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## NATA Presidential Election Slated

It is time for the NATA Board of Directors' 1991-92 presidential election. Ballots will be mailed to members on November 1, 1991, and must be returned by December 1. The two candidates nominated by the Board of Directors — Jerry Weber, MS, PT, ATC, and Dennis A. Miller, MS, PT, ATC — share a commitment to promoting athletic training as a profession and to strengthening the association.

**Denny Miller** has been active in the NATA since the late 1960s, when he joined as a student athletic trainer. A graduate of Iowa State University, Syracuse (NY) University, and the University of Pennsylvania, Miller says that he was introduced to athletic training as a college freshman when he read an article in the student newspaper about the school's head athletic trainer. He had been looking for a "people-skills profession" to pursue, and athletic training fit the bill.

Since 1977, Miller has been the head athletic trainer/physical therapist at Purdue



Denny Miller, MS, PT, ATC

University. His prior experience includes serving as an assistant athletic trainer at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, NY, from 1968 to 1970; at Syracuse University from 1970 to 1972; and at Purdue from 1973 to 1977. Since 1973, he has served as an instructor at Purdue, including from 1978 to 1985, when he was an assistant professor. He is a member of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), serving as APTA liaison on the NATA/APTA Task Force, and the American Medical Joggers' Association. Within District 4, Miller served as president-elect from 1980 to 1982, as president from 1982 to 1984, and as district director from 1986 to 1988.

When asked about his favorite aspect of athletic training, Miller says without hesitation: "The sat-



Jerry Weber, MS, PT, ATC

isfaction of the relationship between the patient/athlete and the athletic trainer." He says that his role model is William "Pinky" Newell, with whom he worked at Purdue. He credits Newell for contributing to his professional success. "My association with him has influenced me tremendously. It raised my respect for athletic trainers and the profession."

Miller says that he sees the NATA Board of Directors as being the "most critical aspect of the association. You have ten people trying to represent their constituents. They have been selected with care and thoughtfulness" to serve their fellow athletic trainers. If he is elected president, Miller says that some of his primary concerns would be to promote "positive health care for athletes" and to "improve the product we're producing" by strengthen-

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# Election

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ing athletic training education programs. "We have embarked on a direction of promoting this profession the right way by emphasizing education." Miller also feels it would be important to "help local groups push for practice regulation."

Miller says that now is an appropriate time for him to run for president because he is "recently off the Board of Directors and [is] current with ongoing problems and concerns." He says that his primary leadership strength is his ability to "listen to all" points of view. "We will get ideas in the board room. We need to make sure all ideas are discussed and that we do not act hastily." He explains that the course of his career has taken him from the "Midwest to the East Coast and back, to every corner of the country," which has given him a "fairly good national perspective for where athletic trainers are" in relation to current issues and the profession. Miller says that serving as president would allow him "to pay back for all athletic training has given" him.

Miller sees that the NATA's transition to a paid executive director and expanded administrative staff has been smooth. "There is greater efficiency and more service to the constituency." Over the next few years, we will "strive for continued improvement of services, particularly with the Professional Education Committee. We will also see better attention to financial detail."

Miller would like to see the Board of Directors continue to be "approachable" to the NATA membership. "We would strive to remain as personal to each individual member" as the current Board is, "even though we are growing rapidly. Athletic trainers see the current Board as very representative of them."

If elected, one of Miller's priorities would be to "continue to push for a high percentage of certified athletic trainers" within the athletic training job market and within the association. Increasing the public's awareness of the role of an athletic trainer is also important to Miller. "There's no question that when the public has seen the profession and what we do, a higher demand for our services and the level of care that we provide" will arise.

Miller would like to see a greater em-

phasis on the national and local meetings. "The next steppingstone for us" is to improve education. "We cannot stand still and rest on our laurels. We must produce better and better certified athletic trainers. Many other problems will then be solved."

Miller is married and has two daughters; one is in seventh grade, and the other is a junior in high school. In his spare time, he runs and skis. He was born in LeMars, IA, and now lives in West Lafayette, IN.

When asked how he would like to be remembered professionally and personally as an athletic trainer, Miller said that he would like for "athletes to remember [him] as a person who helped them when they needed help."

*"My association with William 'Pinky' Newell has influenced me tremendously. It raised my respect for athletic trainers and the profession."*

**— Denny Miller**

Athletic training has long been an important part of Jerry Weber's life. He was a student athletic trainer in high school and in college and has been associate head athletic trainer/physical therapist and rehabilitation coordinator at the University of Nebraska since July 1977. He says he "loves the day-in and day-out contact with athletes. Everything is always different, and that keeps you young." Weber has been an NATA member since the early 1970s.

He feels that the role of the Board of Directors is to "see that the NATA continues on an upward path, one that will keep us current within the medical profession. Within the past four or five years, the Board has done an excellent job in guiding the NATA and in improving education through CEUs and curriculum changes."

He believes that "athletic trainers tend

to be somewhat unassuming. We take what we have and make the most of it." One of his goals as president would be to elevate members' perceptions of themselves and of the profession. Athletic trainers provide more care than "just tape and ice; we have an emotional tie with the athlete."

He cites the recent NATA survey and long-range planning efforts as instrumental to this process. "I was glad to see that some [lesser-known] athletic trainers were included in these efforts; this allows a greater understanding of the members' needs."

Weber recognizes that competitive salaries and earnings are of concern to many athletic trainers. He says that greater financial compensation can be obtained only through increased public awareness. "We have to start at the local and district levels. It won't happen overnight, but we are on our way to achieving [equity in pay] with comparably-trained professionals."

As president, Weber says that he would dedicate himself to strengthening the foundation of the NATA. He encourages members to "remain unified. Factions hurt NATA. We need to remember that we all have the same primary goal — providing quality health care for athletes — whether we work for a high school, a college, a professional team, or in a clinical setting." He also would like to concentrate on guiding and assisting states in procuring licensure regulations for athletic trainers. "Good models exist in some states, so we could use these and help other states to improve." Particularly important to Weber is the role of women and minorities in athletic training. "The Board needs to emphasize issues related to women athletic trainers. There is an increased demand and need for women to advance." Weber would like to see more recruitment of minority athletic trainers, which he sees as essential because of the "large number of minority athletes." Weber says, "Athletic training is competing with many other health professions in recruiting minorities and women. There is so much competition for new athletic trainers. This is another case where an increase in the public's awareness of athletic training is so important."

He feels that the Board of Directors has done a good job of "keeping the Districts



strong," and he sees no need to restructure the present governing framework. He would like to see "current programs and activities continue to thrive." He believes that the task forces implemented by current President Mark Smaha, MS, ATC, have been very important and successful; he would like to continue with projects of this nature.

Another area that Weber would like to explore is expanding the NATA toward becoming "an international presence. We are right at the point nationally where we can set standards for the care of athletes. It is a natural step to continue this progression" around the world.

Weber feels that one of the greatest services that NATA offers its members is the annual meeting and clinical symposium. He acknowledges the "strong feelings" of many members about "holding the costs [for the annual meeting] down." He supports the work of the convention committee, saying that it is vital in ensuring a successful meeting.

