

# ANNUAL REPORT

2015

*Year in Review*  
A SOCIETY IN GOOD HANDS



**ASHT**

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HAND THERAPISTS™

# ASHT

## AMERICAN SOCIETY OF

# HAND THERAPISTS

### ABOUT

Founded in 1977, ASHT is an organization of hand therapy professionals dedicated to advancing the field of hand and upper extremity therapy by promoting education, advocacy, research and clinical standards. ASHT members include occupational and physical therapists, physician extenders, researchers and administrators.

### MEMBERSHIP

ASHT is a growing society that welcomed 322 new members in 2015 and reported an 86% member retention rate overall. The ASHT Board of Directors continues to promote a culture of inclusivity, and is pursuing how to best serve the continuing education, resource, and networking needs of the organization's millennial members.





# FROM THE PRESIDENT

**JANE FEDORCZYK**  
PT, PhD, CHT, ATC

**“THE FIVE SEPARATE FINGERS ARE FIVE  
INDEPENDENT UNITS. CLOSE THEM AND  
THE FIST MULTIPLIES STRENGTH.  
THIS IS ORGANIZATION.”**

**- JAMES CASH PENNEY**

The ASHT bylaws require an annual Business Meeting of the members during the annual meeting. Although the volunteer leaders and staff hope all members will attend the annual meeting, in reality, no more than 25% of the members actually attend each year. Since continuing education (CE) credit cannot be applied to the Business Meeting, the 2015 Annual Meeting Committee shortened this session to one hour to maximize professional development hours. For these reasons, the Board of Directors supported my idea to develop and distribute an electronic Annual Report to all ASHT members prior to the annual Business Meeting. I hope you enjoy reviewing this year's updates and accomplishments and encourage future leaders to maintain the delivery of an annual report to all members in the future.

As you read these pages, you will note the Society's Education, Research, Practice, and Legislation and Reimbursement Divisions, have been hard at work this year providing members with programs, products, services and information to maintain an evidence-informed practice, and to stay current on the administrative changes that impact your practice such as the conversion to ICD-10. The third edition of the ASHT Clinical Assessment Recommendations has been published and will be available for purchase early October. The newly formed Technology and Communication Committee is hard at work educating the public about the value of hand therapy through monthly contributions to the American Society for Surgery of the Hand's *HandCare Blog*. Next year, this committee will have their own section within the annual report to share their accomplishments.

The board has approved an overhaul of the website in 2016. The new website will market ASHT with a professional image that is well organized, easy to navigate, easy to administer, offers members real-time self-service tools, and incorporates up-to-date technology. The website redesign is critical to search engine optimization to draw more traffic to our website to promote our value to potential members, and most importantly to the public.

This past year, the board developed metrics to evaluate the ASHT strategic plan through 2018. The current leadership philosophy is transparent, collaborative, and focused on strengthening the ASHT for the future. Every activity, benefit, event, product, program and service provided to our members will have metrics in place for proper evaluation of the attainment of the strategic objectives. These strategies will strengthen the organization to promote the relevance and sustainability of ASHT and the hand therapy profession in these uncertain times in the healthcare environment. **Just like the power of a full fist**, we are stronger when we work together than when we work independently.

Every aspect of ASHT including divisions, standing committees, and task forces rely on many volunteers. The 2015 Board of Directors is grateful for these volunteers who have worked passionately to serve the needs and desires of the membership. Thank you for your membership and engagement in ASHT. Both are critical to the future of the organization and the hand therapy profession.

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## ASHT 2015

Fiscal Year 2014 was characterized by significant activity within each of the four pillars of ASHT's mission: education, research, practice and legislation/reimbursement.



## EDUCATION

ASHT's commitment to educating hand therapy professionals has never been stronger. The society's educational portfolio has significantly expanded through live meetings, online education and publications.

ASHT's 2015 educational activities included the following:

- Facilitated eight *webinars* through August, with two additional webinars planned for the end of the year (**359 participants**)
- Organized and hosted three *Hand Therapy Review Courses* (**206 attendees**)
- Organized and hosted two *Hands on Orthotics* courses through August, with three more planned for the end of 2015 (**29 participants**)
- Generated and facilitated discussion on the *e-Community* specific to the CHT exam prep
- Developing a regional live course to provide dynamic, evidence-informed education on upper extremity reha-

bilitation. This new course, titled *ASHT Education on Tour*, will launch in 2016.

- Provided content for the Test Your Knowledge insert in the *ASHT Times*

## RESEARCH

### Clinical Assessment Recommendations (CAR), 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

Quantifying function and activity participation in a systematic and reproducible manner is essential both in research and daily practice. The third version of ASHT's *Clinical Assessment Recommendations (CAR)* — which will be released before the Annual Meeting — has been developed by a number of therapists across the globe, taking a monumental effort to bring to fruition.

The original publication of CAR was produced in 1981. The authors, Elaine Fess and Christine Moran, worked together

to produce a 13-page manuscript that was typed by Fess on her home typewriter. Fess and Moran developed a solid foundation, on which a second revised edition was developed in 1992. ASHT's Clinical Assessment Committee was responsible for much of the early work on the project. In 1995, the Clinical Assessment Committee was charged with reviewing the existing manual and the task of another revision was undertaken. In 1998, under the direction of Suzanne Boisclair, Susan Emerson and Christine Kondal, a third book was proposed.

Joy MacDermid picked up this project when she was the president of ASHT. She solicited qualified authors from around the globe to contribute their expertise to the project. Chapters that described how to quantify body function and impairments included grip strength, pinch strength, manual muscle testing, range of motion, pain and sympathetic function. A chapter on edema, wound and scar was proposed to determine impairments in body structure. Some specific chapters that determined impairments following specific hand conditions, such as tendon laceration and repair, hand osteoarthritis and burns, were also solicited. Each chapter was first reviewed by MacDermid and then reviewed by volunteers in the ASHT Research Division.

