Top Takeaways from CSM 2015
Part 3

During Feb. 4-7, attendees heard about research and practice in some of the most talked-about topics in Acute Care Physical Therapy. Below are the top takeaways from selected sessions to help you spark new ideas to implement into your practice.

Overcoming Obstacles to Acute Care Rehabilitation Research
Barbara Smith PT, PhD; Steven R. Fisher, PT, PhD; Diane U. Jette, PT, MS, DSc, FAPTA; Dianne V. Jewell, PT, DPT, PhD, CCS, FAACVPR; Carmen S. Kirkness, PT, PhD; Patricia J Ohtake, PT, PhD; Mary Stiphen PT, DPT

- Those interested in research should consider—what are the different types of research or evidence that could be published in peer reviewed journals and what permissions need to be obtained for those different types.
- To accomplish your research goals, who needs to be a part of your network or research team?
- Remember that the relationship between clinicians or clinical directors and researchers is important to move research forward and change clinical practice for better patient care.

Don't Just Sit There: Evidence-Based Sitting Balance Examination & Intervention
Sharon Gorman, PT, DPTSc, GCS, FNAP; Cathy Harro, PT, MS, NCS; Christina Platko, PT, DPT

- Poor sitting balance has been found to be a predictor of recovery of walking ability and discharge destination in research with acute stroke patients.
- Poor sitting balance has been found to be a predictor of functional recovery with new brain injury patients.
- There is an opportunity for future research in the area of sitting balance and fall risk as there is no evidence in this area.
- There is no perfect sitting balance test—you must select the appropriate test for specific types of patients. The handout from CSM describes strengths and weakness of several tests.

Decreasing the Length of Stay for Patients Who Have Had Vascular Lower Extremity Amputations through a Multidisciplinary Approach
Latasha Ruffin, PT, DPT; Phalan L. Bolden, MSN, FNP

- Speakers were successful in implementing a clinical pathway for amputees by doing the following: establishing a multidisciplinary taskforce with a unified purpose, using self-audits for timely feedback, adhering to regularly scheduled meetings to maximize efficiency, using benchmarking data, bridging the gap between stakeholders, and establishing support from administration.
- Helpful patient website and/or support network through Hanger Amputee Empowerment: http://www.hangerclinic.com/new-patient/ampower/Pages/Home.aspx