

AzPTA Direct Current Monthly Newsletter - April 2010

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The Direct Current Monthly E-Newsletter April 2010

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Welcome New APTA and AzPTA Members!



Edward Aguilar, Physical Therapist Assistant Student; **Christopher Bowers**, Physical Therapist Student; **William Drexler**, Physical Therapist Student; **Kyla Goodwin**, Physical Therapist Student; **Jamie Gunnell**, Physical Therapist Student; **Allison Kirkman**, Physical Therapist Student; **Emily Lucht**, Physical Therapist Student; **Kathleen Mellody**, Student Physical Therapist; **Angelo Pompeo**, Student Physical Therapist; **Jorja Rosenberg**, Physical Therapist Assistant Student; **Jamie Trejo**, Physical Therapist Assistant Student; **Kathleen Aldous**, PT; **Allstair McCrenn**, PT; **Jeremiah Randall**, PT; **Brigham Woods**, Physical



Kay Wing with Senator Thayer Verschoor, Senate President Pro Tem, at AzPTA's PT Day at the Capitol - March 9, 2010

The mission of the AzPTA is to represent and promote the profession's role in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of movement dysfunctions to enhance the health and functional abilities of the public.

Quick Links

- [Arizona Physical Therapy Association \(AzPTA\)](#)
- [AzPTA Calendar of Events](#)
- [American Physical Therapy Association \(APTA\)](#)
- [Arizona Board of Physical Therapy](#)



*Would You Like Your Company Logo Here and a Link to Your Website?
[Email us for details!](#)*

Therapist Student; and **Alyssa Zimmerman**, Physical Therapist Student.

We welcome you to **YOUR** membership association!

How Health Care Reform will Affect Physical Therapy in 2010

With the signing of the **Health Care Reform Act**, a process was put into motion that is more extensive and comprehensive than the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 that made significant reductions in Medicare spending. The next 6 months are critical for us to be informed, but the entire bill will be phased in from 2010 to 2018. In this segment I will concentrate on parts of the bill that will affect Physical Therapists in 2010.

* Expanded coverage for prevention services:

- Requires qualified health plans to provide minimum coverage without Medicare and Medicaid coverage for prevention services
- Provides an annual wellness visit with assessment and a personal prevention plan
- Establishes a National Prevention, Health Promotion and Public Health Council to develop national strategy for prevention services
- Small Employer Grants that establish wellness programs
- Employers eligible for rewards up to 30% of costs for wellness programming

* Mandating insurance companies to no longer deny coverage for children with pre-existing conditions

* Allowing dependent coverage to age 26

* Creating a national high risk pool for people with pre-existing conditions

* Tax credits covering 35% of small business health care premiums in 2010, increasing to 50% in 2014 if the company meets the following criteria:

- Fewer than 25 employees
- Average salary of \$50,000 or less

* Reauthorization of the Indian Health Service Act.

* Establishment of non-profit patient centered, patient outcomes research

* Ban on new or expanding specialty hospitals & disclosure of physician ownership in imaging services.

These are just changes coming up in 2010. I will focus on changes in 2011 through 2018 in future publications. For more detailed information you can tune in to a podcast by Justin Elliot, APTA State Government Affairs Director, at <http://communities.apta.org/communities>.

Arizona PT Student Receives Minority Scholarship Award

Each year the APTA receives and reviews applications for the **Minority Scholarship Awards** program. This year 35 applications were reviewed and seven physical therapist students and 1 physical therapist assistant student were awarded the **Minority Scholarship Award for Academic Excellence**. **Lindsey L. Kirkaldie** of **Northern Arizona University** is one of the recipients of the **2010 Minority Scholarship Award for Academic Excellence** and has been invited to receive this award at the Honors and Awards Celebration on Thursday, June 17, 2010 in Boston, MA at **PT 2010**. Lindsey received this award because she has demonstrated leadership and dedication to the profession of physical therapy and will no doubt be an excellent PT and APTA member. If you would like to congratulate Lindsey email her at lindseykirkaldie@gmail.com.

Registrations Pouring In for AzPTA Spring Conference!

The AzPTA events registrations website has been VERY busy in recent weeks as PTs, PTAs and PT/PTA students are anxious to hear the renowned and respected **Shirley Sahrman, PT, PhD, FAPTA** present "Movement System Syndromes of the Low Back and Hip: Their Relationship and Best Available Evidence". This is one of the few lectures that Dr. Sahrman will deliver in the U.S. in 2010. We have registrants coming from other states to this event!

Additionally **Secretary of State Ken Bennett** will join us to share his very entertaining review of the State of Arizona budget crisis -- set to music and song! His performance is truly one-of-a-kind and can't be missed!

Other programming highlights include a review of physical therapy documentation law, an overview of the law as it relates to supervision of assistive personnel, and state and federal affairs updates to keep you informed on public policy changes that will impact how you practice and work.

This program is worth a total 1.2 CEUs (12 continuing competence contact hours). There is still time to register! [Click here](#) to navigate to our registration form. HURRY - our space is filling fast and the online registration system closes at 10:00 PM on April 27! Use your APTA number to log in.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming 2010 AzPTA events!

June 26 - **Pediatric Update** - Scottsdale (online registration coming soon!)
October 1 & 2 - **Fall State Meeting** (location TBA)
November 6 - **Student Conclave** - ATSU in Mesa
Coming soon -PTA Update

Check the [AzPTA website](#) frequently for details on all of our 2010 programs and events!

AzPTA PT & PTA of the Year Nominations Open Soon!

Do you have a wonderful colleague and AzPTA member you'd like to recognize? Applications for **PT & PTA of the Year 2010** will be available on May 1, 2010! We will be posting to the [AzPTA website](#) the award criteria, deadlines, and a "click and submit" nomination form. Please be thinking of who among our many deserving AzPTA members you would like to nominate. The award will be announced at the AzPTA 2010 Fall Meeting on October 2.

