



2026 Annual Report

The Next Horizon

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About ASHT

Founded in 1977, ASHT is an organization of occupational and physical therapists who specialize in evaluating and treating injuries and conditions of the upper extremity (shoulder, arm, elbow, forearm, wrist and hand). ASHT is the only association dedicated to advancing the specialty of hand and upper extremity rehabilitation by promoting education, advocacy, research and clinical standards.





President's Message

DANIELLE SPARKS, DHS, MOT, OTR, CHT

“Small, intentional actions compound into lasting impact and take root across every part of our Society.”

Dear Members,

On behalf of the American Society of Hand Therapists Board of Directors, professional staff, and dedicated volunteers, I am honored to share the ASHT 2026 Annual Report with you. Serving as your president has been one of the great privileges of my career, and this year I've hoped to not only have a focus on advocacy for sustaining our specialty, but also nurture a simple idea that small, intentional actions compound into lasting impact and take root across every part of our Society. I called this idea Atomic Advocacy, and it has shaped how I've approached this role from the start.

That same theme ran through our divisions throughout the year. Our Education Division continued to develop top-tier educational content in a variety of formats. Our Research Division advanced new studies and a growing research community, strengthening the evidence base that sets our specialty apart. Our Practice Division worked to protect and represent our specialty while keeping members up to date on ever-changing regulations. Our Outreach Division worked to bring greater visibility to the many facets of hand therapy practice helping both our members and the broader healthcare community understand the full scope of what we do. Our strong roster of committees also have given time and talents to the overarching initiatives of the society as a whole. What a group! And what a year!

At the association level, we responded formally to AOTA's 2026–2030 Strategic Plan, ensuring the hand therapy voice was represented as one of our parent organizations charts its course. We have had a presence at meetings over the past year to help grow our collaborations. A big thank you to ASSH, AAHS, APTA and AOTA for the warm welcome and ongoing efforts to grow together for the purpose of advancing upper extremity care. We also reviewed and renewed our management partnership with Association Headquarters (AH) to make sure ASHT's operations are built to support the growth ahead.

This past spring and summer, we held town halls focused on clinical education, outreach to students and the networks for entry into hand therapy. We received such informative and interesting input during the first session, we decided to hold two more! We found that there is a desire from clinicians to have stronger fieldwork pathways, more mentorship, more resources and a clearer pipeline into our specialty. Rather than let that input sit in a report, our board built on it directly—a working session translated those town hall themes into a clinical education strategy, and that strategy is now taking shape as a dedicated task force focused on strengthening the pipeline for the next generation of hand therapists. That is Atomic Advocacy in practice: one conversation, one working session, one task force, building toward something our specialty will feel for years. Small actions, big impact.



I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our Board of Directors for their wisdom and partnership this year, and to all our volunteers for the countless hours of work behind these initiatives. I'm also grateful to our AH staff for their steady expertise in keeping our Society running with excellence. We have something really special happening in our organization, and I'm so grateful to watch amazing people do awesome things!

Looking ahead, I'm excited to welcome you to our Annual Meeting in Milwaukee this October, where we'll gather under the theme *Bridging the Gap: Collaborating and Amplifying Our Voices* — a fitting continuation of the bridges we've built this year between educators and students, between professional organizations, between divisions and committee and between where we are and where we believe we can be.

This year also marks the beginning of something larger than any single initiative: ASHT's 50th year as an

organization. Founded in 1977 by a small group of extraordinary therapists who saw a need and acted on it, ASHT has grown into the professional home for thousands of hand and upper extremity clinicians. As we begin the countdown to our 50th anniversary, I'm reminded that our founders' story is the original proof of Atomic Advocacy. A handful of people, a few determined actions, an understanding of how special hand therapy is, compounded over five decades that has created a significant professional impact. We'll be celebrating this milestone throughout the year ahead, and I hope you'll be part of it.

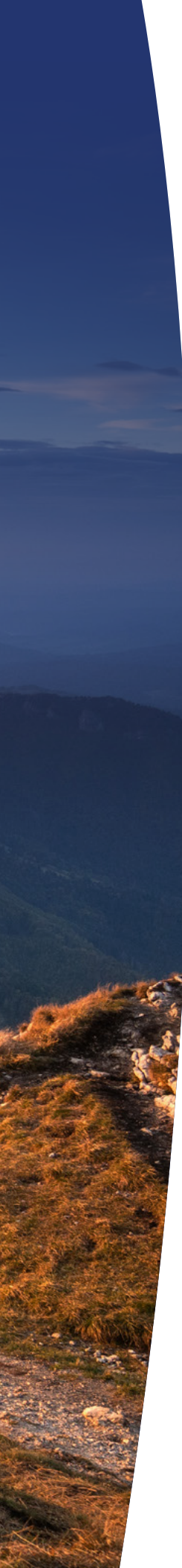
As I prepare to pass the gavel to our next president, Kim McVeigh, I do so with complete confidence in where ASHT is headed. Kim's dedication to this Society speaks to the thoughtful, steady leadership she'll bring to the presidency. I have no doubt that under her guidance, Atomic Advocacy will continue to build momentum, and ASHT will keep moving toward the

goals we've set together this year. I also warmly welcome the incoming board members who will join her, and I know we'll carry this work forward with the same energy and purpose our members deserve.

