



WE DID IT – ABPTS Approval for Wound Management Clinical Specialization!

I received official notification from ABPTS on Tuesday, February 26th, that we have their full approval to move forward with our wound management specialization. I was so excited I literally had to jump up and down!

What this means: We can now move our request to the House of Delegates in June. ABPTS is working with the APTA Board of Directors (HOD) to develop the motion that will be presented to the House this summer. Matt Hyland, our APTA Board Liaison, will bring the motion to the House floor. HOD approval is the final step in the approval process.

THANK YOU to everyone on the petition task force, everyone who participated in that very long analysis of practice survey, everyone who attended the open hearing at CSM last month, and everyone that submitted letters of support for the open hearing. It took all of us to make this happen – thank you!!

About the open hearing, it went extremely well. We had about 70 people there and had ACEWM members and non-members speaking the entire time. Everyone that spoke did so in our favor, we had no negative comments. I was surprised at how emotional the event turned out to be. I was fighting back a few tears after only the second speaker and as I looked around the room, quite a few others were doing the same. After it was over, several people told me they had planned to speak and then leave, but the personal experiences that were shared were so compelling, they ended up staying the entire time. It was very moving to hear so many different perspectives all focused on the same thing, a APTA-recognized specialization in wound management.

One truly proud moment for me was when one of my current third year DPT students and ACEWM member, Sarah Alfaro, who is currently in a wound management clinical experience, stood and spoke on our behalf. I've included a picture of her here – thank you, Sarah, you did a great job!!

In March we'll be asking each ACEWM member to contact their state chapter delegates and request they vote for our motion. The Task Force will contact all Chapter Chief Delegates and Section/Academy Presidents and ask that they co-sponsor the motion. I would guess that everyone is getting a little tired of the "next step" – but this will be the last step in the approval process. Success at HOD makes this REAL. Then, we start with exam development, oh my!

Thank you again for your support in this huge, multi-year, member-driven endeavor. I hope you will take a few minutes and celebrate this really good news. We're moving forward and we're picking up steam! Yea!

K. Gibbs, ACEWM President