed personally to CESIG members and DCE/ACCE's at PT and PTA programs in late March 2009. Some e-mails were secure and could not receive the message. Below is a summary of the information and e-mail.

As the current ACCE/DCE Co-Chair of the Education Section Clinical Education Special Interest Group, Alecia Thiele has over the past couple months had the privilege of being a

member of a working group charged by the AASIG to explore and facilitate the development of a new organization that will replace the AASIG and serve as the collective voice of academic physical therapy programs. The group consists of individuals that represent the range of PT programs around the country. The group includes program directors from small and large programs, private and public institutions, the north and south, and east and west as well as a representative from the CESIG and PTASIG.

The committee presented a proposed mission, vision, and goal statements at the recent AASIG, CESIG and PTASIG and AFSIG business meetings in Las Vegas. The document is posted on the following website:  
<http://www.aptaeducation.org/m/sigs/aa/AASIGorgcomm.cfm>

The committee would like to move forward with the ratification of the organization's bylaws at this year's Educational Leadership Conference in October, with the intent of having the organization operational as of January 1, 2010.

With this goal in mind, the committee is asking for your input and support. The committee has laid the groundwork, and now it is time for our larger community to provide feedback and help us form an organization that will best serve our mutual needs. The committee urges you to review the information, discuss it with your program chair and faculty, and forward this information onto your clinical constituents (CCCE's and CI's) as well.

There will be additional opportunities for discussion of the bylaws and all aspects of the organization at the Annual Conference in Baltimore this June and considerable time will be set aside at the ELC in October. Alecia Thiele would be happy to discuss any aspect of the proposal with you or other members of your faculty, and would really appreciate any feedback that you may have regarding the proposed organization. Your program chair has been contacted with this information. He/she has been asked to share this information with his/her DCE/ACCEs so we can assure a strong bond between academic and clinical education. The committee is again asking you to share this information with your clinical constituents as well (CCCE's and CI's) to be certain to include your clinical faculty.

Please know, absolutely nothing is carved in stone; the committee is even flexible regarding the name of the organization. What is important to all of us is that this organization serves the needs of PT programs across the country to foster excellence in all that we do. Feel free to contact Alecia personally at [alecia.thiele@clarke.edu](mailto:alecia.thiele@clarke.edu) or post on the listserv so we can begin this important conversation.

### **New Education Section Officers**

On Friday, May 8, 2009, all members with email access will receive a message containing voting instructions and a direct link to secure voting page on [www.aptaeducation.org](http://www.aptaeducation.org). After logging in using your unique APTA member ID and password, you will be able to review the slate of candidates, including candidate statements and biographical information, and to cast their vote. Votes must be cast no later than 11:59 am on Friday May 16, 2009.

To make this process successful, all section members must maintain their current email address with APTA and check their email accounts regularly.

If electronic voting instructions sent to a member are returned to the Section office at APTA as "undeliverable," that member will automatically receive a paper ballot by postal mail. Similarly, members without email addresses will automatically receive a paper ballot. Even with an active email address, any member can request a paper ballot at any time by contacting Sharon Kneebone in the Executive Office at APTA (1-800-999-2782, ext. 8506, [educationsection@apta.org](mailto:educationsection@apta.org)).

Remember, your Section membership entitles you to vote. We look forward to your participation and feedback!

Sincerely,

Dennis W. Fell, MD, PT  
Chair, Education Section Nominating Committee  
[dfell@jaguar1.usouthal.edu](mailto:dfell@jaguar1.usouthal.edu)

## **Education Section Awards**

The Awards Committee of the Education Section has numerous awards available each year.

Nominations are due December 1. Please consider these awards options for you or your colleagues. Below is the list of available awards:

Award for Leadership in Education  
Distinguished Educator in Physical Therapy  
Adopt-A-Doc Scholarship Award  
Linda Crane Memorial Lecture Award  
Polly Cerasoli Lectureship  
Emerging Leader Award

Details about each specific award are available on the Education Section Website at

[http://222.aptaeducation.org/section\\_awards.htm](http://222.aptaeducation.org/section_awards.htm).

