

AMERICAN HAND THERAPY FOUNDATION ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Summer, 2005

IN THIS EDITION:

- ELAINE FESS RECOGNIZED BY AHTF FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO HAND THERAPY AND AHTF!
- AHTF BOARD ADOPTS A NEW GRAPHIC IMAGE
- EVELYN MACKIN TRAVELING HAND THERAPIST AWARD ESTABLISHED
- SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLE A BIG SUCCESS AT ASHT ANNUAL MEETING IN 2004!
- PLANS UNDERWAY FOR 2005 SILENT AUCTION AT THE ASSH-ASHT ANNUAL MEETING IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



Elaine Fess Recognized for Outstanding Contributions to Hand Therapy & AHTF

Elaine Fess, MS, OTR, FAOTA, CHT has been recognized by the American Hand Therapy Foundation Board of Directors for her outstanding contributions to hand therapy and to AHTF.

Elaine is world renown for her expertise in hand therapy. She has 77 publications in this area of specialty, including five books. This past year she published her third edition of Hand and Upper Extremity Splinting Principles and Methods with coauthors Gettle, Philips and Janson.

Elaine has lectured extensively on topics related to hand therapy. To her credit, she has given well over 200 lectures throughout the world.

Elaine has conducted a number of scientific and clinical research projects. She has

shared her findings through formal presentations and journal publications.

Serving as the Statistics Editor, Elaine was a member of the Journal of Hand Therapy Editorial Review Board for 11 years, including the year the Journal was established in 1987.

Elaine has been on the faculty of Indiana University's Occupational Therapy Program since 1972, teaching classes in hand therapy and biomechanics.

She served as chairman of AHTF from 1996 to 2004. She had been on the AHTF board since its inception in 1989. Not only did she help grow the financial base of the Foundation, she strived for strong clinical and scientific research to support the



Elaine Fess receives award from Nancy Cannon

treatment methods used in direct patient care. She understands the importance of objective data for the future viability of the profession.

Elaine Fess is an outstanding contributor to hand therapy. She serves as an inspiration to many of us.

Elaine is recognized as Chairman Emeritus for AHTF, along with Jane Bear-Lehman, PhD, OTR, FAOTA and Donna Breger-Stanton, MA, OTR/L, CHT, FAOTA.

AHTF Adopts New Graphic Image "Logo"

The AHTF Board of Directors adopted a new graphic image or "logo" in 2003. The image was finalized this past year and has been printed on many AHTF related materials.

The AHTF board believed it

was important to update the graphic image. The new image, which depicts the joining of hands around the world, emphasizes AHTF's mission to strengthen research and education worldwide in hand therapy.

The graphic image was de-

signed by Judy Bell-Krotoski, with input from Elaine Fess and the graphic design expertise of Chris Brown from Indiana University's graphic design department.

AHTF is proud to present the new logo.

Evelyn Mackin Traveling Hand Therapist Award Established in 2004

The American Hand Therapy Foundation Board of Directors established the Evelyn Mackin Traveling Hand Therapist Award in 2004. AHTF is proud to announce **the first recipient for this award is Deborah Schwartz, OTR, CHT.**

This prestigious award is given to an occupational therapist or physical therapist who has contributed to hand therapy through teaching, volunteer service, medical education, research and / or publications in hand therapy. The therapist

receiving this award must demonstrate a passion for learning and a willingness to contribute newly acquired knowledge to

colleagues in the profession.

This award was named in recognition of the outstanding contributions Evelyn Mackin has made to hand therapy. Eve-

lyn always encouraged therapists to network with fellow hand therapists throughout the world to strengthen their knowledge base and technical skills in hand therapy. It was only fitting that such an award

be named after a hand therapist who was so influential to young hand therapists.

To qualify for the award a therapist must

meet the following requirements:

- Be an actively practicing hand therapist
- Be able to travel to other therapy facilities during the year
- Prepare a clinical article regarding new information learned during your visit to other therapy facilities

This is a \$4,000 award, which is intended to include all travel expenses, even a personal digital camera, if needed.

The award is intended to be both educational and fun for the recipient!

Download an application from www.ahtf.org or email Sharon Flinn at Kilo@ameritech.net



Grant Money Available for Clinical & Scientific Research

AHTF is proud to make available grants for clinical research, scientific research and education. At the present time, AHTF has three grants or awards available for therapists. They include the Burkhalter Grant, Grab the Future Grant and the Evelyn Mackin Traveling Hand Therapist Award.

The **Burkhalter grant** is awarded to a therapist who has submitted the strongest proposal for a clinical research project related to therapy of the upper extremity. This is a \$3,000 grant and it is anticipated the project will be completed within three years.

The **Grab the Future grant** is awarded to a therapist that submits the strongest proposal for a scientific research project related to therapy for the hand or upper extremity. This is a \$10,000 grant. It is anticipated the research project will be completed within a five year time frame.

