
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The RESNA Special Interest Groups (SIGs) respond to the long-felt need for a communication network within the rehabilitation community; one that would address the diverse needs of consumers, physicians, engineers, providers, therapists, and industry.

Each SIG provides a forum for exchanging information relating to its area of specialty, and through the SIG program a cross-fertilization of ideas among the various disciplines occurs. Members have responded enthusiastically to this opportunity, which not only fulfills the need for networking but also makes it possible for them to participate directly in formulating and implementing policies that enhance the delivery of technology to disabled persons.

Twenty-one SIGs have been established, and others will be formed as the need and demand arises. A brief description of the planned activities for each SIG follows. Common goals of all SIGs are developing instructional courses, participating in paper and/or poster sessions at annual conferences, developing resource databanks, and sponsoring regional groups and meetings.

SIG-01 Service Delivery & Public Policy represents two distinctly different groups from within Rehabilitation; the Service Delivery Practitioner, who routinely provides technologies to assist the disabled; and those individuals actively involved in shaping the Public Policies, which ultimately enhance these services. **Chair:** Marilyn Preston Killingham, ULS/ADP, 1100 Sixth St SW, Washington, DC 20024, 202/484-1976, Fax: 202/484-1976.

SIG-02 Personal Transportation includes among its objectives communication and interaction with SIG-09, Wheeled Mobility & Seating, and a survey of driver education and training programs. **Chair:** Maureen Linden, Ctr for Rehab Tech, Helen Hayes Hospital, Route 9W, West Haverstraw, NY 10993, 914/786-4464, Fax: 914/786-4910, email: <mal_ny@juno.com>.

SIG-03 Augmentative & Alternative Communication focuses on establishing liaison with other groups with similar objectives, interacting with other SIGs, and developing and promoting consumer participation in the SIG. **Chair:** Cathy Bodine, Univ of Colorado, A036-B140, 1919 Ogden St, Denver, CO 80218, 303/864-5111, Fax: 303/864-5119, email: <cathy.bodine@uchsc.edu>.

SIG-04 Dysphagia: Eating, Swallowing & Saliva Control provides a forum for professionals dedicated to technological advancements in eating, swallowing, saliva control, and related issues. It also fosters networking, information dissemination, and sponsors special programs during the annual conference. **Chair:** Carrie Brown, Innovative Human Services, 4636 Cherokee Trail, Dallas, TX 75209-1907, 214/350-5350, Fax: 214/902-9692, email: <cbr949@airmail.net>.

SIG-05 Quantitative Assessment focuses on human performance measurement, biomechanics (quantifying performance), and quantitative assessments in clinical/nonclinical contexts. A primary goal is to achieve widespread recognition of the needs for appropriate quantitative methods and tools. Expanded use of such methods is sought to improve accountability, systematic methods of service delivery, and scientific foundations of rehabilitation engineering. **Co-Chairs:** Jeffrey Jutai, Bloorview MacMillan Centre, 350 Rumsey Rd, Toronto, ON M4G

1R8, Canada, 416/425-6220 x3509, Fax: 416/425-1634, email: <ortcjj@oise.utoronto.ca>; Michael Rosen, National Rehab Hospital, 102 Irving St, NW, Washington, DC 20010, 202/877-1960, email: <mjr2@mhg.edu>.

SIG-06 Special Education focuses on issues related to developing and applying assistive technologies for the instruction of children and young adults who are disabled. Planned activities include formulating a research agenda, creating an electronic bulletin board system, establishing a public domain software library, and linking with other professional societies. **Chair:** Christine Appert, Kluge Children's Rehab Center, 2270 Ivy Rd, Charlottesville, VA 22903, 804/982-0844, Fax: 804/982-3744, email: <chrissa@virginia.edu>.

SIG-07 Technology Transfer has identified several issues that demand attention, and initially is addressing three: The problems that confront scientists and inventors when they attempt technology transfer, evaluating existing technology transfer efforts, and education and training. **Chair:** Brian Kon, AZtech, Inc, 2495 Main St, Suite 418, Buffalo, NY 14214, 716/833-7870, Fax: 716/833-7874, email: <kon@acsu.buffalo.edu>.