## **Update from the Department of Academic/Clinical Education Affairs – May 2009**

### **• Clinical Instructor Education and Credentialing Programs**

- Advanced CI Education and Credentialing Program (Advanced CIECP). The Advanced CIECP was launched January 2008 with the goal of facilitating the CIs ability to provide best clinical teaching and best clinical practice in managing students. This program is available APTA Credential CIs who are licensed PTs in the United States and Canada and have supervised, mentored, or taught at least one student since earning their CI Credential. Currently, there are 49 Advanced Credentialed Trainers available to teach the Advanced CIECP and 319 Advanced Credentialed CIs. To access information about this program, click [here](#).
- **Clinical Instructor Education and Credentialing Program (CIECP):** The CIECP has credentialed nearly 25,000 physical therapist and physical therapist assistant CIs in the United States and Canada since the program's inception in 1997. In addition, 2008 was a remarkable year with 180 courses provided by 169 Credentialed Trainers throughout the US and in Canada, resulting in the credentialing of more than 3,800 clinical educators in one year. To access information about this program, click [here](#).

- An article by Housel and Gandy was published on "Clinical Instructor Credentialing and Its Effect on Student Clinical Performance Outcomes" in the Journal of Physical Therapy Education. 2008; 22(3): 43-51. Several additional manuscripts have been submitted to the Journal of Physical Therapy Education about the Clinical Instructor Education and Credentialing Program and are pending review.
- APTA recognizes, values, and promotes organizations that meet the challenge of having 100% of their designated clinical instructors (CIs) successfully complete the APTA CIECP. Organizations receiving this award are provided with a voucher, at the member rate, for one of their APTA Credentialed CIs to attend the Advanced CIECP. For more information about this competition, please [click here](#). The next application deadline for the 100% Credentialed Clinical Instructor Competition is **June 30, 2009** and can be accessed [here](#).

- **Physical Therapist Clinical Performance Instrument (PT CPI):** The APTA PT CPI (Version 2006) was launched July 15, 2008 in a Web-based version by Academic Management Systems, Inc. (AMS), a subsidiary of Liaison International, in collaboration with APTA, using the company's market-leading assessment product—CoursEval™ as the underlying technology platform. AMS, provides to physical therapist programs registered to use the PT CPI Web, training and technical customer service. To date, 152 physical therapist academic programs are registered with AMS to use PT CPI Web of which 97 programs have entered their information in the system. All users of the PT CPI Web must complete the PT CPI online training and assessment program (free) prior to being able to access to the PT CPI Web. More than 14,500 users have successfully completed the PT CPI online training and assessment program that transitioned to the APTA Learning Center on January 26, 2009. A set of Directions for Use for accessing the PT CPI online training and assessment are available to all users through AMS, academic programs, and APTA. To access information about the PT CPI, click [here](#).