Education is a critical concern for Weber. "The members' desire for continuing education is insatiable. Athletic trainers continually want to learn, and they are enthusiastic about it." Meetings such as the one in Denver, CO, in February 1991, are examples of what Weber would like to promote, so that athletic trainers around the country would have the opportunity to participate.

He also is interested in the possibility of offering advanced educational programs for athletic trainers at medical centers in universities around the country. "Athletic trainers often are required to be 'jacks of all trades,'" performing work similar to that of many other health professionals. This additional education would allow athletic trainers to learn new techniques, and it would give them the opportunity to interact with other medical professionals, such as physical therapists, physician assistants, and medical technologists. "It would strengthen the professional ability of athletic trainers," Weber says.

When asked about the NATA's first 18 months with a paid executive director and extended administrative staff, Weber says that he sees "tremendous changes" that are in line with the Board of Directors' goal to centralize the work of committees. He praises the "professional attitude of Ex-

ecutive Director Alan A. Smith, Jr., and his staff in promoting the profession. There are many strengths. Overall, Alan has done a great job." However, Weber would like to see a certified athletic trainer occupying one of the top-level administrative staff positions.

Weber says that he has given much thought to his decision to run for president of the NATA. He has discussed the position and its responsibilities "thoroughly" with his wife and with the head athletic trainer at Nebraska. "I have been involved for a long time with the district and the national associations. I have received a lot of encouragement from members. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. As an associate athletic trainer, I have a little more

*"We need to remember that we all have the same primary goal — providing quality health care for athletes — whether we work for a high school, a college, a professional team, or in a clinical setting."*

*— Jerry Weber*

time to devote to the position."

Weber feels that he offers the presidency a number of personal strengths, including what he calls a "quiet confidence. I don't get too excited, and I don't overreact. I take a long look at the whole picture and proact, not react. Things don't occur overnight," which is part of the reason that the long-range planning efforts appeal to him. Describing himself as a good listener, Weber says that he can "listen well to what people are saying and summarize it all so that a compromise is possible."

His role as an associate athletic trainer has given him experience in coming up with compromises among athletes, coaches, and other athletic trainers. "I have been successful in getting people to agree. Sometimes their stances will seem to be 180°

apart. Together, we find a way to see the whole picture." He cites his decisive nature, his knowledge of current athletic training needs and trends, and his extensive experience with the NATA as strong points.

"There is one way to do the job, and that is the right way. Unfortunately, you may step on some feet — or hands — but you have to stand up for what is right" for the athlete or the athletic trainer, Weber says.

He admires the leadership abilities of former Presidents Bobby Barton, PhD, ATC, and Jerry Rhea, ATC, and of Smaha; "they had great ideas and organizational abilities and provided strong leadership in getting ten individuals to work together." Weber says he has been influenced particularly by Barton, who was president when Weber was District 5 Secretary. Other athletic trainers he admires include George Sullivan, Jack Rockwell, and William "Pinky" Newell.

He urges athletic trainers to "remember that NATA is for the members. If you feel that is not the case, bring it to the attention of your national or local Board. Without local input, success is impossible."

Weber stresses his belief that "regardless of what we do at the national level, we will be remembered for our daily actions." He would like to be remembered as an athletic trainer who cares for his athletes — physically and emotionally. He plans to remain at the University of Nebraska for the remainder of his athletic training career.

Weber has been married for six and one-half years. His wife is a professional actress and teacher of children's theater in Omaha. Weber is a graduate of the University of Nebraska, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and Western Illinois University. He is a member of the Nebraska State Athletic Trainers' Association (NSATA) and the American Physical Therapy Association. He was named the NSATA 1990 Athletic Trainer of the Year. As president of District 5, he served on the NATA Board of Directors from 1987 to 1990 (as vice president from 1989 to 1990). He has held a number of offices within District 5, including secretary-treasurer from 1984 to 1987, public relations director from 1981 to 1984, Spring Symposium Site Coordinator from 1979 to 1980, and Spring Symposium Program Chair in 1979, 1980, and 1990.



# *The History of the NATA, Second Edition,* to be Published in 1992

The History and Archives Committee of the NATA is compiling data for a book entitled *The History of the NATA, Second Edition*. This book will give a complete, updated, and accurate history of athletic training and the NATA. *The History of the NATA, Second Edition*, is scheduled to be published in the spring or summer of 1992 by the NATA.

Leonard McNeal, ATC, Chair of the History and Archives Committee, explained that the new publication will supplement previous publications pertaining to athletic training, including *The History of the NATA* by Michael O'Shea, ATC, of the University of Miami, and a master's thesis on athletic training from 1974 to 1988 written by Bill Vines, ATC, of Eastern Oregon University. McNeal has been researching the subject of athletic training in the 1930s and 1940s, using the *Trainer's Bible* by Samuel E. Bilick as a reference. Bilick is often referred to as the "Father of Athletic Training." Lisa Kelleher, ATC, of the University of Florida is compiling the history of women in athletic training.

Other History and Archives Committee members who are contributing to the new book include: Mertice Shane, ATC; Patricia J. Troesch, ATC; C.F. "Frank" Randall, ATC; Richard F. Hendricks, ATC; and

Jack Rockwell, PT, ATC.

Copies of the publication will be available from the national office in 1992. Members will be kept abreast of purchasing details through the *NATA News*.

If any NATA members have old documents and/or memorabilia or tidbits of

information from the "good old days," please send it to McNeal at: P.O. Box 597, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 23173. Information can be faxed to McNeal at: (804) 289-8820, and McNeal can be reached by telephone at (804) 288-4746.

## **Don't Throw It Away: A Message From the NATA History and Archives Committee**

Help us locate documents and/or memorabilia as we prepare a revised and updated edition of *The History of the NATA*. Materials such as Cramer's *First Aider*, early editions of *Athletic Training*, *JNATA*, Bilik's *Trainer's Bible*, and any other similar publications would be appreciated and welcomed as part of the NATA archives.

How about some tidbits of information from our older members? Remember the "good old days," and send your reminiscences to us! The more we accumulate, the more accurately we can portray the efforts of those who have given us such rich heritage.

ATTENTION Teaching Athletic Trainers. . . We can use term papers, theses, and class projects that have a historical perspective.

Send materials to: Leonard McNeal, ATC, P.O. Box 597, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 23173, Fax (804) 289-8820, Phone (804) 288-4746.

Any donation would become part of the NATA Archives and the donor will be officially acknowledged by the NATA.

## **National Girls and Women in Sports Day: Community Action Kit Available**

On February 6 of each year, National Girls and Women in Sports Day honors the achievements of female athletes with celebrations across the country.

This annual event is sponsored by the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport, Girls Inc., YWCA of the USA, and the Women's Sports Foundation. Recognition awards, special sports programming, leadership conferences, and proclamations are just a few of the events carried out nationwide in commemoration of this event.