SIG-08 Sensory Loss & Technology is addressing ways to ensure greater exposure for this discipline through RESNA conferences in both scientific sessions and in exhibit demonstrations. **Chair:** William Gerrey, Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Center, 2318 Fillmore St, San Francisco, CA 94115, 415/3452124, email: <bilge@ski.org>.

SIG-09 Wheeled Mobility & Seating is the largest SIG and has formed regional groups. Major activities include mechanisms for dissemination of information and identification of resources. **Chair:** David Brienza, Univ of Pittsburgh, SHRS-RST, 5044 Forbes Tower, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, 412/647-1275, Fax: 412/647-1277, email: <dbrienza@pitt.edu>.

SIG-10 Electrical Stimulation devotes most of its effort to establishing a broader understanding of electrical stimulation through greater visibility at RESNA conferences. **Co-Chairs:** Ronald Triolo, Cleveland FES Center, 11000 Cedar Ave, Suite 230, Cleveland, OH 44106-3052, 216/778-7877, Fax: 216/231-3258, email: <rxt24@po.cwru.edu>; James Abbas, Univ of Kentucky, Ctr for Biomedical Engineering, Lexington, KY 40506-0070, 606/25-4261, Fax: 606/257-1856, email: <abbas@pop.uky.edu>.

SIG-11 Computer Applications has an ambitious program that includes adopting a position paper, a computer bulletin board, developing and publishing software guidelines, creating a member expertise list, and promoting consumer involvement in the SIG. **Chair:** Glen Ashlock, Ann Arbor CIL, 2568 Packard, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, 734/971-0277, Fax: 734/971-0826, email: <gha@aacil.org>.

SIG-12 Rural Rehabilitation has four subcommittees to address specific issues: 1) service delivery mechanisms, 2) information dissemination methods, 3) mechanisms to discuss case problems and solutions that are unique to rural rehabilitation and 4) disincentives to rural rehabilitation service delivery such as liability and warranty issues. **Chair:** Ned Stoller, Breaking New Ground Resource Center, Purdue Univ, 1146 ABE Bldg, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1146, 765/494-5088, Fax: 765/496-1356, email: <stoller@pasture.ecn.purdue.edu>.

SIG-13 Assistive Robotics & Mechatronics addresses the unique problems associated with using industrial robotics technology to serve the vocational and daily living needs of physically disabled persons. Members apply their skills to human/robot control and communication strategies, robot sensors for rehabilitative applications and vocational opportunities for disabled users of robots. **Co-Chair:** Holly Yanco, MIT AT Lab, 545 Technology Square, Room 705, Cambridge, MA 02139, 617/253-8829, Fax: 617/258-6287, email: <holly@ai.mit.edu>; Tariq Rahman, Extended Manipulation Lab, Al duPont Inst, Univ of Delaware, 1600 Rockland Rd, Wilmington, DE 19899, 302/651-6830, Fax: 302/651-6895, email: <rahman@asel.udel.edu>.

SIG-14 Job Accommodation provides a means for sharing solutions to problems in the provision of job accommodations and is a resource in the area of employment issues. **Chair:** Mike Anderson, CPR Fdn of Kansas, 5111 E 21st N, PO Box 8217, Wichita, KS 67208, 316/651-5212, Fax: 316/651-5206, email: <mikea@cprf.org>.

SIG-15 Information Networking serves as a forum for those producing or providing rehabilitation technology-related information and attempting to better coordinate information and networking efforts. **Chair:** Vacant.

SIG-16 Gerontology addresses the technical needs of the disabled elderly. Needs guidelines and resource inventories are being generated with a focus on technical means of improving the quality of life for this large population. **Chair:** Anne Long Morris, Elder Care Solutions, 8423 Thames St, Springfield, VA 22151, 703/425-6399, Fax: 703/425-6301, email: <almorris@erols.com>.