The **Evelyn Mackin Traveling Hand Therapist Award** is awarded to a therapist who meets the criteria outlined in the

application, has a special interest in traveling to other hand therapy facilities and shares their experiences in a hand therapy publication. This \$4,000 grant is fully described in the previous article.

To apply for the Burkhalter grant or the Grab the Future grant, interested therapists should complete the AHTF application which includes sections from the National Institute of Health (NIH). An application packet and a list of recipient responsibilities is available for all of the grants. They can be obtained from the AHTF office or downloaded from the AHTF website.

The application deadline for each of the grants is February 28th of each year. Steps for applying for a grant are outlined on the AHTF website. Each proposal submitted will be reviewed by the Grants Review Committee with the applicants being notified by the end of July.

Sharon Flinn, PhD, OTR/L, CHT, CVE serves as the Grants Review Chairman. She may be contacted by email for ques-

tions regarding the grants and the application process. Her email address is Kilo@ameritech.net.

All therapists are encouraged to undertake a research project. There is no question that the treatment methods which will be reimbursed in the future are those where evidence-based outcomes have been demonstrated.

Hand therapists need to take the leading role in clinical and scientific research related to the hand and upper extremity!

Silent Auction & Raffle a Big Success at ASHT Annual Meeting in 2004

It has become a tradition to have a silent auction sponsored by AHTF during the ASHT annual meeting. The idea to create this fund-raising event was from Missy Donnell, OTR, CHT. From past experience, Missy knew just how successful this fund raiser could be for the Foundation.

At the ASHT annual meeting in Charlotte this past October the Foundation enjoyed another exciting evening of bidding for wonderful items. The items ranged in value from \$10 to over a \$1,000. Therapists, physicians and corporations all contrib-



Raffle ticket sales exceeded goal!

uted to the event.

The largest number of contributions this year were from the Kansas City Hand Rehab Special Interest Group, with the largest number of individual contributions from Jane Fedorczyk, Leslie McGinnis, Paige Kurtz, Jean Keckhut, Marie Fischer and an anonymous therapist in Maryland. The largest number of corporate contributions were from UE TECH, Chesapeake Medical, HTCC, Exploring Hand Therapy and Helping Hands Work Wellness Spa.

Over \$7,000 in net revenue was generated

from the generosity of so many outstanding individuals. Thank you!

In complement to the Silent Auction a raffle was held during the meeting. Raffle items included: a flat screen color TV valued over \$900; a Sony digital video camera valued over \$290; a Polaroid DVD player valued over \$200 and a Sony digital camera valued over \$190. With the generosity of so many therapists and exhibitors, AHTF generated \$1,900 net revenue from the event.

Thanks so much to those of you whom have supported AHTF in such a fun way!

Plan to Attend the 2005 AHTF Silent Auction!

WHERE: ASSH - ASHT ANNUAL MEETING
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

WHEN: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd

LOCATION: MARRIOTT RIVERCENTER HOTEL

TIME: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Enjoy networking with your colleagues and visiting with the hand surgeons. Support the Foundation by bidding on all the terrific items displayed at the Silent Auction! Come & have FUN!



Therapists having fun at the opening night reception last year!

2005 Board of Directors

Chairman	Nancy M. Cannon, OTR, CHT	Indianapolis, IN	ncannon@indianahandcenter.com
Vice-Chairman	Georgiann Laseter, OTR, FAOTA, CHT	Dallas, TX	galaseter@earthlink.net
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**AMERICAN HAND THERAPY
FOUNDATION**
ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

AHTF

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What CAN the American Hand Therapy Foundation do for YOU & Your Profession?

The mission of AHTF is to support a high level of clinical and scientific research and education in hand therapy. The purpose of this research and education is to advance the quality of patient care for the shoulder, elbow, wrist and hand throughout the world. The recognized leader of this care today is that of our highly trained and highly skilled occupational therapists and physical therapists specially trained in hand therapy.

To continue to advance this specialty area and to serve our patients with the outstanding care they have come to expect, hand therapists must continue to support high levels of outcome research.

Hand therapists have extensive knowledge in

the treatment of the upper extremity. Much of the treatment methods and techniques come from years of clinical experience. Although a large number of clinical and scientific research articles are now available in the literature, there is a need for continued research and reporting of outcomes.

It is likely no single subject in hand therapy has been studied to the extent additional research is not needed. Hand therapists provide outstanding patient care that must be well-documented in the literature.

Without question, in the future, healthcare services will be provided by and reimbursed to those professionals who can demonstrate, document and report positive outcomes in peer-reviewed journals.

By contributing to AHTF you will be helping fund the necessary research to ensure hand therapists are the preferred professional to treat medical conditions of the hand, wrist, elbow and shoulder.



Let's support the future of hand therapy!



Financial Contributions may be made to:

AHTF
PO Box 3497
Carmel, IN 46082