In 2015, the Board of Directors allocated funds from the Vision Fund to support the completion of the CAR project. The book will contain both printed chapters, which cover materials unlikely to require frequent updating, such as assessment of edema, grip, pinch, pain, range of motion and sensibility. CAR will also include digital chapters, which will

cover the evolving body of evidence on outcome measures and diagnosis-specific assessments, such as those related to the osteoarthritic hand, sympathetic function, tendon repairs and the burned hand. The use of outcome measurement tools is also slated to be an online chapter.

## JOURNAL OF HAND THERAPY

### CONTENT OVERVIEW

#### **Submitted Articles**

Last year: Jan '14 – Dec '14

199 (36% above prior year)

Last 12 months: Jul '14 – Jun '15

187 (19% above prior period)

#### **Accepted Articles**

Last year: Jan '14 – Dec '14

50 (flat to prior year)

Last 12 months: Jul '14 – Jun '15

61 (49% above prior period)

#### **Published Articles**

Last year: Jan '14 – Dec '14

41 (flat to prior year)

Last 12 months: Jul '14 – Jun '15

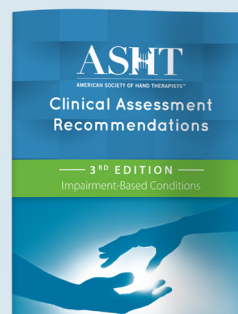
51 (19% above prior period)

#### **Speed to Publication**

• *Time to first decision* in 2014 (calendar year) was 5.1 weeks;

## CLINICAL ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS (CAR), 3<sup>RD</sup> EDITION

The newest version of the CAR book will be available for purchase at the Annual Meeting in Denver, CO October 8–11, 2015, and available in the [ASHT Store](#) the week of October 5<sup>th</sup>.



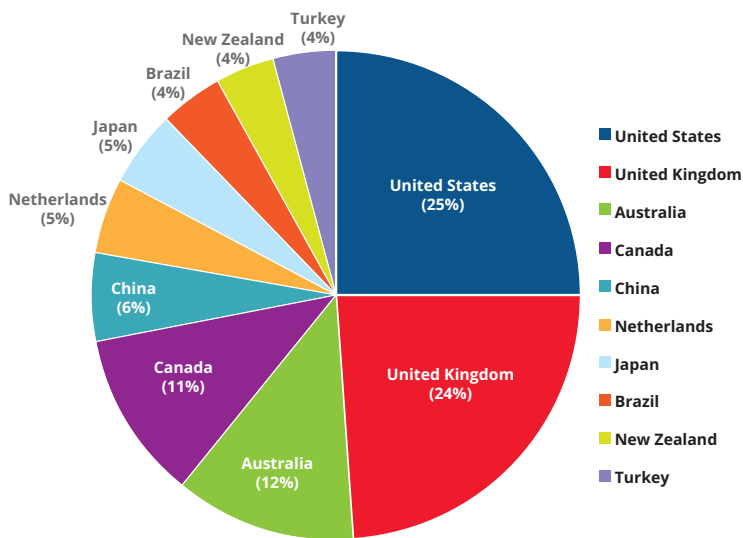
in the previous 12 months (June 2014 to June 2015), it was 6.0 weeks, and year-to-date time is 7.1 weeks. The average for comparable journals is 8-10 weeks.

- *Time from submission to acceptance* in 2014 (calendar year) was 22 weeks; in the previous 12 months (June 2014 to June 2015) it was 21.6 weeks; and year-to-date time is 21 weeks. The average for comparable journals is 29-36 weeks.
- *Time from acceptance to publication* in 2014 (calendar year) was 20 weeks; in the previous 12 months (June 2014 to June 2015), it was 22 weeks; and year-to-date time is 23 weeks. The average for comparable journals is 25-27 weeks.

### TOP 10 COUNTRIES DOWNLOADING JHT ARTICLES, 2014

(ScienceDirect)

#### ENHANCED JOURNAL FEATURES



#### Article Usage Alerts

This free service enables authors to measure the impact of their article via its activity on ScienceDirect. As well as showcasing monthly and cumulative post-publication data, Article Usage Alerts give authors great options for sharing and promoting articles via social media, increasing their visibility and usage.

#### My Research Dashboard

This unique tool combines the best of Usage Alerts and CiteAlerts, connecting the power of Scopus dating back to 2004. It immediately shows the impact of the author's research, providing details about how their publication is being downloaded, shared and cited; from where and what disciplines readers are coming; and how their publications are being discovered.

### PRACTICE

The Practice Division consists of two committees, the Practice Standards Committee, and the Business Practice Committee. This division supports members in practice issues critical to the future sustainability of our profession. Members of the Practice Standards Committee have been busy creating educational resources for patients and the public. This year, four new handouts have been posted on the ASHT website. These topics are Flexor Tendon Injuries, Cubital Tunnel Syndrome, Distal Radius Fractures and Boutonniere Injuries. Two more resources will be ready by fall: Shoulder Impingement Injuries and Adhesive Capsulitis/ Frozen Shoulder Syndrome.

The Business Practice Committee has also been developing resources that will be accessible to ASHT members on the website. These resources are devoted to helping especially private practice owners, although members with administrative responsibilities will find these useful as well. The topics developed for this year are EIN FAQ, Credentialing FAQ, Supporting Professionals, Business Structure FAQ, Budgeting for Start-ups, What to Buy and Writing a Business Plan.