I think of hand therapists as "my people" meaning individuals who just totally get why we are here, why we care, why it means so much, why there's nothing else quite like our specialty area, and I love having a place for us likeminded therapists from all walks of life to come together as a society. As you read this annual report, I hope you can see the efforts that have gone into the success of the year, the intentional home for hand therapists, and are reinvigorated with your own **why** as a hand therapist and ASHT member as we move into our 50th year! It has been my honor to serve as your president this year. Thank you for trusting me with this role, and for all of your Atomic Advocacy, in all the everyday things you do, for this Society and this specialty.

Education Division

The ASHT Education Division has steadfastly committed to growing the specialty with hand and upper extremity therapy education for members and non-members alike. The society's educational portfolio continues to grow through a variety of live, virtual, hybrid and audio platforms. The division has 30 motivated, passionate volunteers with diverse backgrounds and interests, which allows the division to continue to expand and grow the society's offerings.



Hand Therapy Review Course

Organized and hosted two in-person Hand Therapy Review Courses – Baltimore, MD and Dallas, TX (**62 attendees**). The virtual course attracted **100 participants**.

Hands-on Orthotics

Held nine in-person orthotic fabrication courses (**156 attendees**). The virtual orthotics course, which offers an introductory, intermediate and advanced option, attracted **265 participants**.

Traveling Courses

Hosted 10 Casting Motion to Mobilize Stiffness (CMMS) courses (**163 attendees**), providing an opportunity to understand how the CMMS technique mobilizes tissues in an effort to reactivate the brain's motor pathways after injury. The division launched a new course, Essentials in Hand and Upper Extremity Rehabilitation (**17 attendees**), designed to build strong foundational skills in hand and upper extremity rehabilitation.

Upper Extremity Institute

Held nine online sessions (**843 participants**) where faculty presented case studies of complex upper extremity conditions and discussed problem-solving scenarios.

Pediatric Courses

The Pediatric Case Review series facilitates interactive diagnosis-specific online discussions. The division hosted 12 sessions with **484 participants**. The Foundations in Pediatric Hand and Upper Extremity Rehabilitation course features 24 on-demand sessions, including topics such as polydactyly, clasped and trigger thumb, arthrogryposis, juvenile rheumatoid diagnoses, pediatric chronic pain management, and much more (**125 participants**). Additionally, ASHT will hold its third Pediatric Specialty Day at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

Webinars

Hosted 13 live webinars (**1,180 participants**). ASHT collaborated with the Practice and Research Divisions, and industry suppliers to deliver a variety of clinical, practice and legislative topics. The on-demand library continues to grow and offer education at the convenience of the learner (**1,527 participants**).

Test Prep for the CHT Exam, 4th Ed.

The *Test Prep for the CHT Exam: Study Outline & Clinical Reference, 4th Edition* remains an excellent study tool for the CHT Exam and a valuable clinical reference. This edition features current evidence, color photos and improved study questions with answers and rationale. All chapters are in printed form and the practice exam is entirely online. Since its release in October 2021, **1,572** copies have been sold.

Outreach Division

The Outreach Division was created in 2024 to oversee non-CEU educational programs that were previously managed by the Education Division. To streamline operations across the society, ASHT's Technology & Communication Committee was integrated into Outreach in 2025. Driven by a commitment to the field, Outreach Division volunteers work to design initiatives that connect with both members and non-members, enhance student-member involvement, cultivate opportunities for mentorship and career advancement, and raise awareness of hand and upper extremity rehabilitation within the broader medical sector and the general public.

Hands In Motion Podcast

The Hands in Motion podcast, hosted by two dynamic ASHT members, broadcasts one or two new episodes every month. Since launching in 2021, Hands in Motion has surpassed **122,300 downloads**, and attracted over **63,800 unique listeners**. ASHT reached a major milestone in August with the airing of our **100th episode**, featuring a special interview with one of ASHT's founders. The podcast serves as the definitive resource for firsthand updates within ASHT and the wider therapy community. It features interviews and insights from leaders in upper extremity and hand care regarding current evidence, clinical trends, practice patterns, and society developments. Recent highlights include the introduction of a dedicated student series as well as episodes exploring lymphedema, Dupuytren's, Ehlers-Danlos Syndroms and hypermobility, and various elbow and nerve conditions.

Mentoring Program

With a total of **214 pairings**, including **14 new pairs** in 2026, the Mentoring Program remains a successful and valued benefit for ASHT members. A robust and growing registry of members eager to mentor upcoming new CHTs supports the program. This committee works directly with participants to facilitate timely pairings and provide ongoing support throughout the year.