Community action kits are available free of charge to facilitate participation of individuals and groups at the local level. The kit contains an event organizer guide, which lists timelines and tips, and information about securing sponsorship and fund-

ing, hosting a leadership conference, getting a state proclamation signed, conducting an arts contest, and incorporating the celebration into a classroom curriculum. Also included in this kit are a lesson plan on Title IX, sample press releases and logos, a variety of statistics and facts about women and girls in sports, and suggested activities for schools and communities.

These community action kits are free. Interested individuals and groups are encouraged to join the celebration of girls and women in athletics and to use the event as an opportunity to bring attention to the needs of female athletes. Write to the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport at 1900 Association Drive, Reston, VA 22091, or call (703) 476-3450 to receive your free community action kit.



# In Memoriam



**John Freeman**

July 16, 1929 - August 14, 1991

John McClelland Freeman, ATC, of Kettering, OH, passed away Wednesday, August 14, 1991, at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Kettering, OH. He was 62 years old. After his 1950 graduation from Otterbein College, he married Margaret Eschbach. He received his master's degree from Miami (Ohio) University in 1961. Freeman taught for two years at Dixie High School and for 31 years in the Kettering City Schools, where he served as an instructor of health and social studies. His interest in sports was displayed throughout his coaching of basketball and track at Van Buren Junior High School. He was instrumental in starting the sports medicine and diversified health occupation programs at Fairmont West High School.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret; daughters Gretchen Hargis and Karen Sewell, and son, David Freeman; parents, Harold and Ida Freeman; brother, William Freeman; and grandchildren, Stephanie, Madeline, Alyson, and Andrew.

John McClelland Freeman, ATC, of Kettering, OH, passed away Wednesday, August 14, 1991, at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Kettering, OH. He was 62 years old.

After his 1950 graduation from Otterbein College, he married Margaret Eschbach. He received his master's degree from Miami (Ohio) University in 1961. Freeman taught for two years at Dixie High



**Robert Hamilton**

May 14, 1932 - September 13, 1991

physician for Gordon Tech and St. Rita High Schools.

Hamilton, a clinical professor of orthopedics at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at the time of his death, earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Illinois and completed his residency in 1962 at the college's hospital.

Hamilton was a member of the Illinois Athletic Trainers' Hall of Fame, an honorary member of NATA, and was honored with the DePaul University Athletic Department's Special Service Award in 1983.

Hamilton had no immediate survivors.

Robert Hamilton, MD, the team physician for the DePaul University Athletic Department, passed away September 13, 1991, after collapsing from a heart attack. He was 59 years old.

Hamilton, second only to former DePaul basketball coach Ray Meyer in length of service to the DePaul Athletic Department, had been associated with DePaul since 1964. He also served as the team

*Please send biographical information and a photo of the deceased NATA member to: Dr. Earlene Durrant, NATA Memorial Resolutions Committee Chair, 221 JRB, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602.*

## NATA Receives New Computer System

**Amanda Culbertson**

**NATA Assistant Executive Director**

In February 1991, the NATA Board of Directors approved the purchase of a new computer to manage NATA's ever-expanding database. In August 1991, the new computer, an IBM AS/400 mid-range computer system, and accompanying software were installed. During September 1991, data conversion and testing took place, and it is anticipated that NATA operations will be run on the new system by October.

For the past five years, NATA has used an IBM System 36 mid-range computer system and a Novell Local Area Network System. This system operates with specialized association management software, developed by Computer System Consultants, Inc., to maintain and process informa-

tion on membership, meetings, conventions, and subscriptions.

The rapid growth in NATA membership, the expansion of NATA existing programs and services and the addition of new ones, the addition of new staff and departments, and the ever-increasing number of requests for information on athletic training prompted the decision to purchase a larger computer system. The new system will operate with an upgraded version of the same software used on the System 36. Software applications will include programs for accounting, membership, meetings and conventions, subscriptions, continuing education, and fundraising.

The new software modules will enable NATA to vastly upgrade the automation of the accounting processes by linking accounting to all other modules; it also will

provide a database for the new NATA Research and Education Foundation to track fundraising and will enable the NATA Board of Certification to track continuing education and certification using a common database with NATA. In summary, the new system should streamline NATA operations, making them more efficient and responsive to the needs of the membership.

The AS/400 offers the state-of-the-art in electronic information processing and storage. The AS/400 has greater disk capacity, more work stations, and a larger processor size than the System 36.

In addition, the AS/400 uses a relational database, and can receive and send faxes and bar code (a technology with possible uses for recording attendance at continuing education activities).



# Governmental Affairs Task Force Recommendations

The NATA Governmental Affairs Task Force met in Washington, DC, on April 17, 1991, to discuss implementations and structural and policy recommendations for the NATA Board of Directors' review. Attending the meeting were Governmental Affairs Task Force Chair and NATA Vice President Julie Max, MEd, ATC; Governmental Affairs Committee Chair Dan Campbell, ATC; Jim Booher, PhD, ATC; and Executive Director Alan A. Smith, Jr.

Legal counsel was present at the meeting, as were experts on lobbying issues. The agenda included discussion on the positive and negative aspects of state licensure legislation and regulation, the current status of state licensure legislation, nonlicensure governmental affairs issues, a review of the current governmental affairs structure of NATA and affiliates, a discussion of the desired governmental affairs role for NATA and affiliates, and an overall cost assessment.

Recommendations issued by the Task Force include a \$100,000 budget to be used for hiring a full-time staff person and support staff to deal with governmental affairs, equipping on-site personnel to field incoming inquiries, and funding reporting services. Laura Jetton has been hired as NATA Director of Government Relations and will work from the NATA national office in Dallas.

The Task Force's *Implementation Recommendation* states that, "as a national organization that represents athletic trainers in every state, [NATA] has a direct interest in state and local legislative and regulatory initiatives that affect the practice of its members. However, as a national organization, the NATA believes that it is

inappropriate for it to require its members in any one state to support or oppose specific legislative provisions in that state, or for it to use the dues money from members in one state to support or oppose specific legislative activity undertaken by members in another state."

To strike an appropriate balance between these goals and concerns, the Governmental Affairs Task Force proposes that the NATA serve as a coordinator among and facilitator for its members involved in governmental affairs activities of individual states. The Task Force suggests that this can be achieved if the NATA:

- Provides information concerning specific pieces of legislation and regulation

Information and copies of enacted and pending legislation from most states currently are available from the national office to members who request them. Hiring additional staff would allow NATA to maintain and provide updated and complete information concerning relevant enacted and pending state legislation and regulation, analysis of proposed or pending legislation submitted by NATA members, and assistance with drafting or amending individual legislative efforts.

- Provides information concerning the governmental affairs process

NATA already provides informal assistance to members who are active in state legislative affairs concerning the proper use of the legislative process. The recommendations would allow greater service to the members in this case as well, through the addition of staff members who would

assist by supplying information on any legal restrictions, effective lobbying, and identification of key legislative personnel and experts. The staff also would provide materials for specific legislative undertakings, such as drafting appropriate letters for members to send to legislators and regulators and issuing press releases.