### LEGISLATION AND REIMBURSEMENT

Focused advocacy and practice efforts included:

#### Communications Committee

- L Code Directory: Updated list of L codes consistent with CMS code revisions.
- L Code Directory format change: Located and posted photos for each active L code with expanded information page.
- Responded to members' questions regarding coding, billing, credentialing and regulations via email or ASHT e-Community.
- Attended AOTA Annual Meeting, APTA Federal Forum, Combined Sections Meeting and State Policy Meeting.

### Legislation Committee

- Informed members regarding movement on SGR legislation, and Therapy Cap repeal amendments.
- Informed members about Supreme Court challenges to the ACA, their results and any impact on hand therapy.
- Communications with AOTA regarding state and federal orthotics and prosthetics legislation requiring orthotics and prosthetics certification.
- Tracked federal and state legislation for potential impact on the practice of hand therapy.

### Reimbursement Committee

- Responded to questions about private payer issues and monitored payer trends.
- Worked with Florida AOTA and issued letter of support for outpatient occupational therapy inclusion on state health plans.
- Monitored trends in healthcare industry e.g. co-pays, premium hikes, mergers, narrowing networks.

### Regulations Committee

- Provided website resources for 2015 PQRS changes and responded to members' questions about PQRS.
- Posted information about fee schedule changes via the website, blogs and *ASHT Times*.
- Provided Medicare compliance tools, available on the website for DME, treatment documentation.
- ICD-10: Website, webinar, weekly Twitter quiz.
- DMEPOS: Updated information about becoming a supplier, coding for orthoses and other supplies and billing. Created a quick comparison chart for billing using L codes compared to CPT codes.

## DIVISION MERGER

ASHT's Board of Directors voted to revise the society's governance structure in January 2014. The revision included merging the Practice and Legislation and Reimbursement Divisions by January 2016. The merged division will keep the name Practice Division, and will include the Business Practice Committee. The Practice Standards Committee will be reorganized within the Education Division.

## ASHT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Jane Fedorczyk, PT, PhD, CHT, ATC**

President

**Barbara Winthrop, MA, OTR, CVE, CHT, FAOTA**

President-elect

**Gary Solomon, MBA, MS, OTR/L, CHT**

Vice President

**Pam Schindeler, OTR/L, CHT**

Secretary/Treasurer

**Kristin Valdes, OTD, OTR, CHT**

Secretary/Treasurer-elect

**Jeanine Beasley, EdD, OTR, CHT, FAOTA**

Board Member-at-Large

**Kendyl Brock Hunter, OTR/L, CHT**

Board Member-at-Large

**Mojca Herman, MA, OTR/L, CHT**

Board Member-at-Large

**Maureen Hardy, MS, PT, CHT**

Immediate Past President

**Marsha Lawrence, PT, CHT**

Legislation & Reimbursement Division Director

**Rachel Pigott, OTR/L, CHT**

Education Division Director

**Ann Lucado, PT, PhD, CHT**

Research Division Director

**Diane Coker, DPT, CHT**

Practice Division Director

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## FY 2014 AUDIT RESULTS CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of December 31, 2014, ASHT had total assets of \$1,310,258 and total liabilities of \$450,781, for total net assets of \$859,477. Net assets increased from December 31, 2013 by \$105,359. The detail is outlined below.

ASSETS	2014	2013
CASH	\$ 484,645	\$ 194,554
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	\$ 23,158	\$ 25,380
INVENTORY	-	\$ 12,551
PREPAID EXPENSES	\$ 57,710	\$ 68,219
INVESTMENTS	\$ 678,270	\$ 671,350
WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT/ AMORITIZATION	\$ 66,475	\$ 89,249
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 1,310,258</b>	<b>\$ 1,061,303</b>

LIABILITIES	2014	2013
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE/ ACCRUED EXPENSES	\$ 67,728	\$ 61,089
DEFERRED REVENUE	\$ 383,053	\$ 246,096
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 450,781</b>	<b>\$ 307,185</b>

NET ASSETS	2014	2013
UNRESTRICTED	\$ 791,697	\$ 691,508
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	\$ 67,780	\$ 62,610
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 859,477</b>	<b>\$ 754,118</b>



## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Volunteers are essential to all nonprofits, and the following individuals have chosen to dedicate their time to ASHT. Volunteer service contributes to the core products and services offered to the membership. Their passion for hand therapy provides them with the energy to create new learning opportunities and/or services to help ASHT members meet the demands of clinical practice.

Thank you to all of our generous ASHT volunteers. These individuals may or may not know how their contributions have made a difference to their fellow members, to a professional colleague in the health professions community or to a patient with a hand injury, but they have served willingly and passionately.

### Annual Meeting Committee

Robin Miller, OTR/L, CHT - *Chair*  
Rebecca Neiduski, OTR/L, CHT - *Vice Chair*  
Cynthia Armstrong Johnson, PT, DPT, CHT  
Nora Barrett, MS, OTR/L, CHT  
Lauren DeTullio, MS, OTR/L, CHT  
Mia Erickson, PT, CHT, EdD, ATC  
Jane Fedorczyk, PT, PhD, CHT, ATC  
Sheri Feldscher, OTR/L, CHT  
Lynn Festa, OTR, CHT  
Stacy Lynn Hite, PT, DPT, MS, CHT

### ASHT Times

Romina Astifidis, MS, PT, CHT - *Editor*  
Barbra Koczan, PT, CHT, DPT - *Editor*

### Awards Committee

Terri Skirven, OTR/L, CHT - *Chair*  
Julianne Howell, PT, MS, CHT  
Robin Parish, MA, OTR/L, CHT  
Cornelia Von Lersner-Benson, OTR, CHT  
Katharine Wilson, PT, CHT

