



**American
Society of
Shoulder and
Elbow
Therapists**

ASSET January 2017 Newsletter

Happy New Year ASSET!

I hope everyone had a fun and relaxing holiday with family and friends. With the start of 2017, I wanted to give members an update on the society and our goals for the year.

First, congratulations to our new committee members. Aaron Sciascia was elected to President-elect and Membership Chair, Angela Tate was elected to Member-at-large, and Jonathan Sum was elected to Secretary/Treasurer Elect. June Kennedy has been selected as the Education Chair and in the process of planning the in-person CEU course to be held this spring at Duke. We are working on having Coach K be the keynote speaker! Stay tuned for details. I wanted to thank Susan Shannon at the front office for all she does for our society. Without her we would be lost! We also need to welcome Christa Hagelberger to our society. Christa will be joining Susan to help at the front office. Lastly, a special congratulation to Kellie Bliven for being awarded the Founders Award, which is our society's highest honor. Kellie has done a great job moving the society forward over the past 5 years. Congrats Kellie!

Currently the society is moving in a great direction. Ellen Shanley has done a great job last year initiating changes that are continuing to progress into this year. The creation of the discussion board has been great and is being used by members more frequently. We are in the process of determining the logistics of including ASES into our discussion board so we can get a surgical perspective on difficult cases as well as surgeon referrals in certain areas of the country. I think this would be a great step forward in our process to continually strengthen the relationship between ASSET and ASES.

The creation of sub-committees within the research committee has allowed us to create new initiatives within the society. As you have seen the EBP sub-committee, which is chaired by Craig Wassinger, has been completing journal article reviews on the discussion board. Although there has been minimal discussion from members, these reviews are meant to stimulate discussion, so please feel free to comment. Within this sub-committee we are planning on creating online CEU courses through Human Kinetics. The formatting for these courses is very similar to the journal reviews and therefore aligns perfectly with the current goals of this sub-committee. I envision this to continually grow throughout the years to position ASSET as the leader in educational content related to the shoulder and elbow.

The outcomes committee, which is currently without a chair, has plans to work with Rehabilitation Measurement Database (RMD) <http://www.rehabmeasures.org/default.aspx> to update their patient reported outcomes in our area of shoulder and elbow. We can then use their site to share with colleagues and they reference back to us as contributors. I would like to thank Tim Uhl for initiating this for ASSET! I think this is a great first step for this sub-committee.

The membership sub-committee, which is chaired by Angela Tate, is planning on initiating a new member mentorship program. This is slightly different than our current clinical and research mentorship program for members. This new member mentorship program is designed to help new members meet others in the society without feeling scared or intimidated. This will be really important for members that are attending the annual meeting for the first time. The great and unique quality of our society is that we

are truly a family. This program will showcase that and make new members feel at home right away. I want to thank John Basti and Basil Baccash for the idea!

At the annual meeting it was suggested by many members that we need to increase membership numbers. This will help expand the sharing of knowledge and expertise and also help financially. We have listened and Aaron Sciascia has communicated with ASES to have them encourage their therapists and athletic trainers to apply to the society. Aaron has stated that following this communication several applications have come in and hopefully will continue throughout the year. We will also continue the process of contacting individuals in New Orleans to attend the annual meeting as non-members. I think once they attend they will want to join.

Jonathan Sum and I have been continuing to work hard at reaching out to companies for sponsorship opportunities. Sponsorships are crucial to our society as the cost to keep the lights on is constantly increasing. If any members have contacts at rehab companies please let us know and we can reach out to them. Another area we are initiating is to provide marketing for conferences. If you know of a conference that you often attend and may be interested in marketing on our website/social media and communications to all members, please let us know. This is a new marketing strategy that I think can help us in the upcoming years.

Lastly, Brian Phillips and the communication committee have been discussing the possibility of updating our website. I think this is something that will help us communicate better to other clinicians and even the general public, in addition to adding a more viable marketing option. Brian and the committee have created a survey that was just sent out to members. Please fill out the quick survey so we can generate suggestions and improve direction in this process. Also if members know an IT person that is looking for website redesign side jobs please let us know.

We will continue to progress these initiatives forward throughout the year in addition to discussing some more new ideas. As always we welcome any new ideas or suggestions from members. Like I said before we are truly a family and we will never turn away any of your suggestions. Here is to a great year. I wish everyone happiness and good health throughout the year.

Steve

Stephen J. Thomas, PhD, ATC

ASSET President