- Provides related information

This would allow the Executive Director and the staff to collect and provide information on topics such as threatened, pending, or decided litigation, injury-reduction results produced by athletic trainers, and documentation of the costs of the failure to provide such injury-reducing expertise.

- Provides issue alerts

NATA would identify new or potential issues that may be dealt with at the state legislative or regulatory level. Additional staffing would allow the NATA to serve as a consistent early-warning system for state governmental affairs representatives.

According to Max, "The Task Force believes that with proper coordination between its members, the Executive Director, his staff, and the NATA membership at the district, state, and local levels, the governmental affairs interests of members can be effectively furthered while avoiding inappropriate involvement in state and local matters."

A final State and Local Government Affairs Policy Statement will be issued from the Task Force and will be printed in an upcoming issue of the *NATA News*.

## Sports Massage Pioneer Publishes Latest Book

Myk Hungerford, PT, founder and director of the Sports Massage Training Institute, attempts to bring sports massage back into athletic training rooms through her newly published book, *Beyond Sports Medicine: Injury Prevention and Care Through Sports Massage*.

Seven years ago, Hungerford, a California educator who is a physical therapist and a certified massage therapist, organized the official introduction of sports massage into the International Olympics.

Her book offers techniques and skills that she has developed during a career that has spanned three decades as a teacher and a practitioner. It is accompanied by helpful visual aids, as well as a complete description of major sports massage strokes.

For more information about this book, contact Ann Hill at (415) 457-8286 or the Sports Massage Training Institute at (714) 642-0735, or write to SMTI, 2156 Newport Boulevard, Costa Mesa, CA 92627.



# Research and Education Foundation Board Members Announced

The NATA has selected members of the Board of Directors for the new Research and Education Foundation. The first meeting will take place on November 10, 1991, in Indianapolis, IN. These prestigious individuals will direct the activities of the Foundation.

Members include **Bobby Barton, PhD, ATC**, of Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond; **Robert S. Behnke, HSD, ATC**, of Indiana State University in Terre Haute; **Charles J. Dillman, PhD**, of the United States Olympic Committee in Colorado Springs, CO; **Samuel F. Hulbert, PhD**, of the Rose Hulman Institute of Technology

in Terre Haute, IN; **Mary Lloyd Ireland, MD**, of Kentucky Sports Medicine Center in Lexington; **Tony Allen Mobley, ReD**, of Indiana University in Bloomington; **John Powell, PhD, ATC**, of the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City; NATA President **Mark J. Smaha, MS, ATC**, of Washington State University in Pullman; and **Jack Weakley**, of Johnson & Johnson in Skillman, NJ.

The Foundation, a nonprofit corporation, was established in 1991 by the NATA to conduct programs for the public welfare in the areas of research and education relating to athletic injury prevention and quality health care programs for athletes. A basic goal of the Foundation is to advance the knowledge base for the science of athletic training. Its mission is to promote the health care and prevention of athletes' injuries by supporting and performing research and education for a variety of audiences.

ety of audiences.

The Foundation will support specific programs for scientific research and for professional and public education about injury prevention and control. In the area of research, basic science grants will be awarded in fields such as exercise physiology, biomechanics, and athletic performance. Clinical research grants will support programs for testing and verifying clinical procedures, rehabilitation regimens, and injury prevention interventions.

The Foundation's educational programs will provide new and current information about the prevention of athletic trauma and the establishment of quality health care programs to a variety of audiences. Training grants, postgraduate fellowships, and undergraduate and graduate scholarships also will be supported.

Initial funding was provided by the foundation's co-founder, Johnson & Johnson.

## NATA News

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## Licensure Update

Volume 3, Number 3 of the *NATA News* (June 1991) contained the results of a survey conducted among state athletic training association presidents, regarding each state's licensure and certification requirements for athletic trainers. Dan Campbell, PT, ATC, wrote the *News*, to correct and/or update some of the information that we printed. Following are some of the items that Campbell brought to our attention; each state's information has been verified by a representative of that state's athletic training association.

The original chart indicated whether or not a state had specific licensure and/or certification, whether or not specific legislation was pending, and if legislation was being prepared by the state.

The corrected information is as follows:

Colorado's athletic trainers' practices are covered under the state's Medical Practice Act; no separate athletic training legis-

lation is required or sought.

Hawaii's athletic trainers are regulated by that state's Physical Therapy Practice Act.

Indiana athletic trainers are in the process of preparing legislation to be submitted.

Washington, DC, has a District of Columbia Superior Court mandate to provide athletic trainers at secondary school sporting events, but does not have legislation defining athletic training. The Washington, DC, Athletic Trainers' Association has prepared such legislation, but it has not been acted upon.

West Virginia has no athletic training regulations in effect, pending, or being prepared.

For additional information, contact the athletic training association within each state.



# Honors and Awards

## NATA Research Committee Announces Membership Grants Award

The NATA Research Committee is proud to announce the Membership Grants awards made in July 1991, to the following athletic trainers:

"Ankle Displacement Angles and Electromyographic Response of Anterior Tibialis and Peroneals in Lateral Ankle Sprains," Principal Investigator — **Mary Black Johnson, ATC**, San Diego State University.

"The Effects of Eccentric Hamstring Training and Agility Training in a Collegiate Athletic Training Internship Setting," Principal Investigator — **Mark Anderson, ATC**, University of Oklahoma.

"Professional Preparation Activities for the Student Athletic Trainer in a Collegiate Athletic Training Internship Setting," Principal Investigator — **Mary Allen Watson, ATC**, Lenoir-Rhyne College.

"EMG Evaluation of Closed and Open Kinetic Chain Knee Rehabilitation Exercises,"

Principal Investigator — **Vicky Graham, ATC**, Ball State University.

The findings of these research projects will be presented in future issues of the *Athletic Training*, *JNATA*, and at future research symposia at the Annual Meeting and Clinical Symposium.

The Membership Grants Program is designed to provide financial assistance to athletic trainers who wish to conduct research projects. The athletic trainers, as Principal Investigators, may apply for these grants. Application deadlines are March 1 and October 1 of each year. Applications are subsequently reviewed by a panel of sports medicine professionals, and awards are made semi-annually in January and July. Application materials for the program are available from the NATA national office at (800) TRY-NATA. Interested athletic trainer researchers are encouraged to apply.

To ensure the success of the NATA Membership Grants Program, all Membership Grants applications are reviewed by a panel of sports medicine professionals who are selected for their specific expertise in a particular area. The review panels are made up of athletic trainers and recognized professionals from specific disciplines associated with sports medicine.

The Research Committee continually is looking for volunteers to sit on Membership Grants review panels. If you or your colleagues would like to participate, please submit a request for consideration for appointment to the Review Pool. Include a copy of your professional vita. These requests and any questions should be addressed to John W. Powell, PhD, ATC, Research Committee Chair, 1189 RCP-UIHC, 200 Hawkins Road, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242, (319) 335-7350.

