

PROFESSIONAL SPECIALTY GROUPS

PSG-1 Suppliers and Manufacturers is the home of the RTS, product designer and therapist working in a retail model. It is also the place for those who supply and/or manufacture rehab products, communication devices or environmental controls. **Chair:** Gerry Dickerson, A&J Care, Inc, 8000 Cooper Ave, Glendale, NY 11385, 718/326-8000, Fax: 718/326-4070, email: <gdcrts@aol.com>.

PSG-2 Physical Therapists provides the opportunity for physical therapists working in the field of assistive technology to meet, exchange information and promote the importance of assistive technology within the practice of physical therapy. **Chair:** Barbara Levy, Thoms Rehab Health Services, 68 Sweeten Creek Rd, Asheville, NC 28803, 828/274-2400 x4151, Fax: 828/274-4803, email: <levybs@aol.com>.

PSG-3 Occupational Therapists provides the opportunity for occupational therapists working in the field of assistive technology to meet, exchange information and promote the importance of assistive technology within the practice of occupational therapy. **Chair:** Joy Hammel, Univ of Illinois, Chicago, OT Dept, 1919 Taylor St, Rm 311 (MC-811), Chicago, IL 60612, 312/996-3513, Fax: 312/413-0256, email: <hammel@uic.edu>.

PSG-4 Rehab Engineers represents engineers within RESNA. Rehabilitation Engineers provide clinical services and participate in the research and development of assistive technology. PSG activities concern the requirements, qualifications and education required to practice rehabilitation engineering. **Chair:** Glenn Hedman, Univ of Illinois, Chicago, Assist Tech Unit, 1640 W Roosevelt, MC-626, Chicago, IL 60608-6904, 312/413-7784, Fax: 312/413-3709, email: <ghedman@uic.edu>.

PSG-5 Orthotists and Prosthetists endeavor to bring up to date assistive technology in the orthotic and prosthetic field. **Chair:** Vacant.

PSG-6 Speech-Language Pathologists/Audiologists provide the opportunity for SLP/As working in the field of AAC and assistive technology to meet and exchange information and concerns. PSG activities focus primarily on issues related to quality assurance and credentialing. **Chair:** Pat Ourand, 23 Kirwin Court, Baltimore, MD 21234, 410/661-8894, Fax: 410/661-3031, email: <pourand@home.com>.

PSG-7 Educators represent professionals interested in the application of assistive technology in the educational setting. Specific concerns represented by this PSG will be related to quality assurance and credentialing activities. **Chair:** Alan Cantor, Cantor & Assoc, 32 Queensdale Ave, Toronto, ON M4J 1X9, Canada, 416/406-5098, Fax: 416/406-5498, email:<acantor@interlog.com>.

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR PROFESSIONAL SPECIALTY GROUPS

I. The purposes of the Professional Specialty Groups (PSGs) include the following:

1. To provide a forum for members of RESNA to address concerns common to specific professional groups working in the field of assistive technology.
2. To promote the interest of assistive technology within the professional fields represented by the PSGs.
3. To increase opportunities for participation and leadership in RESNA.

4. To promote and advance the purposes and activities of RESNA.

II. Relationship of PSGs to RESNA:

1. Communications between PSGs and the RESNA Board of Directors will be the responsibility of the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on PSGs.
2. The Chairperson of each individual PSG or their representative will be a voting members of the Standing Committee on Quality Assurance. The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on PSGs will be a member of the Standing Committee on Quality Assurance.
3. PSGs are elements of the RESNA structure and will act in a manner that is consistent with the Bylaws and policies of RESNA. Individual PSGs may undertake such activities as they (individual PSGs) 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 PSG.
4. If a PSG conducts a function* as an entity of RESNA or invokes the NAMES or uses the LOGO of RESNA, the PSG 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.

*A FUNCTION is defined as a meeting, instructional course, exhibit, publication, advocacy activity, or any other activity in which information exchange is described or other public interaction occurs.

5. If a PSG undertakes a function which is described or otherwise falls within the domain of activity of a RESNA Standing Committee the PSG must provide information and (if appropriate) coordinate the activity with the Chairperson of the Standing Committee involved.

III. The Standing Committee on PSGs:

The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of each of the PSGs will be members of the Standing Committee on PSGs. Other RESNA members interested in the activities of the PSG may serve as committee members at the discretion of the committee chairperson.

Responsibilities of the committee include:

1. Authorization for the formation of new PSGs.
2. Compiling a semi-annual report on PSGs for submission to the RESNA Board.
3. Compile annual budget request for submission to RESNA Treasurer.
4. 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 and Board of Directors of RESNA.

Responsibilities of the committee chairperson include:

1. Serving as spokesperson for PSGs to the RESNA Board.
2. Presentation of semi-annual report on PSGs to the RESNA Board.
3. Presentation of annual budget request for submission to RESNA Treasurer.
4. Presiding over meetings of the Standing Committee.
5. Performing and/or delegating such functions and responsibilities as become necessary in the interest of PSGs.

IV. PSG Officers:

A Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson will be elected to two-year terms at the annual RESNA Conference by members of the PSG in attendance. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson may serve no more than two consecutive terms in their respective offices. **ONLY RESNA MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING ARE ELIGIBLE FOR OFFICE.** Any other officers, committees, and committee chairpersons will be appointed by the PSG Chairperson as necessary.

1. Duties of the PSG 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 PSG activities to the Standing Committee; Conduct or be responsible for activities assigned to the PSG by RESNA. Appoint committees or individuals for PSG activities as appropriate; Appoint a committee to make nominations for officers for elections.
2. Duties of 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 or appoint a nominating committee to present nominations for these offices at the first business session of the PSG at the RESNA Annual Conference.
2. Additional nominations for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson may be made by any PSG 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 the plurality vote of PSG members present.

VI. Formation and Dissolution of PSGs:

It is presumed that it will in the interest of RESNA and its membership to form new PSGs as well as to terminate them from time to time. The authorization for these actions will reside with the Standing Committee on PSGs. 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 PSG:

- a. The proposed PSG will represent a specific professional specialty that is substantially different from those currently represented.
- b. The proposed PSG will be compatible with the purposes and interests of RESNA.
- c. There must be demonstrated interest. This will be documented by:
 1. A meeting by at least 10 interested RESNA members must be held. Minutes and attendance of the meeting should be reported to the Standing Committee on PSGs.
 2. A petition must be submitted to the Committee with the signatures of at least 10 current RESNA members who agree to participate in the activities of the PSG.
 3. The Standing Committee will vote on the establishment of the new PSG. A plurality of Committee members will be sufficient for approval.
 4. The RESNA Board of Directors will then vote on the establishment of the PSG.

2. Dissolution or de-activation of a PSG:

A PSG may be declared **INACTIVE** or **DISSOLVED** whenever the Standing Committee determines that there is insufficient interest to continue it. 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 PSG. If the latter does not occur within the specified term the PSG will automatically be dissolved.

VII. Newsletter

RESNA maintains a Newsletter (**RESNA News**) which is published six times a year. The PSGs are encouraged to use the newsletter for communication among members of the PSG and to relate appropriate information.

VIII. Budget

A budget will be developed by the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on PSGs. This budget will represent monies necessary for the operation and activities of the standing committee and the individual PSGs.

1. Chairpersons of the individual PSGs will forward proposed budgets to the Chairperson of the Standing Committee.
2. The Standing Committee chair will review the proposals and submit a complete budget proposal to the Finance Committee in a timely manner for action by the Board of Directors at their January meeting.