### Education Division

Rachel Pigott, OTR/L, CHT - *Division Director*  
Amber Anslinger, OTD, OTR/L, CHT  
Nora Barrett, MS, OTR/L, CHT  
Paul Bonzani, MS, OTR/L, CHT  
Susanne Higgins, MHS, OTR/L, CHT  
T. Chadrisse Knight, OTR/L, MSOT, CHT, CLT  
Kim Kraft, PT, DPT, CHT  
Paige Kurtz, MS, OTR/L, CHT  
Tambra Marik, OTD, OTR/L, CHT  
Kim Masker, MS, OTR/L, CHT  
Emily Skoza, MSOT, OTR/L, CHT  
Jennie Yen, PT, DPT, CHT

### Independent Finance Committee

Barry Brenner, OTR/L, CPA  
Jacqueline Burwitz, CPA  
Marvin Reinglass, CPA/PFS  
Corey Talone, CPA  
William Walsh, MBA, MHA, OTR/L, CHT

### International Committee

Rebecca Saunders, PT, CHT - *Chair*  
Michele Auch, OTR/L, CHT  
Dianna Lunsford, OTD, M.Ed, OTR/L, CHT  
Courtney Wasley-Retzer, MOT, OTR/L

### Legislation & Reimbursement Division

Marsha Lawrence, PT, CHT - *Division Director*  
Lesley Addison, OTD, OTR/L  
Mary Barnes, MOT, CHT/Jos  
Luke DeVries, MS, OTR/L, COMT, CHT  
Elizabeth de Herder, OTR, CHT  
Marylynn Jacobs, MS, OTR/L, CHT  
Margaret Krengel, OTR/L, CHT  
Kim McVeigh, OTR/L, CHT  
Alison Walmsley, OTR/L, CHT  
Josephine Wong, MA, OTR, CHT

### Nominations Committee

Maureen Hardy, MS, PT, CHT - *Chair*  
Christine Clements, OTR/L, CHT  
Jerry Coverdale, OTR, CHT  
Robert Montz, OTD, OTR/L, CHT

### Practice Division

Diane Coker, DPT, CHT - *Division Director*  
Susan Brown, OTR/L, CHT  
Audra Ponci Bado, MPT, OCS, CHT

Gwen Dunning Dorn, OTR/L, CHT  
Joseph Gwiazda, OTR/L, CHT, CPAM  
Nancy Houghton, MS, OTR/L, CHT  
Alessia DeGennaro Kerner, OTR/L, CHT  
Ernest Michaud, OTR/L, CHT  
Ekta Pathare, OTR, MBA, CHT  
James Richardson, PT, CKTP, CLT, CHT  
Phyllis Ross, OTR/L, CHT, CLT  
Karol Spraggs Young, OTD, OTR/L, CHT

### Research Division

Ann Lucado, PT, PhD, CHT - *Division Director*  
Lori Algar, OTD, OTR/L, CHT  
Beverly Bass, OTD, OTR/L, CHT  
Eugene Boeglin, Jr., DPT, OCS, CHT  
Brian Patrick Connors, BS, MOTR/L  
Charles Costello, PhD, PT, CHT  
Sharon Dickmann, PT, DPT, CHT  
Cynthia Ivy, OTD, CHT, M.Ed  
Erika Lewis, PT, EdD, MS, CHT  
Miranda Materi, OTD, OT/L, CHT  
Corey McGee, PhD, OTR/L, CHT  
Nancy Naughton, OTD, OTR/L, CHT  
Virginia O'Brien, OTD, OTR/L, CHT  
Aviva Wolff, OTR/L, CHT

### Technology & Communication Committee

Heidi Hermann Wright, MBA, OTR, CHT - *Chair*  
Stacy Lynn Hite, PT, DPT, MS, CHT  
Adam Holbrook, OTR/L, CHT  
Janet Waylett Rendall, OTR, CHT

# COMMUNICATIONS

## PUBLICATIONS



In an effort to better serve members, the Board of Directors approved moving the *ASHT Times* newsletter format to a digital-platform format (while maintaining the special once-per-year print edition). The new platform not only hyperlinks URLs and email addresses, but allows the Society to embed other rich media, such as video, and create a clickable table of contents, eliminating the inconvenient scrolling option. With this new format, readers can click the title of an article from the table of contents and be taken directly to it. The publication is also optimized for mobile viewing, allowing readers to easily access the publication through a wireless Internet signal on smartphones and tablets, or readers can download the issue for offline viewing. In addition to a friendlier reader experience, ASHT can now capture valuable readership data, including issues views, page visits, total page prints, PDF downloads, click rates and social media shares. This data will help the editorial team evaluate what readers enjoy and value about the publication.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

ASHT's social media following and engagement continued to climb in 2015, with an 18-percent overall increase in followers. The ASHT Facebook page experienced the largest percentage increase, with a 20-percent increase in total followers since January.

YEAR	FACEBOOK	TWITTER	LINKEDIN	PINTEREST
2013	1,654	1,251	1,328	90
2014	2,043	1,552	1,737	113
2015*	2,453	1,791	2,058	128

### Facebook

While ASHT's LinkedIn private group has amassed a significant number of members over the last three years, the society's Facebook has proven to be the most engaging platform for ASHT members and supporters.

The most engaging posts from 2015 included Jimmy Fallon's ring avulsion injury, Hand Therapy Week 2015 (and the annual ASHT Photo Contest), Zion Harvey becoming the first child to receive a double hand transplant, NFL players suffering fireworks injuries and occupational therapist ranking among the year's top 10 occupations.

### e-Community

The ASHT e-Community continues to be a valuable resource for members to exchange knowledge. Throughout the year, there were active daily discussions related to; clinical treatment, legislation, CHT Exam prep, practice and reimbursement issues.