## NATA Launches National Public Relations Campaign

The NATA is promoting athletic training in a variety of ways throughout the United States. The public relations campaign began in June 1991 when a new brochure, *Athletic Training Career Information*, was published. The NATA plans to introduce more promotional materials such as posters, brochures, a video, and a new NATA logo over the coming months. These efforts are designed to increase the public's awareness of athletic trainers and the important role that they play. Some of the upcoming projects include:

### Athletic Training Brochures

*Athletic Training Career Information* gives a brief history of the NATA, the definition of a certified athletic trainer, guidelines on becoming a certified athletic trainer, and information on financial assistance for students. The brochure is intended to provide interested students with information about athletic training and a source—the NATA—to contact for more detailed information.

Another brochure that will feature in-depth information on pursuing an athletic

training career will be published by the end of 1991. This brochure will be a follow up to *Athletic Training Career Information* and will be distributed to students who have received the first brochure and have additional questions about becoming an athletic trainer. Both brochures promote the profession and the association.

### Anti-Drug Use Poster Campaign

In August 1991, the NATA began working on a poster campaign to deter athletes from using illegal drugs. The campaign features two posters: an anti-steroid use and an anti-cocaine use poster. The free posters will be distributed to every high school in the United States.

### Career Video

The NATA is filming a 15-minute video that will give students a glimpse of what a career in athletic training would involve. Basketball star Magic Johnson will be featured in the video, along with certified NATA members. Athletic trainers will be shown in action, so that viewers will see the "hands-on" work that athletic trainers per-

form. The video is being filmed on location in San Francisco, CA, and Washington, DC, by Horizons Video and Television, Inc. Look for the video to be ready for distribution in November.

### New NATA Logo

The Board of Directors recently approved a new logo for the NATA. The new design is representative of the

important role that athletic trainers play in health care and sports medicine. The new logo features traditional symbols for sports and medicine, and reflects the recent recognition of athletic training as an allied health profession by the American Medical Association. This logo will help increase the public's recognition of athletic trainers as health professionals. This design will become the official NATA logo in January 1992.





# Audio & Video Cassettes

## of the

### NATA 42nd Annual Meeting and Clinical Symposium

Selected sessions of the 1991 NATA Annual Meeting and Clinical Symposium are available on audio and video tapes from AVW Audio Visual, Inc. You can order these cassettes by mailing or faxing the order form with payment to AVW at the address below. Don't delay... Order Today!

Name of the seminar	Audio	Video
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PFATS Seminar: Risk Reduction and Management: The Best Offense is a Good Defense	<input type="checkbox"/> NATA03. . . \$17.00	
PBATS Seminar: The Dangers of Smokeless Tobacco Use in Athletics	<input type="checkbox"/> NATA04. . . \$17.00	
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Dealing with Catastrophic Injury or Death of Your Athlete	<input type="checkbox"/> NATA16. . . \$8.50	<input type="checkbox"/> NATA16V. . . \$20.00
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An Update on Medical Ethics	<input type="checkbox"/> NATA22. . . \$17.00	
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FREE COMMUNICATIONS — Russell, Guskiewicz, Dolan, Pressly	<input type="checkbox"/> NATA26. . . \$8.50	
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FREE COMMUNICATIONS — Cramer, Draper, Reynolds, Hellwig	<input type="checkbox"/> NATA29. . . \$8.50	
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FREE COMMUNICATIONS — Harrelson, Lepp, Martin, Wilkerson	<input type="checkbox"/> NATA31. . . \$8.50	
FREE COMMUNICATIONS — Dolk, Fisher, Scotch	<input type="checkbox"/> NATA32. . . \$8.50	
Androgenic Anabolic Steroids: An Update	<input type="checkbox"/> NATA33. . . \$8.50	
Brachial Plexus Injuries	<input type="checkbox"/> NATA34. . . \$8.50	<input type="checkbox"/> NATA34V. . . \$20.00
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# National Office News



Jan Martin

This spotlight on the staff members who work diligently "behind the scenes" to keep national and district programs running smoothly is a regular feature of the *NATA News*.

**Jan Martin** is one of the newest additions to the NATA National Office staff in Dallas. Jan's primary responsibility is that of receptionist, but her professional background with associations makes her an asset in other areas as well. Before joining NATA in July 1991, Jan worked for the National Business Association in Dallas where, as an administrative assistant to the vice president, she assisted with the licens-

ing of insurance agents.

Most of Jan's spare time is spent taking care of her six-month-old son, Garrett. When her husband Charles steps in to help with the baby, Jan enjoys using her creative talents for such things as redecorating her new house.

For Jan, redecorating includes everything from laying tiles to painting the walls. Jan also uses her skills to coordinate weddings. This involves making all of the dresses, including the bride's, and preparing all of the flower arrangements.

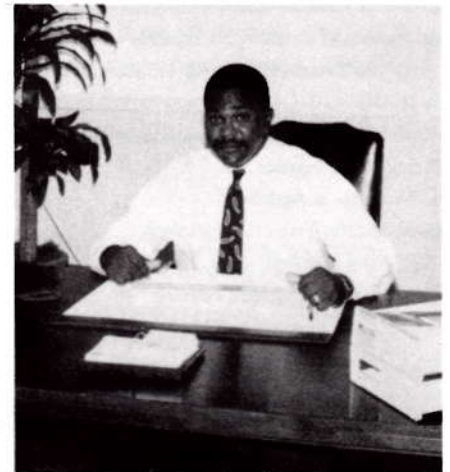
Jan's patience and her friendly voice make her a valuable asset to the NATA staff.

Another newcomer to the NATA staff in Dallas is **Dwayne Turner**. Dwayne serves as the manager of information services/membership director. He joined the group in July 1991. In his new position, Dwayne's first project is to convert the association database from an IBM System 36 to the new IBM AS/400 computer system. Fortunately, he has extensive experiences with computers and is prepared to handle any problem involved in converting from one system to another.

A native of Enid, OK, Dwayne moved to Dallas in 1983 after graduating from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Since then, he has worked in real estate and

in banking for various companies, including NCNB. Most of Dwayne's experience is in evaluating and reorganizing projects to ensure that each is running as efficiently as possible. One of his primary responsibilities at NATA will be using this knowledge to reorganize the membership department to better serve the members.

In his spare time, Dwayne enjoys a variety of activities. One of his favorite pastimes is collecting old jazz music. At last count, he owned more than 200 albums and 189 compact discs. According to Dwayne, his love of jazz music comes from the days when his father played the trumpet in a band.



Dwayne Turner



Linda Tilley

**Linda Tilley** has been with NATA since 1989. As the accounting department manager, Linda is in charge of all financial matters for the association and serves on the Budget and Finance Committee. As part of her duties, Linda is responsible for overseeing all investments for the association, all accounts receivable and payable, and all payroll and personnel records. Fortunately for the staff and members of NATA, Linda is a seasoned employee and is frequently the source of valuable information.

Linda is married to Patrick Tilley and has two daughters, Angela and Meridith. Both daughters have followed in their

father's footsteps and enlisted in the Navy. Because her children have moved out of the house, Linda is once again enjoying a quiet house with her husband, a cat, and two dogs.