Nominating Committee Seeks Qualified Candidates for AzPTA Offices

The AzPTA Nominating Committee is presently in the process of recruiting candidates for elected positions whose terms begin January 1, 2011. Open positions include 2nd Vice President, Delegates to the APTA, Nominating Committee member, and District Representatives for Central Maricopa County (District 2) and Southern Arizona (District 4). If you or someone you know has interest in these positions or you would just like further information about these opportunities please contact Nominating Committee chair, Mike Lebec at Mike.Lebec@nau.edu. All nominations are welcome but the committee has additional need for candidates from both Northern and Southern

Arizona regions.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield Policy on Physical Therapy Practices in Fitness Facilities - Final Actions

You may recall reading in the February issue of the Direct Current that AzPTA had learned Blue Cross/Blue Shield had elected to enforce an obscure prohibition that providers of physical therapy services who are located in a fitness facility would be dropped. Thanks due to advocacy efforts on the part of AzPTA, a compromise has been reached with Blue Cross/Blue Shield. The insurer has decided to "grandfather in" existing enrollees who are delivering physical therapy services in a fitness or health club facility. However, moving forward no such facility will be permitted to enroll. The AzPTA will continue to educate Blue Cross/Blue Shield and other insurers on this and other reimbursement issues throughout the coming months.

Arizona PT's Reality Show - Ask An Arizona Physical Therapist

The AzPTA has launched an exciting new PT community awareness campaign called "**Ask an Arizona Physical Therapist**"! The campaign will reach a targeted audience of likely consumers of physical therapy services throughout Arizona. The cornerstone of the campaign is a half-hour call-in television program on Eight/KAET, Arizona's statewide Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) station, called Ask an Arizona Physical Therapist. The program features a panel, facilitated by an Eight/KAET host, of three of our PT members serving as "awareness experts" who will offer information regarding the profession and practice of physical therapy to viewers. Additionally a phone bank of PTs will be accepting telephone calls from viewers during the program. We are offering a unique opportunity to 30 of our members to serve on the phone bank "live" in the studio to field the calls from the public and consumers to offer advice and information. ***AzPTA Members - you have a unique opportunity to appear on statewide television to promote YOUR profession and to answer questions from the public about physical therapy!***

We are opening this opportunity to our members to participate in the **Ask an Arizona Physical Therapist** phone bank for a limited time so you have first chance to be a part of this exciting awareness campaign. You must be available in mid-June for the taping date; the exact date will be announced as soon as it is scheduled. ***After May 10, 2010 any remaining seats may be acquired by our corporate partners so please act now to reserve your place in this unprecedented event!***

Important information:

- Your investment to participate: \$150 (to the AzPTA)
- Your time commitment
 - o A one-hour online orientation/training webinar prior to the
 - o taping of the program
 - o Five hours in the studio
- All participants shall be current members of the APTA and AzPTA in good standing.

[Click here](#) for the **Ask an Arizona Physical Therapist** Sign-up Form and be one of the 30 who educates the Arizona public about the benefits of physical therapy!

If you are interested in joining this project or helping in other new ways to spread the word about physical therapy,

join the AzPTA **Public Relations Committee**! We are growing and have opportunities for ongoing projects, one time projects, and always love an idea person! Look for us at our next meeting at 7am on Saturday May 1st at the Desert Willow Conference Center (the site of the [AzPTA Spring Conference](#)).

State Government Affairs Update

[House Bill 2123](#), the AzPTA bill, would require business entities, defined as a business offering physical therapy services that has ownership which does not include a licensed physical therapist, to register with the Arizona State Board of Physical Therapy and to implement a protocol for the storage, transfer, and access of patient records. The bill passed out of the House of Representatives 52-2-6 and through the Senate 20-9-1. It is now awaiting final passage by the House again due to a technical correction amendment being attached in the Senate.

[Senate Bill 1326](#), the Athletic Trainers Association bill, expands the scope of athletic training to include the treatment of athletic illnesses and injuries sustained as a result of games, sports, and recreational or physical activities regardless of their competitive nature. During the floor debate of the bill, Senator Thayer Verschoor offered an amendment to reflect the compromise between the physical therapists and the athletic trainers which limits the scope when compared to the original bill. Senate Bill 1326 passed the Senate 26-2-2 and the House 45-10-5. It has been transmitted to the Governor for her signature.

Remember, you can read weekly updates on pending legislation of interest to our profession by logging in to the [State Government Affairs page](#) of the AzPTA website. Updates are posted every Friday. Use your APTA number to log in.

Online Therapy Library -- a Free Resource!

The Therapy Library is a tool to assist you in improving clients' or patients' compliance with home exercise programs. Therapy Library (www.therapylibrary.com) is a website that provides FREE illustrated patient education materials in the fields of occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech-language pathology. The handouts can be easily printed and given to patients. They can also be used as instructional material in the classroom and the clinical setting. At present, there are over 100 illustrated handouts on the website, categorized in various ways, such as by discipline, by impairment, and by specific diagnosis. This program has been developed by Jackson Chin, PT, MPA with the Therapy Library team. New handouts are uploaded regularly. The website also has a link to a translation engine so the handouts may be accessible in various languages to address the needs of our linguistically-diverse client/patient population. Jackson Chin says, "Please visit us on our website to learn more about us and this project." Their hope is to bring together rehabilitation therapists from around the world. You can send for a flyer or request additional information at info@therapylibrary.com.

Thank you for supporting YOUR professional membership association!

Sincerely,

Kay Wing, President
Arizona Physical Therapy Association

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