



American Society of Shoulder and Elbow Therapists

Message sent on behalf of Stephen Thomas, PhD, ATC, ASSET President

Hello ASSET Members.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming Annual Meeting in New Orleans! This meeting will be very special to our society as it is our 25th Anniversary. This is a truly remarkable accomplishment to our founders (John Basti, Sarah Jackins, and Basil Bacash), and past and present members. This society would have never made it to this point without the hard work of each of our members. I want to congratulate and thank everyone for helping to get the society to where it is today. I have total confidence that we will continue to grow well beyond our 25th anniversary.

I wanted to take this time to update the membership on our accomplishments this past year and the current state of our society.

Ellen Shanley and Lane Bailey have been putting a tremendous amount of work into organizing our upcoming Annual Meeting. This is an extremely difficult task so when you see these two at the meeting please thank them for the countless hours they have devoted to providing us with an outstanding educational experience.

I'm excited to announce that we have made two new membership categories to the bylaws that were voted on and approved by the Executive Board and will be voted on by the entire membership very soon. If the membership votes in favor it will be official and begin to be implemented into our society. The first is an Inactive Member. This was created for members that are experiencing 1) Serious medical condition, 2) Need to care for an immediate family member with a serious medical condition, or 3) Financial Hardship. This status would be for one year and help members that are in hard times. The second is an ASSET Fellow. This category is designed to distinguish the members that have fully committed themselves to moving this society forward from a service, research, and/or an educational standpoint. The criteria to apply for this category are:

- a. Minimum of ten (10) years as an active member
- b. Minimum of five (5) years of organizational service on committees or boards
- c. Minimum of seventy (70%) percent annual meeting attendance averaged over a ten (10) year period
- d. Minimum of fifty (50%) percent presentation during annual meetings averaged over the same ten (10) year period
- e. Provide a letter of recommendation from both an ASSET member and ASES member

We have been asked by the AAOS to be involved with their new workgroup on Glenohumeral OA. The society nominated June Kennedy to represent ASSET. She has great expertise in this area and will do a great job representing ASSET. Continually being asked by the AAOS to be involved in these workgroups demonstrates the strength of our society and the reputation we have around the country and the world.

We have also been asked by the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine Research Measures to be involved in their newly created task force. The society nominated Shana Harrington to represent ASSET. She has expertise in this area both clinically and in terms of active research. I am confident Shana will represent us well. Again this is a great opportunity for ASSET.

The EBP sub-committee has continued to provide reviews of the current literature within our area of shoulder and elbow. Please feel free to start some dialog on our discussion board relating to these reviews as it often initiates new ideas and ways of thinking about things. They have also began organizing a proposal for an online CEU course for Human Kinetics. We are hopeful that Human Kinetics will have interest in developing this into an online course.

The Outcome sub-committee chaired by Brian Coote has made progress on developing outcome measure summaries for Rehabilitation Measurement Database (RMD) <http://www.rehabmeasures.org/default.aspx>. Brian created and sent out an online survey to determine the most commonly used outcome measures. This was cross referenced with outcome measures already summarized on the RMD site. We have decided to start with the Penn Shoulder Score and are awaiting instruction and guidelines for creating the summary. If there are member interested in being involved in this project please let Brian know.

The membership sub-committee chaired by Angela Tate has initiated the new member mentorship program. This is a get initiative for our society as being new members and attending their first Annual Meeting can be very stressful. This will help ease that stress and make new members feel very welcome in our society.

The membership has significantly grown this year under the direction of Aaron Sciascia. Aaron has worked with ASES members to encourage their therapists and athletic trainers to join ASSET. Due to that, we have about 12 new members this year which is well above our average and currently has us at a total of 100 members. The growth of our society is very important and to see a jump in membership like this is very exciting. This will add to our strength and knowledge.

Jonathan Sum has continued to do a great job recruiting companies to become corporate sponsors and maintaining a great relationship with current sponsors. This is no easy task but a very important one for our society, as costs to run our society continually increase. We have added both Sonosite and Structure & Function as corporate sponsors. Some of our sponsors will have tables at the annual meeting. Please visit the tables and see what these companies have to offer as they have graciously supported ASSET. Jonathan is also in the progress of attracting more companies to our society.

Brian Phillips has been heading up the Communications committee. He has done a great job this year improving our visibility on social media. If you follow ASSET on social media you have seen our member highlights. I think this is a great way to highlight the great work our members are doing around the world. If you have an accomplishment please contact Brian and he will share it on social media. Brian has also been working on updating our website. Based on the results of his survey most were in favor of not only updating the look of the website but also its content. Brian is currently investigating the best way to do this. If anyone has skills with website development and wants to help I'm sure Brian would be very grateful.

The Education Committee chaired by June Kennedy organized an amazing CEU course this past spring at Duke University. Organizing conferences is no easy task and June put together a great course with great speakers. In addition to offering great education content we were able to raise about \$7,000 in profits. This helps our society tremendously to maintain the increases cost of the society and the annual meetings.

Jeff Fleming has done a great job organizing and maintaining the finances of our society in general and with our conferences. As we grow as a society this becomes a more and more difficult task. Jeff has continually offer great ideas to help keep us fiscally responsible as a society.

I wanted to also thank our members at large Lori Michener and Angela Tate for their hard work. They do a great job helping and guiding new members in the right direction within our society.

Last but certainly not least I want to thank Susan and Christa in the front office for all of their hard work. Without everything they do behind the scenes our society wouldn't get anything done and/or break several laws in the process! Thanks for keeping us on track!

In closing, I wanted to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as your President. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve in this role. As they say "if you want to be successful, then surround yourself with successful people." When you are a part of ASSET that is exactly what you are doing. Since joining this society I have grown tremendously due to the amazing people that makeup this group. I have not only gained tremendous knowledge but also gained friendships and great memories. I hope I was able to give back a fraction of what I have taken from ASSET. Thank you all again for a great year. I could not have done it without all of the amazing people mentioned above. Safe travels to New Orleans!

Steve

Stephen J. Thomas, PhD, ATC
ASSET President