### 2015 Top 5 e-Community Discussions\*

1. Practice and Reimbursement – Note Completion Timing
2. Clinical Treatment Issues – Hot pack application with applied stretch
3. Clinical Treatment Issues – Carpal Tunnel Syndrome and Pregnancy
4. CHT Exam Prep – Increasing MPJ motion of IF after MC fracture
5. Clinical Treatment Issues - Our Role In The New PQRS Questions Provided by Medicare

\*As of September 18, 2015

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HAND THERAPISTS™



Sponsored by



This year, ASHT saw one of its most successful Hand Therapy Weeks to

date, due in part to dedicated volunteer efforts, a highly engaged audience and increased sponsor involvement. In an effort to give therapists and hand therapy supporters simple and creative ways to celebrate Hand Therapy Week, ASHT provided updated hand therapy flyers tailored to surgeons, primary care providers and the public; released four new Patient Education Resources; ran the popular ASHT Photo Contest; and launched a new contest aimed at recognizing those working to promote hand therapy in their communities.

## FACEBOOK

Activity on the ASHT Facebook page surged during Hand Therapy Week 2015. The page's total reach – number of individuals receiving any activity from the page, including posts to the page, posts by other people, page like ads, mentions and check ins – peaked at 11.8K at the start of Hand Therapy Week, which was nearly 22 times the page average total reach (542) from January-June 2015. This number also nearly tripled the page's highest total reach mark during Hand Therapy Week 2014 (3.8K).

The **ASHT Photo Contest** album received the highest level of engagement during the week, recording 9.4K impressions and engagement of 7.3K.



## TWITTER

During Hand Therapy Week 2015, the ASHT Twitter page earned 10.2K impressions, which is 17 percent of ASHT's total Twitter impressions during the first half of 2015. For comparison purposes, the ASHT Twitter feed earned 3.5K impressions during Hand Therapy Week 2014. This year, the feed's average number of "favorited" tweets and "retweets" per day doubled during Hand Therapy Week when compared to averages from January-June 2015, and average clicks per day increased by 50 percent.

Many users were also engaged via the Hand Therapy Week 2015 hashtag, using "#HTW2015" in their messages to connect with ASHT, fellow therapists, supporters and the public.

# ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS UPDATE



## AMERICAN HAND THERAPY FOUNDATION



The American Hand Therapy Foundation (AHTF) is putting forth new initiatives to increase the production and quality of research. The AHTF board has set forth a new goal to raise \$40,000 for this calendar year. The additional funds will be used to increase the total monetary award for all three AHTF grants:

- The Evelyn Mackin Grant for Education by a Traveling Hand Therapist, supporting the sharing of education in hand therapy (\$3,000)
- The Burkhalter Young Investigator Grant for Clinical Research in Hand and Upper Limb Rehabilitation to support research conducted by novice investigators (\$5,000)
- The Grab the Evidence Grant For Basic Research Science and Evidenced Based Studies (reopened), dedicated to the more experienced researcher (\$10,000 to \$15,000)

The AHTF board has three newly formed initiatives to enhance financial status and communication:

- The Donation Committee, chaired by Dorit H. Aaron, will have the mission to seek out corporate donations, contacting many vendors inside and outside the hand therapy world.
- The Collaboration Committee, chaired by Jeanine Beasley, will have the mission of reaching out to academic communities with education on AHTF's goals and vision, making our grants visible to many potential applicants.

## ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS UPDATE (AHTF CONTINUED)

- The Website Committee, chaired by Gary Solomon, offering state-of-the-art technology, linking the foundation to the hand therapy world and beyond. The new website allows contributors like you to make monetary contributions and immediately receive a receipt for a donation.

### Fundraising

- AHTF plans to continue in tradition with our annual Silent Auction on Oct. 8 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The auction will be automated using Bidding Owl, with viewing items open four weeks prior, and bidding starting two weeks prior.
- AHTF will conduct the first annual “Breakfast with a Scholar,” occurring Saturday, Oct. 10, from 6 to 7:00 a.m. The keynote addresses will be led by well-known scholars Dr. Peter Amadio and Nancy Cannon, OTR/L, CHT on the value of mentorship.
- AHTF will be recognizing Evelyn Mackin with a lifetime achievement award.