When she is not busy preparing care packages for Angela and Meridith, she enjoys spending her time sewing or cross-stitching. Her latest extracurricular activity is Tae Kwon Do. As a participant in this class, she is learning the art of self-defense, which she feels is important for everyone to know.

Linda's immediate goal in Tae Kwon Do is to earn a yellow belt. After that, she intends to take up scuba diving.



# National Athletic Trainers' Association

## National and District Meetings in 1992

43<sup>RD</sup> NATA Annual Meeting and Clinical Symposium

June 3 to 6

Colorado Convention Center • Denver, CO

**DISTRICTS 1 and 2** - January 5 to 7

Boston Marriott at Copley Place  
Boston, MA

Meeting Coordinator: Don Kessler  
(908) 932-5124

**DISTRICT 3** - May 15 to 17

Cavalier Hotel  
Virginia Beach, VA

Meeting Coordinator: Marty Bradley  
(804) 683-3383

**DISTRICT 4** - March 12 to 14

Adams Mark Hotel  
Indianapolis, IN

Meeting Coordinator: Roger Kalisiak  
(708) 882-8006

**DISTRICT 5** - March 20 to 22

Nebraska Continuing Education Center  
Lincoln, NE

Meeting Coordinator: Sheila Lammert  
(402) 436-1303

**DISTRICT 6** - July 21 to 25

Arlington Convention Center  
Arlington, TX

Meeting Coordinator: Pete Carlon  
(817) 273-2261

**DISTRICT 7** - March 20 to 22

Albuquerque Hilton  
Albuquerque, NM

Meeting Coordinator: Bill Lyons  
(307) 766-2305

**DISTRICT 8** - June 28 to July 1

Fess Parker Red Lion Inn Resort  
Santa Barbara, CA

Meeting Coordinator: Bill Chambers  
(714) 879-5227

**DISTRICT 9** - July 13 to 15

Holiday Inn Downtown  
Jackson, MS

Meeting Coordinator: Jim Gallaspy  
(601) 266-5577

**DISTRICT 10** - March 20 to 22

Red Lion Inn  
Portland, OR

Meeting Coordinator: Jim Wallis  
(503) 725-4073

## Risk Management Publication Protects Trainers from Liability

*From the Gym to the Jury* is one of the sports industry's leading sources for legal trends and litigation analysis. This publication is designed to assist athletic trainers and other sports administrators to avoid the pitfalls of liability and litigation. The newsletter will keep athletic trainers informed of changes in this costly and often complex aspect of sports. *From the Gym to the Jury* provides an analysis of recent cases and trends in sports related litigation. Other features include risk management strategies, legislative updates, safety concerns, and news briefs.

Newsletter co-editors, Ronald Baron and Herb Appenzeller, are nationally rec-

ognized experts in sports litigation and risk management. Their professional services have been retained by professional teams, colleges and universities, major athletic associations, school districts, and insurance carriers.

NATA members who subscribe to *From the Gym to the Jury* will be offered a reduced subscription rate of \$40 for four quarterly issues; the standard rate is \$48.

For subscription information, please contact the Center for Sports Law & Risk Management, Inc., 8080 North Central Expressway, Suite 400, Dallas, Texas 75206, or call (214) 360-9691.

## REMINDER

Applications are available from the NATA headquarters for Curriculum, Postgraduate, and Undergraduate scholarships. The applications must be completed and returned to the NATA by February 1, 1992.

Scholarship winners will receive their awards at the NATA Annual Meeting and Clinical Symposium in Denver, CO, June 3 to 6, 1992.

For additional information, contact Teresa Foster in the national office at 1-800-TRY-NATA.



# You are invited!!

**To:** NATA 43<sup>RD</sup> Annual Meeting  
& Clinical Symposium

**For:** NATA members, guests, &  
interested parties

**Date:** June 3-6, 1992

**Place:** Colorado Convention Center  
Denver, CO

**Given By:** National Athletic  
Trainers' Association

**RSVP:** Early Registration Packets  
Arriving in January!!



# Olympic Magnet School Provides Students a Gold Medal Education

A unique school in Kansas City, MO, is drawing attention for its curriculum, which is based on traditions thousands of years old. Central Classical Greek High School is the nation's first Classical Greek magnet school. It focuses on the ancient ideal of a sound mind in a sound body. After students study English, math, and science, they swim in an Olympic-size pool, study sports biology, and measure their bodies' reactions in the human performance laboratory.

Paul Wilson, ATC, is Head Athletic Trainer at Central Classical Greek and has been at the school since it opened on September 3, 1991. Wilson came to the school after serving as Head Athletic Trainer at the University of Missouri at Kansas City for one year. Wilson is a graduate of Morningside College in Sioux City, IA, and attended the University of Kansas, where he obtained a graduate degree while serving as assistant athletic trainer. He has been an athletic trainer for three years.

Wilson explained that the school is divided into two sections: the Greek section and the computer section. Students in the computer program take typical academic classes throughout the week, as well as classical art, archaeology, and debate. They devote 95 minutes, three days per week, to physical development. Those enrolled in the Greek program take similar academic classes, but engage in athletics more often than the computer program students.

"Working as an athletic trainer at this school is different than working in a typical high school because the sports are different," said Wilson. "Central Classical Greek has both interscholastic sports, such as football and basketball, and Greek sports, like kayaking, fencing, Olympic weightlifting, synchronized swimming, wrestling, and water polo." Wilson works with the Greek sports.

The variety of sports offered at the magnet school is not the only thing that sets this unusual institution apart; the facilities at the school are impressive.

Central Greek offers students the use of an eight-lane, 50-meter pool with an injury prevention bubble and an underwater observation window, a 42,000-square foot fieldhouse that includes six volleyball courts, three basketball courts, racquetball courts, and a six-lane indoor running track. Outside facilities include an eight-lane, 400-meter track, tennis courts, and football, soccer, and rugby fields.

Wilson described the school as an Olympic preparatory school. "Students get to work with Olympic coaches and [other] Olympic-potential athletes," stated Wilson. Indeed, the school is expected to attract students with outstanding athletic talent because of its Olympic development program. This program, which was designed jointly between the high school and the United States Olympic Committee, offers talented athletes an opportunity to rigorously train and compete in one particular sport, while pursuing core academic subjects.

Brenda Gray, Curriculum Coordinator, summed up the philosophy of the school, "We use balance to develop the intellect; it takes the brain and the body to be successful." Central Classical Greek High School has a waiting list of students who want to enroll.

"Moving to this position has been quite a change for me," Wilson reflected. "It has been a change for the better. I have the chance to work with many different sports, younger athletes, and quality coaches."

Central Classical Greek High School is looking for interns to help with the heavy demand for athletic trainers. Wilson thinks that an internship at the school would be beneficial to athletic trainers as it would expose them to up-and-coming, Olympic-quality athletes and Olympic sports. If you are interested in learning more about an internship, contact Roy Flook, Program Administrator, at Central Classical Greek High School, 3221 Indiana, Kansas City, MO 64128, (816) 871-8907.