- Physical Therapist Assistant Clinical Performance Instrument (PTA CPI):** Similar to the process used to revise the PT CPI, the PTA CPI is currently undergoing its first major revision following a similar redesign and testing process using an online training component and electronic format of the instrument. The final version of the PTA CPI field-testing will be completed by May 31, 2009. Results of the field-testing will be analyzed to determine the instrument's validity and user satisfaction. The PTA CPI will subsequently undergo similar development in preparation for its implementation using an online training and assessment program and the development of a web-based PTA CPI. A PT '09 presentation is scheduled for Friday, June 12, 2009 from 2:00 – 3:30 pm on "Preparing to Use the Web-Based PTA CPI".
- Draft Outcomes from Clinical Education Standards Conference and Regional Forums:** Draft outcome clinical education standards from the December 2007 consensus conference on clinical education were completed and made available on the [APTA website](#). In 2008-2009, thus far 9 of 14 regional forums have been convened throughout the United States. Five regional forums remain that are scheduled in Portland, St Louis, Newark, Dallas, and Denver. These regional forums are available to both invited participants and individuals interested in physical therapist clinical education from broad stakeholder groups including physical therapist academic and clinical educators, clinicians, managers, employers, clinical residency/fellowship faculty, and students. These forums provide time to discuss and refine the draft consensus-based clinical education standards that are used as a springboard for discussion. Participants suggest opportunities and resistances to achieving outcomes associated with clinical education standards and a preferred organization and delivery of clinical education, remedies for implementation, and next steps based on the results of a larger consensus on standards in clinical education. A report is planned for the 2009 November Board of Directors meeting. An update on the status of these regional forums is scheduled for PT '09 on June 12, 2009 from 3:30 – 5:00 pm.
- Professionalism Modules:** Three online modules on Professionalism were launched in 2008 through the APTA Learning Center. These modules provide an Introduction to Professionalism, History of Professionalism in Physical Therapy, and Ethical Compass. These modules are free to members and prerequisite to completing the Advanced CE Education and Credentialing Program and can be accessed [here](#). To date, approximately 1,200 persons completed Module 1 – Introduction to Professionalism, 1,030 completed Module 2 – History of Professionalism in Physical Therapy, and 885 completed Module 3 – Ethical Compass. Four additional modules are in development for 2009.
- ACCE/DCE Performance Assessment:** An Ad Hoc ACCE/DCE Performance Assessment Group has been working on voluntary ACCE/DCE performance assessments for physical therapist and physical therapist assistant programs. This initiative was undertaken in response to requests from some physical therapist and physical therapist assistant programs for an evaluation mechanism in support of the roles and functions of the ACCE/DCE. Performance assessments have been developed to be completed by multiple stakeholders including students, CIs/CCCEs, faculty, and Program Directors/ACCE/DCEs. The Ad Hoc group will be reviewing feedback on the second draft versions of these voluntary assessments in preparation for creating final ACCE/DCE performance assessments to be tested for functionality and user satisfaction. The Ad Hoc Group will be inviting interested ACCEs/DCEs from physical therapist and physical therapist assistant programs to volunteer to test these performance tools in the fall with the

varied users to determine their usefulness and overall satisfaction.

- **DPT Transition Programs.** As of October 2008, post-professional DPT (transition) degree programs report that since 1999, an estimated 20,013 students have been or currently are enrolled in t-DPT programs of which 10,543 have graduated and or are anticipated to graduate in 2008-2009. Since 2006-2007, programs have reported a declining trend for new admissions into these programs. For 67.2% of these programs, the minimum degree required for acceptance into a DPT (Transition) program is a bachelor's degree in physical therapy with 89.7% requiring US PT licensure.

- **Consultant Group on Interprofessional Professionalism:**  
APTA is facilitating a long-term interprofessional collaborative initiative to develop a "tool kit" on interprofessional professionalism to include mechanisms to assess interprofessional professionalism. Members of this group represent AAMC, ADEA, AACP, APA, ASHA, NBME, AACOM, AACN, ASCO, and APTA. In 2008-2009, the Consultant Group on Interprofessional Professionalism provided panel presentations with participant interaction on a set of draft entry-level behaviors, values, and attitudes that reflect interprofessional professionalism to each of the representative professions at their respective national conferences and at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Ottawa Conference in Melbourne, Australia. In addition, an Interprofessional Professionalism WIKI page (<http://ippmg.pbwiki.com>) was developed to facilitate interprofessional communication and feedback about this topic.  
On April 22, 2009, a presentation was provided to the Advisory Committee on Interdisciplinary, Community-Based Linkages (ACICBL).on the work of the Consultant Group including opportunities, best practices, and recommendations specific to interprofessional work as a core

competency for quality. Several presentations were made to the members of ACICBL, an appointed group of the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions, in preparation for a 2009 report to Congress that will address: "Toward Quality Healthcare Reform: Preparing the Interprofessional Healthcare Workforce for Primary Care".