## HAND THERAPY CERTIFICATION COMMISSION

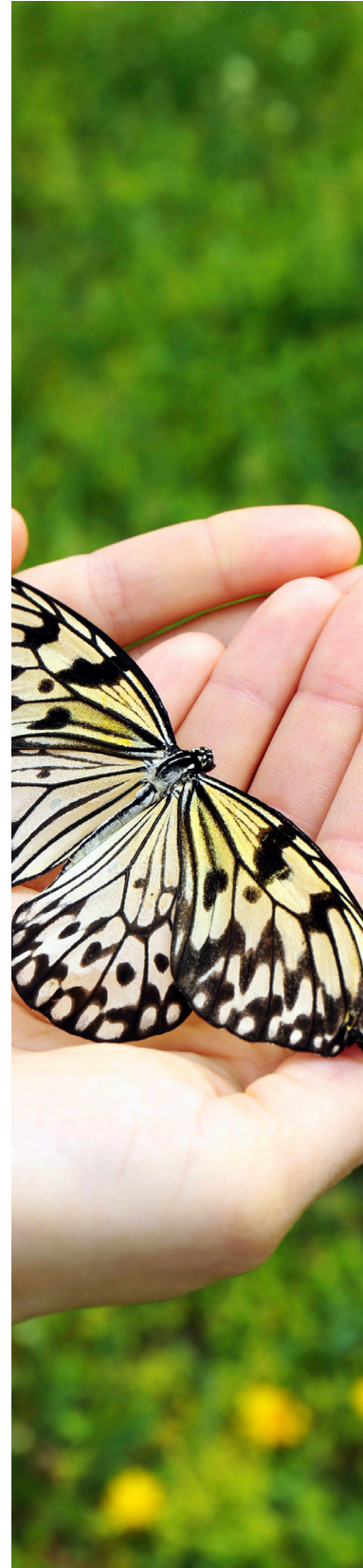
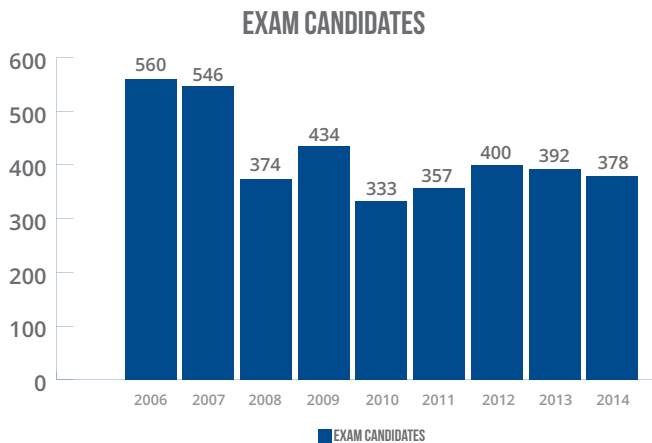


### State of HTCC and the CHT Credential 2015

There are currently 6,105 Certified Hand Therapists (CHTs) worldwide. 5,759 are in the United States, 192 are in Canada, 120 in Australia and New Zealand and 34 are in other countries. By profession, 85% are occupational therapists, 14% are physical therapists, with less than 1% being both OTs and PTs.

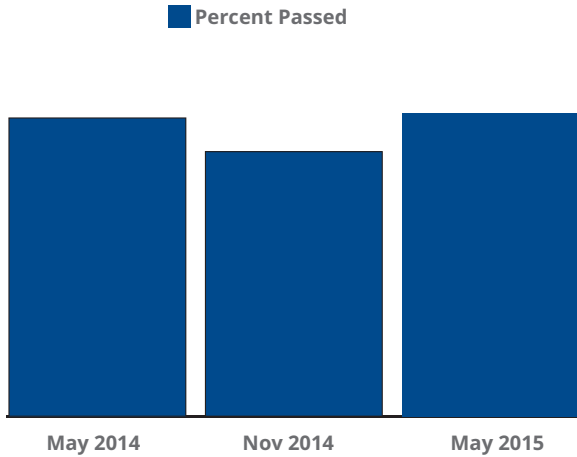
### Exam Highlights:

Certification provides assurance to the public that a CHT meets the high standards set by HTCC. Since 2006, the number of therapists taking the Hand Therapy Certification Examination has ranged from a high of 560 candidates a year to a low of 333 candidates. The number of therapists taking the exam has decreased overall with the largest decrease in numbers being in 2010 when the examination started to be offered twice a year, as well as the same time of the economic depression. In 2011, the number of exam candidates increased slightly and has leveled off for the past three years



# ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS UPDATE (HTCC CONTINUED)

## PASS RATE 2014 AND MAY 2015



The passing rate (percentage of people who passed the examination in any given administration) for the CHT examination since 2002 has ranged from 52% to 63% with the average pass rate being 56%. The mean passing rate from 2010 to the present (last 5 years) has been 55%. The percentage of those who pass the exam has remained about the same, which may indicate that the candidate ability has remained the same and the CHT examination's difficulty has remained the same as well. The Hand Therapy Certification Examination performs with a .94% score reliability in which content and difficulty remain consistent within the various domains. This reliability score is well above minimum standards of professional credentialing examinations.

### Candidate Demographics:

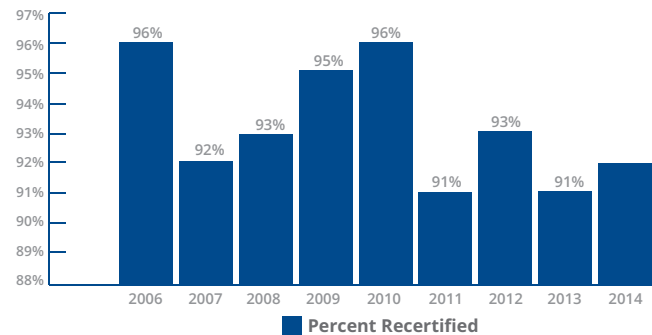
The majority of exam candidates indicated that they work in a designated hand therapy clinic or general outpatient clinic. In 2014, the majority of candidates (about 50%) held a Master's degree, 35% Bachelor's degrees, less than 10% Clinical Doctorate degrees and less than 2% were PhDs.

Exam candidates indicated that they began studying for the CHT exam between 2-12 months prior to taking the exam with the majority spending more than 250 hours preparing for the exam. Those who participated in a study group or worked with mentors performed better than those who did not. In addition, those who enrolled in a certificate course at a university, completed a formalized hand therapy fellowship program or belonged to a national hand therapy association (such as ASHT or AHTA) performed at higher rates than those that did not.

### Recertification Highlights:

Recertification provides assurance to the public that the CHT continues to meet the high standards set by HTCC. It is the personal responsibility of each CHT to maintain his or her certification in order to demonstrate current knowledge and skills. Because of changes in the profession, every CHT is required to demonstrate continued professional development and competency by recertifying every five years. Our CHTs have a very high recertification rate, with more than 93% recertifying on average since 2006. The table at right shows the recertification rate by year since 2006.