SIG-17 International Appropriate Technology is a new forum for the many RESNA members who are actively interested in providing rehab technology and services to people in the Third World and other limited-resource countries. Activities will include interchange of information at the annual conference, through RESNA publications and through a personal contact network. **Co-Chairs:** Peter Axelson, Beneficial Designs, 5858 Empire Grade, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, 408/429-8447, Fax: 408/423-8450, email: <peter@beneficialdesigns.com>; Denise Chesney, Beneficial Designs, 5858 Empire Grade, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, 831/429-8447, Fax: 831/423-8450, email: <denise@beneficialdesigns.com>.

SIG-18 Tech Act facilitates communication among state Tech Act project directors, staff, consumers and other interested persons with a focus on common issues, policies and processes that enhance technology services for persons with disabilities. **Chair:** Marion Pawlek, Community Alliance for Human Services, 3 Gilson Rd, West Lebanon, NH 03784, 603/643-3009, email: <marion.j.pawlek@valley.net>.

SIG-19 Universal Access works to provide mechanics for people interested in a more accessible world to communicate, network, educate and promote this concept. **Chair:** Molly Story, Center for Universal Design, 16438 E Dorado Ave, Aurora, CO 80015-4061, 303/699-8133, Fax: 303/699-4703, email: <molly_story@ncsu.edu>.

SIG-20 Cognitive Disabilities and Technology acts as a central place for the exchange of expertise and information on issues related to the applications of cognitive science and technologies to people with cognitive disabilities. The SIG intends to be cross disability in focus, including mental retardation, alzheimers, brain injury, mental illness, autism, learning disabilities and other conditions which affect cognitive processing. **Chair:** Edmund LoPresti, Univ of Pittsburgh, SHRS, 5044

Forbes Tower, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, 412/647-1283, Fax: 412/647-1277, email: <edloprestij@juno.com>.

SIG-21 Telerehabilitation The objective of this SIG is to address ways to meet the various challenges of telecommunication technologies including issues related to technology R&D, clinical implementation strategies, access by anyone from anywhere, and telehealth policy. **Chair:** Jack Winters, Catholic Univ of America, Dept of Biomedical Engineering, Pangborn Hall, Rm 105, 620 Michigan Ave NE, Washington, DC 20064, 202/319-5181, Fax: 202/319-4499, email: <winters@cua.edu>.

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGS)

I. The purpose of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) include the following:

1. To provide opportunities for the members of RESNA to address discrete areas of concern within the scope of rehabilitation, rehabilitation engineering, rehabilitation technology, and service.
2. To increase opportunities for participation and leadership in RESNA.
3. To promote and advance the purposes and activities of RESNA.

II. Relationship of SIGs to RESNA:

1. SIGs are elements of the RESNA structure and will act in a manner that is consistent with the Bylaws and policies of RESNA. Individual SIGs may undertake such activities as they (individual SIGs) deem appropriate that are compatible with RESNA as stated above. The manner in which these activities are determined and approved will be at the discretion of the individual SIG.
2. Communication between SIGs and the RESNA Board of Directors will be the responsibility of the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on SIGs.
3. If a SIG conducts a function* as an entity of RESNA or invokes the NAME or uses the LOGO of RESNA, the SIG must obtain permission from the RESNA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. This is not meant to be restrictive as permission will be freely given in all cases for legitimate activities; however, it is necessary for RESNA to be aware of activities in which it may have exposure. Correspondence with the RESNA Office should be forwarded to RESNA to the ATTENTION OF JAMES R GELETKA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. **A FUNCTION is defined as a meeting, instruction course, exhibit, publication, advocacy activity or any other activity in which information exchange or other public interaction occurs.*
4. If a SIG undertakes a function which is described or otherwise falls within the domain of activity of a RESNA STANDING COMMITTEE the SIG must provide information and (if appropriate) coordinate the activity with the Chairperson of the Standing Committee involved. In some cases it will be necessary to plan well in advance with the appropriate Standing Committee (e.g., Education Committee for preparation of an instructional course or Publications Committee if the development of a document for distribution is anticipated). The Chair and membership of all standing committees are provided with the membership list and Bylaws which are distributed to the membership annually.