## Amateur Athletic Union, MARSTM MILKYWAYTM Gives Scholarship

For the sixth consecutive year, the Amateur Athletic Union/MARSTM MILKYWAYTM High School All-American Award and college scholarship program will recognize outstanding high school seniors. The nationwide program honors well-rounded young men and women who excel in academics, athletics, and community service. This year, 102 scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$40,000 will be awarded.

One young man and one young woman from each state will be selected as State Recipients and will each be awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship. From those State Recipients, eight Regional Recipients will be selected and will be awarded a college scholarship totalling \$10,000 each. Two of the Regional Recipients will be selected as National Recipients, and each will be awarded scholarships totalling \$40,000 over four years.

The eight Regional Recipients, along with their parents and a school representative also will be awarded an expense-paid trip to New York City in April 1992. There, the students will be recognized for their achievements at a special awards ceremony, which will be attended by prominent educators, Olympians, and community leaders.

According to Mary Ellen Dougherty, spokesperson for M&M/MARS, the Amateur Athletic Union/MARSTM MILKYWAY High School All-American Award recognizes students who are committed to the service of others as well as to their own success. "Through this award, we acknowledge students who contribute to the well-being of others, while pursuing academic advancement and athletic achievement," stated Dougherty.

All graduating high school seniors are eligible for nomination. Nomination forms are available through high school guidance counselor offices, or from the Amateur Athletic Union, 3400 West 86th Street, P.O. Box 68207, Indianapolis, IN 46268. All nominations must be postmarked no later than December 2, 1991. The Amateur Athletic Union and a panel of nationally recognized educators, athletes, and community service leaders will judge the nominations.



# Calendar of Events

## October 10-12

### **Ottawa, Ontario, Canada**

*North American Academy of Musculoskeletal Medicine Annual Meeting*

Contact: Barbara Johns, Executive Director, NAAMM, 7611 Elmwood Avenue, Suite 202, Middleton, WI 53562.

## October 14-15

### **Kona, HI**

*Sportsmedicine Seminar in Conjunction with the Ironman Triathlon World Championship*

Contact: James Van, Tropical Seminars, Box 1399, Poulsbo, WA 98370.

## October 24

### **Indianapolis, IN**

*Indiana Athletic Trainers' Association Annual Fall Meeting and Symposium*

Contact: Vincent G. Stilger, Applied Health Science-HPER, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405, (812) 855-2250.

## October 24-26

### **Kingston, Ontario, Canada**

*Canadian Association of Sports Sciences*

Contact: Joan M. Stevenson, PhD, School of PHE, Queen's University, Kingston, ON, Canada K7L3N6.

## October 26-27

### **St. Louis, MO**

*Eccentric/Isokinetic Exercise-Clinical Concepts*

Contact: The Dogwood Institute, Inc., P.O. Box 566095, Atlanta, GA 30356-6002, (800) 533-2440.

## November 8-9

### **Rochester, MN**

*First Annual Mayo Symposium on Sports Medicine*

Contact: Barbara McLeod, Postgraduate Courses, Section of Continuing Education, Mayo Foundation, Rochester, MN 55905.

## November 8-10

### **Huntington, WV**

*Fifth Annual Family Practice Weekend and Sports Medicine Conference*

Contact: Bill Ferrell, 4760 Fire Creek Road, Charleston, WV 25313, (304) 776-1178.

## November 9-10

### **Atlanta, GA**

*Isokinetic Exercise-Clinical Concepts*

Contact: The Dogwood Institute, Inc., P.O. Box 566095, Atlanta, GA 30356-6002, (800) 533-2440.

## November 15-16

### **Boston, MA**

*Sports Nutrition Intensive Workshop*

Contact: Nancy Clark, MS, RD, Sports Nutrition Workshop, SportsMedicine Brookline, 830 Boylston Street, Brookline, MA 02167, (617) 731-5800.

## November 22-23

### **East Rutherford, NJ**

*Fourth Annual Meadowlands Sports Medicine Symposium*

Contact: Debbie Dieter, PT, Professional Sports Care Meadowlands, 405 Murray Hill Parkway, East Rutherford, NJ 07073, (201) 933-1112.

## November 23

### **Albany, GA**

*Taking Charge of Wound Management*

Contact: Beth Wilson, PT, The Sports Medicine Center, 810 13th Avenue, Albany, GA 31701, (912) 435-6838.

## December 6-7

### **Washington, DC**

*Sports Nutrition Intensive Workshop*

Contact: Nancy Clark, MS, RD, Sports Nutrition Workshop, SportsMedicine Brookline, 830 Boylston Street, Brookline, MA 02167, (617) 731-5800.

## December 7

### **Gwynedd Valley, PA**

*Sports Physical Therapists, Inc., Athletic Trainers Symposium*

Contact: Tony Viggiano, Gwynedd-Mercy Sports Medicine Center, 1345 Sumneytown Pike, P.O. Box 639, Gwynedd Valley, PA 19437, (215) 542-9900, or Linda Lincoln, (215) 985-9390.

## ***Electrotherapy and Ultrasound Update***

Contact: International Academy of Physio Therapeutics, 2797 SW Plass Avenue, Topeka, KS 66611, (913) 233-6072.

## October 13-14

### **Cleveland, OH**

## November 23-24

### **Chicago, IL**

## December 7-8

### **Raleigh, NC**

## December 7-8

### **Rochester, MI**

## December 14-15

### **Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

The NATA News will list events of interest to persons involved in sports medicine if the information is received by November 1, 1991, for the December publication. Please enclose all pertinent details, including the name and address of the person to contact for further information. Send the notification to: Dr. Jeff Fair, Head Athletic Trainer, Athletic Department, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078, or to NATA News, 569 Southlake Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23236, Phone (800) 800-NATA, FAX (804) 379-0648.

**We want you to keep up with the News.  
Send your change of address to:**

## **NATA**

2952 Stemmons Freeway  
Dallas, TX 75247  
(800) TRY-NATA



# Medical Update

## Radial Keratotomy: An Alternative for Myopic Athletes

By Nina Partin, MEd, ATC

Approximately one-fourth of the world's population is myopic.<sup>1</sup> Myopia creates a dependence on various types of corrective lenses, and for some individuals, it can be a very disabling condition. Corrective lenses are inconvenient, troublesome, and expensive. Many myopic people have expressed dissatisfaction with the continued use of corrective lenses. For this reason, corrective surgery has become an attractive alternative for many, especially athletes.

Over the past few years, a corrective surgical procedure called radial keratotomy has been developed. It alters the refractive power of the cornea. Three physicians, L.D. Bores, W. Myers, and J. Cowden, began performing the procedure in the United States in 1978, and it has been used frequently in the past decade.<sup>2</sup> The procedure involves making anterior incisions radially into the peripheral cornea, usually to a depth of 90 to 95% of the corneal thickness. These incisions weaken the peripheral cornea and allow intraocular pressure to push it out, which flattens it and reduces its refractive power.<sup>3</sup>

The best results are achieved in patients with less than -3 diopters (D) of myopia preoperatively. Success is viewed as a postoperative corrected acuity of 20/40 or better. Some researchers reported that for persons with less than -3 D of myopia, between 95 to 97% were corrected to an acuity of 20/40 or better. Sixty-five percent of the same group achieved an acuity of 20/20 or better. Also, the use of correc-

tive lenses was not needed post-operatively.