## PASS RECERTIFIED 2006 TO 2014



### **Retired Status**

In 2014, HTCC established a retired designation, “CHT Retired,” to provide a mechanism for the continued recognition of retired CHTs once they have withdrawn from professional practice. The CHT Retired designation is intended to recognize CHTs’ years of service and commitment to excellence in upper extremity patient care. Retirement from clinical practice is allowed for many reasons, including illness or disability, career change or personal choice. This designation allows retired CHTs to stay connected to the hand therapy profession and to HTCC, and to continue to provide mentorship, education and professional contributions to other therapists. Individuals with retired status must make efforts to not suggest or imply that they hold an active CHT credential. It is intended that those with CHT Retired status will not use the retired designation in connection with professional practice or work for compensation.

### **Practice Analysis**

In 2014, HTCC conducted its fifth Practice Analysis Survey, which will be published in the fall of 2015 or early 2016. As a result of the survey, the HTCC Examination Blueprint will be modified. Domain 4: Professionalism will be removed. The tasks in this domain that were rated moderately or highly critical and performed weekly or more will be absorbed into the remaining four domains. The new blueprint will affect the May 2016 examination and will be published on the HTCC website after the administration of the November 2015 exam.

### **Salary Survey**

HTCC also conducted a Salary Survey in 2015 and the results will be published and available as a downloadable PDF on the HTCC website this fall.

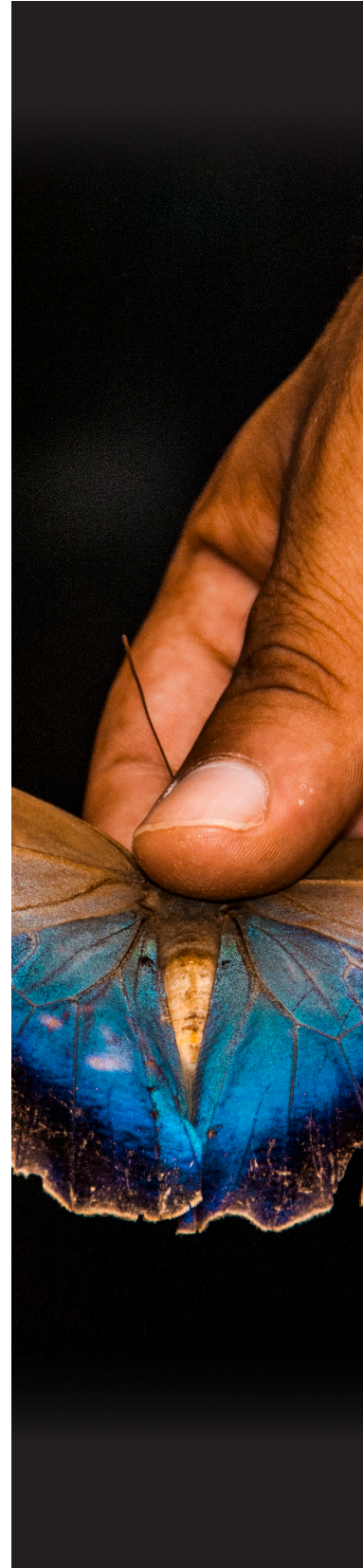
### **Strategic Plan**

A four-part strategic plan was adopted in 2015 by the HTCC Board of Directors, and addresses the following target areas:

1. The Viability of the CHT Credential
2. The Integrity of the CHT Credential
3. The Viability of HTCC
4. A Global Hand Therapy Presence

### **HTCC Board of Directors and Committee Members**

HTCC would like to thank the Board of Directors, the Examination Committee and Recertification Committee members for all of their contributions to the organization and the profession of hand therapy.



## ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS UPDATE (CONTINUED)



### INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES FOR HAND THERAPY



#### IFSHT Triennial Meeting: 10<sup>th</sup> IFSHT Triennial Congress / 13<sup>th</sup> IFSSH Triennial Congress

• Joint 10th IFSHT Triennial Congress / 13th IFSSH Triennial Congress is in Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 24-28, 2016. (<http://www.ifssh-ifsht2016.com/>)

- Therapist program planning ongoing. four-day program; general sessions in the morning, breakout sessions in the afternoon. IFSHT Program Committee Chairs Birgitta Rosen (Sweden) and Sarah Ewald (Switzerland) are working closely with IFSSH and the Local Organizing Committee Chairs Beatriz Piso, Therapists, and Dr. Eduardo Zancolli, Surgeons. A first draft of the four-day program is available on the IFSHT website.
- One combined session with surgeons
- All sessions in the same venue and open to all attendees
- Abstract submissions open October 1, 2015 1- February 28, 2016

#### IFSHT Membership

- Nearly 8,400 hand therapists worldwide
- 34 full members, national hand therapy societies (including ASHT)
- 2 associate members, hand therapy interest groups in countries with no society
- 10 corresponding members, individual therapists from countries with no society
- 5 commercial members (companies related to the advancement of hand therapy)
- 5 liaison organizations

#### Communication with Hand Therapists around the World

- *IFSHT Update*: Published four times annually in the US and the British *Journals of Hand Therapy* and distributed to all member countries. Available on the IFSHT website: <http://www.ifsht.org/page/ifsht-updates>. Thanks to ASHT member Judy Colditz, the *IFSHT Update* has a new format as of this fall.
- IFSHT website ([www.ifsht.org](http://www.ifsht.org)): New website launched in January 2015, development of new features and content is ongoing. Electronic voting established. PayPal function has been implemented.