PT 2009: June 10-13, Baltimore



Physical Therapy Annual Conference & Exposition  
June 10-13, 2009  
Baltimore, MD

## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Annual Conference and Exposition of the  
American Physical Therapy Association

### Wednesday, June 10, 2009

[Opening Ceremonies](#) (5:30PM- 7:00PM)

### Thursday, June 11, 2009

[First-Timers Coffee--Guide to Navigating Conference](#) (6:45AM- 7:45AM)

[Poster Presentations I](#) (12:00PM- 2:00PM)

[40th McMillan Lecture--The Best We Can Be Is Yet to Come](#) (11:00AM- 12:00PM)

### Friday, June 12, 2009

[Coffee With the Stars](#) (7:00AM- 7:50AM)

[Poster Presentations II](#) (12:00PM- 2:00AM)

[PTA Recognition of Advanced Proficiency Reception](#) (6:30PM- 7:30PM)

[The Maley Lecture--Perspectives on Functional Reform for an Impaired Payment System](#) (11:00AM- 12:00PM)

[The Next Step! Mentoring Reception](#) (6:30PM- 7:30PM)

[2009 Oxford Debate -- Stay Tuned! Topic and Debate panel will be announced in early-May](#) (5:15PM- 6:15PM)

### Saturday, June 13, 2009

[Tours of the UMB Academic and Research Facilities and VA Research Facilities: University of Maryland, School of Medicine, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science \(in conjunction with the VA Medical Center-Baltimore\)](#) (1:00PM- 4:00PM)

The Education Section has some great programming planned as do many other sections. Listed below is just a sample of what you will find this year

#### Educational Programming - Research Theme

<b>Thursday, June 11</b>	
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	<a href="#">PTJ Symposium: Nonpharmacologic CARE for Patients With Arthritis</a>
<b>Friday, June 12</b>	
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM	<a href="#">The Health Care Researcher: Examining Ethical Dilemmas Associated With Listserv Environments</a>
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	<a href="#">Evidence for the Use of Therapeutic Ultrasound in Physical Therapist Practice</a>
<b>Saturday, June 13</b>	
8:00 AM - 11:00 A	<a href="#">PTJ Breakfast: Essentials of Writing and Reviewing Research Papers</a>

#### Educational Programming - Professional Issues Theme

<b>Thursday, June 11</b>	
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	<a href="#">You Are The Brand: Learn it. Live it!</a>
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM	<a href="#">Catherine Worthingham Fellows Forum: Doctoral Education for Physical Therapists-Visions of the Possible</a>
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	<a href="#">You're On Trial for Malpractice, Will You Lose Your License?</a>
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	<a href="#">You Are The Brand: Learn it. Live it!</a>
<b>Friday, June 12</b>	
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM	<a href="#">Yes, You CAN Earn a Living and Be an Ethical Practitioner</a>
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	<a href="#">You Are The Brand: Learn it. Live it!</a>
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	<a href="#">Authoring Future Success - Findings From the Physical Therapy and Society Summit (PASS) and Implications for the Physical Therapy Profession</a>
<b>Saturday, June 13</b>	
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	<a href="#">American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties (ABPTS) - Presentation of Complex Patient Cases: Management Discussion with Clinical Specialists</a>

#### Educational Programming - Serving the Underserved Theme

<b>Thursday, June 11</b>	
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	<a href="#">Participation in Providing Physical Therapy Services to the Uninsured: The Value From an Academic Perspective</a>
<b>Friday, June 12</b>	
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM	<a href="#">Participation in Providing Physical Therapy Services to the Uninsured: The Value From a Clinical Perspective</a>