As with any corrective surgical procedure, complications are possible. The potential complications can be divided into three areas: 1) signs and symptoms that occur temporarily as part of the procedure, 2) signs and symptoms that persist, but do not decrease the best corrected visual acuity, and 3) complications that potentially or actually disrupt visual function.<sup>4</sup>

Temporary pain, including aching, foreign body sensation, and throbbing, can last 24 to 48 hours. Also, irritating glare commonly occurs for a few months after surgery. In some cases, unplanned under- or overcorrection can occur, requiring patients to continue wearing corrective lenses. Those who will continue to need corrective lenses after the surgical procedure can use rigid gas-permeable lenses. Soft lenses, especially extended wear, often induce vascularization of the peripheral keratotomy scars and cannot be used.

The worst complication could be a decrease in visual acuity by two lines or more on the Snellen Eye Chart. This may not be correctable in some patients. Irregular astigmatism can cause persistent ghost images or monocular diplopia contributing to decreased visual function. Mild or moderate glare occasionally persists beyond the usual three to six months.<sup>5</sup>

Potentially blinding complications, though rare, may occur after radial keratotomy. Perforation of the cornea during surgery can lead to infection, ingrowth, or traumatic cataract. Satisfaction with radial keratotomy depends upon the postoperative visual acuity and stability of vision.<sup>4</sup>

The unpredictability of the refractive outcome stems from several factors, including: 1) the biological variability among individuals; 2) the variation in surgical techniques among surgeons; 3) the difficulty a surgeon may have in making all incisions uniform; and 4) the incomplete ability to measure and control the biomechanical properties of the cornea.<sup>4</sup> Improvements in the surgery are occurring, though.

The goal of radial keratotomy is to correct the refractive error of myopia. It is an elective surgery, because alternate methods and managements of acuity correction are available, including glasses and contact lenses. Selection of the best alternative should be based on the patient's personal needs and on the ophthalmologist's and patient's assessment of the risks and benefits involved. Those interested in this procedure should contact a local ophthalmologist for more information and advice.

### REFERENCES:

1. Curtin, BJ: *The Myopias: Basic Science and Clinical Management*. Philadelphia: Harper and Row, 1985.
2. Bores, LD, Cowden, J, and Myers, W: Radial keratotomy: an analysis of the American experience. *Ann Ophthalmol* 13:941-948, 1981.
3. Waring, GO: Rationale for and design of the National Eye Institute Prospective Evaluation of Radial Keratotomy (PERK) Study. *Ophthalmology* 90:40-58, 1983.
4. Review article, American Academy of Ophthalmology. *Ophthalmology* 95(5):671-687, 1989.
5. Bores, LD: Historical review and clinical results of radial keratotomy. *International Ophthalmol Clinical* 23:93-118, 1983.

Let your fellow  
NATA members  
know what  
you're doing...

Beginning in January 1992, the *NATA News* will become a monthly news magazine devoted to members' concerns, interests, and activities. Send any district news, local happenings, related photographs (which will be returned), editorials, or other articles to *NATA News*, c/o VHC, 569 Southlake Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23236, FAX (804) 379-0648. Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number.



# Budget Cuts Spark Debate about Athletic Trainers' Role

*"Five language club advisors, four drama advisors, three athletic trainers, two flag corps advisors, and a bus aide. I'm sorry, those seem like very unnecessary positions to be paid for. I had always considered some of these positions honorary."*

This quote was taken from an editorial that was published in the April 17, 1991, edition of the *Huber Heights (OH) Courier*. The need for more education about athletic training probably has never been demonstrated more clearly.

The situation that precipitated this letter was a debate on a controversial local tax hike that would have maintained several positions in the school system's ailing budget.

Among those positions in danger if the tax increase were not implemented were Wayne High School's three athletic trainer

positions. The editorialist wrote, "Let's face facts and be realistic, some of these cuts should have been made a long time ago."

Greg Smart, the sports editor of the *Courier*, decided to take issue with the writer. "It is the opinion of this writer that the athletic trainer position at Wayne High School is an essential position to the Wayne athletic program," Smart wrote in his rebuttal.

Smart cited the potential for lawsuits being filed against schools that were not properly prepared to handle injuries to athletes as one reason that athletic trainers are so crucial to an athletic program.

Wayne Athletic Director Glenn Hunter concurred. "You can't afford to mismanage an injury in today's society where people are suing left and right," Hunter said. "The liability is just unbelievable."

Smart said that the three athletic trainer positions mentioned were all held by one person, Physical Education/Health Instructor Jeannie Muir, ATC. The positions are split up into fall, winter, and spring sessions, accounting for the variance of hours worked by Muir during those three seasons.

Muir devoted from 25 to 60 hours per week to her athletic training duties, depending on the sports season, and received \$7,600 for this service. The positions were cut, and Muir found herself out of two jobs, also losing her physical and health education instructor position to budget cuts. She now is employed by the nearby St. Elizabeth's Sports Medicine Center. The Huber Heights school system eventually raised enough money to reinstate extracurricular activities. Muir has been contracted to work with the Wayne High School athletic program.

## Letters to the Editor

### Future Directions Survey

I have a concern regarding the NATA future directions survey currently being completed by our membership. The instrument assumes that respondents are primarily clinicians. It ignores completely both the role and needs of the full-time athletic training academician/educator and researcher.

Ultimately, for the athletic training profession to develop and mature, it must establish its own body of knowledge. The transmission of this knowledge to entry-level professionals through effective and proven instructional methods is also critically important. The actual practice or clinical application of athletic training should have shared importance (Osternig, *Athletic Training*, JNATA 23(3):223, 1988). I feel that we are emphasizing the latter and, therefore, taking an unbalanced approach. In the physical therapy profession, for example, members associated with higher education took a more active role in attempting to shape dominant professional values (Jensen, paper presented at meeting of American Educational Research Association, 1987). Athletic training would also likely benefit from its faculty resources in higher education.

The role of the athletic training acade-

mician, researcher, and scholar is vital to the future of the NATA. It will be this specialist who can more ably and competently foster the body of knowledge and its transmission. In addition to being a certified athletic trainer with several years of experience, this person would typically hold a Ph.D. degree and be on a tenure-track academic appointment as a college/university faculty member. Although both the number of these types of positions and the pool of candidates for them are limited (Perrin, *Athletic Training*, JNATA 23(1):41, 1988), they are fortunately steadily increasing. However, my careful observation over recent years is that there is often little or no competition for these positions. Searches are frequently extended or aborted.

It is my sincere hope for the future that the NATA will develop a new mentality towards both the role and needs of the athletic training academician, researcher, and scholar. I feel that the NATA should be promoting and encouraging this specialization.

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