- IFSHT *Hand Therapy Connections* E-Newsletter: Sent out twice per year. Currently, 2,137 subscribers. Anyone can subscribe via the IFSHT website.
- IFSHT is on Facebook: The IFSHT Facebook page was initiated in the fall of 2014. Therapists are invited to connect with IFSHT on Facebook.
- IFSHT contributes to *IFSSH Ezine*: The *IFSSH Ezine* is produced four times per year and includes an article from a therapist. This free publication is available at <http://www.ifssh.info/ezine.html>.

#### IFSHT AWARDS

- Christine Alegri Award: This new award for innovation in hand therapy will be awarded for the first time in Buenos Aires. The application is available at <http://www.ifsht.org/page/cristina-alegri-award>.
- Evelyn Mackin Award: sponsorship of a therapist(s) from a developing country (GNI < \$6,000) to attend Triennial Congress.

#### SPONSORSHIP ACTIVITIES

- IFSHT-IFSSH International Hand Therapy Teaching Awards (\$1,000 each): Six awards. Available for therapists traveling and teaching (clinical or academic) in areas of the world with limited hand therapy access. Application available on IFSHT website.
- Dynamometers (donated to IFSHT): ~ 80 dynamometers available. Available to therapists or surgeons traveling and teaching / consulting in hand therapy in a developing country. Contact the IFSHT secretary general to request a dynamometer for a project.
- Silent Auction Funds (funds raised at 2013 Triennial Congress): Supports international hand therapist faculty to attend Argentina, 2016.
- Evelyn Mackin Award: In 2013, five Therapists (from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China) were fully sponsored to attend the IFSHT-IFSSH Congress.
- Membership Fee Donations (as available): To sponsor developing country membership fees.
- International Therapist Triennial Meeting Sponsorship Funds (as available): Assists international therapists to attend the IFSHT Triennial Congress. IFSSH generously contributed \$4,500 to this fund, to support therapist participation at the 2013 congress in India. As a result, 23 therapists received partial sponsorship to attend the 2013 IFSHT IFSSH congress in New Delhi, India.

#### DONATING TO IFSHT

- Consider donating an item to the upcoming IFSHT Silent Auction in 2016. Items should be small, lightweight and easily transported.
- IFSHT is a registered non-profit organization in Switzerland. A donation to IFSHT is tax deductible in many countries.
- It is possible to donate to a specific IFSHT fund; 100 percent of funds donated are allocated to the project that the donor designates.
- Any donation is much appreciated!
- Donations can be made on the IFSHT website using the PayPal buttons.

# ASHT

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HAND THERAPISTS™

## ASHT HEADQUARTERS STAFF

**Gene Terry, CAE**

Executive Director

**Jess Ercolino**

Director of Operations

**Luci Patalano, MBA**

Director of Education & Research

**Paula McQueen**

Membership Services Coordinator

**Anthony Celenza, CMP**

Director of Meetings

**Victoria Converse**

Associate Meetings Manager

**Porter Rice**

Industry Relations Manager

**Sarah Black**

Senior Editorial Manager

**Kimberly Quevedo**

Editorial Specialist

# ASHT MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS



## YEARS OF HAND THERAPY EXPERIENCE

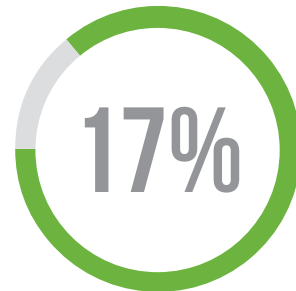
A majority (60%) of ASHT members have practiced for 16 years or more. Nearly one third (30%) of members have been in practice between six and 15 years, while 22% have less than 10 years of hand therapy experience.



**9%**  
**5 OR FEWER**  
YEARS OF HAND THERAPY EXPERIENCE



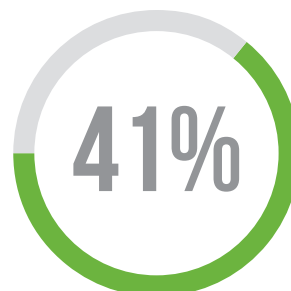
**13%**  
**6-10**  
YEARS OF HAND THERAPY EXPERIENCE



**17%**  
**11-15**  
YEARS OF HAND THERAPY EXPERIENCE

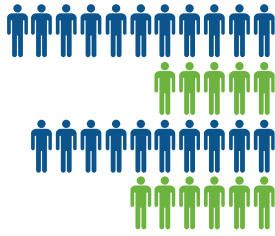


**19%**  
**16 - 20**  
YEARS OF HAND THERAPY EXPERIENCE



**41%**  
**21+**  
YEARS OF HAND THERAPY EXPERIENCE

## TOTAL ASHT MEMBERSHIP



3,069  
2011

3,216  
2012

3,298  
2013

3,241  
2014

3,306\*  
2015

\*projected

## ADVANCE THE FIELD OF HAND THERAPY

### Donate to the American Society of Hand Therapists

The American Society of Hand Therapists is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the field of hand and upper extremity therapy by promoting education, advocacy, research and clinical standards.

Please see descriptions below outlining your donation options. All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law; consult your tax advisor regarding specific questions about your deductions.

- **Annual Meeting Sessions Fund:** Donations support continued evidence-based programming, and learning opportunities to help ASHT members meet the demands of clinical practice.
- **Awards and Scholarship Fund:** Donations support continuing education for the next generation of hand therapy professionals.
- **Vision Fund:** Donations support ASHT's strategic initiatives in advocacy, education and research.

To support ASHT with a donation, please visit [asht.org/about/donate](http://asht.org/about/donate).

Thank you for considering a donation to support the field of hand therapy.

**DONATE**  
ASHT.ORG/ABOUT/DONATE





AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HAND THERAPISTS™

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*ASHT is professionally managed by Association Headquarters,  
a chartered accredited association management company.*