III. The Standing Committee on SIGs:

The Special Interest Group (SIG) Standing Committee will consist of the respective chairpersons of the active SIGs and a Chairperson appointed by the President.

Responsibilities of the committee include:

1. Authorization for the formation of new SIGs.
2. Compiling an annual report on SIGs for submission to the RESNA Board.
3. Such other activities as become appropriate from time to time.

The chairperson of the standing committee is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the President of RESNA.

Responsibilities of the Chairperson include:

1. Serving as spokesperson SIGs to the RESNA Board.
2. Presentation of an annual report on SIGs to the RESNA Board.
3. Presiding over meetings of the Standing Committee.
4. Performing and/or delegating such functions and responsibilities as become necessary in the interest of SIGs.
5. Appointment of a Chairperson when a new SIG is authorized.

IV. SIG Officers:

A Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson will be elected to one-year terms at the RESNA Annual Conference by members of the SIG in attendance. ONLY RESNA MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING ARE ELIGIBLE FOR OFFICE.

Any other officers, committees, and committee chairpersons will be appointed by the SIG Chairperson as necessary.

1. Duties of the SIG Chairperson: Attend the RESNA Annual Conference and conduct meetings and other business; Assume responsibility for an annual report and reports of any meetings or other significant SIG activities to the Standing Committee; Conduct or be responsible for activities assigned to the SIG by RESNA (e.g., review of papers); Appoint committees or individuals for SIG activities as appropriate; Appoint a committee to make nominations for officers for elections.
2. Duties of the Vice-Chairperson: Assume the duties of the Chairperson in his/her absence; perform such duties as are assigned or delegated by the Chairperson.

V. Elections:

1. The Chairperson may present nominations for Chairperson-elect and Vice-Chairperson-elect or appoint a nominating committee to present nominations for these offices at the first business session of the SIG at the RESNA Annual Conference.
2. Additional nominations for chairperson and vice-chairperson may be made by any SIG member in good standing with the written permission of the prospective nominee after the Chairperson opens the floor for nominations.
3. The elections will be determined by a plurality vote of SIG members present.

VI. Formation and Dissolution of SIGs:

It is presumed that it will be in the interest of RESNA and its membership to form new SIGs and also to terminate, combine and/or split SIGs from time to time as a result of emerging technology, problems, new areas of interest and the like. The authorization for these actions will reside with the Standing Committee on SIGs. The initiation of such action may come from any member of RESNA, who will be obliged to petition for the action.

1. Criteria for the formation of a new SIG:
 - a. The proposed SIG will have a UNIQUE role or focus (i.e., it will not be redundant in any significant way with an existing SIG).
 - b. The proposed SIG will be compatible with the purposes and interests of RESNA.

- c. There must be a demonstrated interest. This will be documented by signatures of at least 15 RESNA members who agree to join the SIG.

2. Dissolution or de-activation of a SIG:

A SIG may be declared INACTIVE or DISSOLVED whenever the Standing Committee determines that there is insufficient interest to continue. If the condition is deemed temporary the Committee may choose to declare it inactive for a specified term. A change from INACTIVE status to ACTIVE will require a petition as in the case of the formation of a new SIG. If the latter does not occur within the specified term the SIG will automatically be dissolved.

VII. Newsletter:

RESNA maintains a Newsletter (**RESNA News**) which is published bi-monthly. Four pages have been reserved for SIGs in each issue. SIGs are encouraged to use this medium rather than developing individual newsletters. This does not obviate the prerogative of SIGs to issue occasional bulletins of special or timely interest to their individual memberships. The regular use of **RESNA News** is appropriate for communications in the interest of economy and the dissemination of SIG activities to the wider audience of the RESNA membership.

VIII. Budget:

A budget is allocated to SIGs by the Finance Committee. The amount is determined on the basis of the RESNA membership and is approved by the Board of Directors. Budget allotments are made to the individual SIGs as follows:

1. Budget applications are forwarded by each SIG chairperson to the Chair the Standing Committee on a standard form. Applications are due by the end of July.
2. The Standing Committee chair will review the applications received by July 31, and forward the requests with recommendations to the Finance Committee.