#### Educational Programming - Education Theme

<b>Thursday, June 11</b>	
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM	<a href="#">Criminal Background Checks in PT Education</a>
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	<a href="#">Web 2.0 Tools in Clinical Practice and PT Education: Keeping Current, Sharing Information, and Marketing</a>
<b>Friday, June 12</b>	
8:00 AM - 11:00	<a href="#">Educational Research as a Way to Build a Scholarly Agenda</a>

AM

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM [Preparing to Use the New Web-based Physical Therapist Assistant Clinical Performance Instrument](#)

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM [Embracing Clinical Education Standards: Conference Outcomes and Regional Discussions](#)

### Saturday, June 13

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM [Successful Business and Organizational Models for Residency and Fellowship Development](#)

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM [A Multi-Stakeholder Web-Based System for Evaluating Professionalism in DPT Students](#)

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM [Tours of the UMB Academic and Research Facilities and VA Research Facilities: University of Maryland, School of Medicine, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science \(in conjunction with the VA Medical Center- Baltimore\)](#)

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM [PTCAS Information Session](#)

## **Government Affairs**

Legislative Update (May 4, 2009)

By the time this newsletter is released, the APTA Annual Government Affairs Forum will have taken place in Washington, DC as therapists across the country will be visiting with their elected officials. Thus, it is likely that additional co-sponsors will be added. Please check the Legislative Action Center on the APTA website for the current status. You can also check the official posting of cosponsors using this link: <http://thomas.loc.gov/> Type in the bill number under the heading 'Search Bill Summary & Status' (example: HR 43) and click on bill number option below the blank.

The APTA has been busy working with sponsors to introduce bills during this session:

1. **Therapy Cap (HR 43/S. 46) -**

Legislation to repeal the 1997 therapy cap legislation on therapy services for Medicare beneficiaries. We have 67 cosponsors and expect a big boost of cosponsors after the May 17-19, 2009 Forum.

*Latest update:* The House passed a conference budget agreement on 4/28/09. This is the first step in the process of getting the therapy cap addressed. We were able to secure language in the Senate budget which was then accepted in the House/Senate conference. Senate budget language directs committees of jurisdiction to include therapy cap language as they draft their bills in the coming weeks.

This is our first victory on the therapy cap and the only 2 healthcare provisions included were physician fee schedule fix and therapy cap. We expect the House/Senate budget will include therapy language which will be a key start in getting the therapy cap addressed before the exceptions process expires at the end of the year. Our goal is to **repeal** the cap. There is also work going on at CMS to develop short/long term alternatives to the therapy cap. .

2. **Direct Access (HR 1829/S. 950) -** the Medicare Patient Access to Physical Therapists Act. The Senate version (S.950) of legislation was introduced late on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> by Senators Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), Lindsay Graham (R-SC), and Arlen Specter (D-PA). The House version, HR 1829, was introduced on March 31 by Earl Pomeroy (D-ND) and currently has 61 cosponsors.
3. **HR 988**, the "Physical Therapist Student Loan Repayment Eligibility Act" enables physical therapists to participate in the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program. It allows PTs with active federal student loans to receive up to 50k in loans for 2yrs of service in underserved areas. We have 41 cosponsors presently. The Senate version of this bill may be introduced shortly. We are finalizing our Republican lead on this bill in the Senate alongside Senator Tester (D-MT). This legislation will be important in upcoming health care reform because

of numerous workforce initiatives in  
healthcare reform and expansion of  
NHSC is on the table.

Debbie Ingram, PT, EdD  
Education Section Federal Affairs  
Liaison  
[Debbie-Ingram@utc.edu](mailto:Debbie-Ingram@utc.edu)

**Closing**

Together we can make a difference! See you at  
PT 2009!

Reva Rauk, CCCE Co-Chair Clinical Education  
SIG

Alecia Thiele, DCE/ACCE Co-Chair Clinical  
Education SIG