To effectively guide their professional relationships, members have access to a comprehensive suite of ASHT resources, including contract templates, self-assessment tools, and a dedicated mentoring handbook. To continue refining and enhancing this dynamic initiative, the committee recently distributed a feedback survey to past and current participants. If you have not yet completed it, please watch for the survey, as the insights will help shape future program enhancements.

Student Offerings

Recognizing the vital role students play in the future of our specialty, maintaining a high level of student engagement remains a top priority. The Student Offerings Committee launched the "From Student to Hand Therapist" vlog, which features two new short social media videos each month. This initiative has generated significant enthusiasm and involvement, helping to support and strengthen our expanding therapy community. Additionally, the Spring edition of the *ASHT Times* featured a dedicated Student Spotlight; be sure to check it out! Collaborating with the ASHT Annual Meeting Committee, the team helped to integrate the Student Meet-Up into the new Pipeline Day. Driven by the insightful feedback gathered this year, we look forward to expanding our student outreach and offerings in 2027.

Patient and Clinician Resources

The Patient Education Resource library remains one of the most-visited sections on the ASHT website. It recorded **9,459**

page visits (up 500 views from last year) and 11,926 resource downloads (up 350 from the prior year), representing 45.8% of all downloads. Over the past year, the top five downloaded guides focused on carpal tunnel syndrome, trigger finger, CMC arthritis, ergonomics/joint protection and DeQuervain's tendinopathy.

The collection expanded with new patient education handouts offering guidance on **rock climbing** and **pediatric hand grasp development**. Additionally, several new Spanish-language resources were introduced, covering boutonniere deformity, radial head fractures, scapholunate injuries and thumb UCL injuries.

Working with staff and the digital media team, the committee premiered a video centered on rock climbing pulley injuries. This video explained the anatomical details and clinical presentation of these problematic injuries while providing evidence-based management strategies. The video has yielded **nearly 4,000 views** across all ASHT social media platforms.

This dedicated group also contributed four articles to the *ASHT Times* Clinical Corner and, in partnership with the American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH), provided four educational articles to the public-facing HandCare blog, further expanding ASHT's outreach and impact.

Supporting CHT Prep

Outreach's Clinical Queries Committee continues to assist members by posting test prep questions on the society's mobile app, ASHT Connect, and publish questions in the *ASHT Times*. In another cross-professional collaboration, ASHT contributes to the American Association for Hand Surgery (AAHS) popular weekly quiz postings on social media. The Weekly AAHSk question is posted to test your knowledge and highlight research from the hand care community. ASHT provides one therapy-focused question a month, helping clinicians stay sharp while highlighting relevant therapy-based research. Over the last year, ASHT-generated questions have yielded **more than 44,000 views** on Instagram alone!

Social Media

The Social Media Committee brought fresh, dynamic posts to ASHT's social media platforms. Amongst the year's highlights are Volunteer Shout Outs recognizing exceptional member contributions, insightful clinician tips and creative video tours of hand therapy clinics. The committee also coordinated interactive daily challenges during Hand Therapy Week, inspiring widespread participation and celebrating our specialty. Thank you to everyone who shared putty art, demonstrated writing with a nondominant hand or revealed their "therapy crush"! ASHT invites everyone to follow along on Instagram, Facebook, Threads and LinkedIn, and to tag ASHT in your posts so we can see and share in your hand and upper extremity therapy journey!

Practice Division

ASHT is committed to providing current information and resources that are applicable to everyday practice issues. The Practice Division comprises the Advocacy & Legislative Committee, Practice Management & Reimbursement Committee and a legislative consultant working to inform members about legislation, regulation and industry trends affecting the delivery and reimbursement of hand and upper extremity therapy services. Practice Division volunteers researched and responded to email and phone inquiries, and fielded ASHT Connect questions about regulatory, reimbursement, intervention standards and general practice issues.



Advocacy Committee

- Reviewed legislation introduced in both the US House of Representatives and Senate for potential impact on the delivery of hand and upper extremity therapy services
- Updated state contact list including direct access information
- Tracked developments and updated legislation in telehealth services
- Tracked developments in the evolving debate over the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) cuts that impact hand and upper extremity rehabilitation
- Collaborated with AOTA and APTA on legislative issues impacting hand and upper extremity therapy
- Monitored OT Compact language and access
- Reviewed, updated and developed new ASHT website resources related to advocacy and reimbursement issues, including: How to Survive a Merger/Acquisition document, What is an NPI, Use of Technology for Running a Practice

Practice Management Committee

- Developed and delivered a webinar exploring Medicare updates for the 2026 calendar year in response to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule
- Monitored 2026 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Physician Fee Schedule changes and any impact on hand and upper extremity therapy practice
- Monitoring the proposed 2027 Medicare and Medicaid Services Physician Fee Schedule
- Monitored and provided comments in response to proposed and implemented changes to Federal Graduate Student Loans that impact occupational and physical therapy education access
- Developed a new webinar in response to billing and coding issues that will be presented in February 2027
- Planning and developing a webinar in collaboration with the Research Division, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Hand Therapy, date to be determined
- Created, reviewed and expanded resources on the ASHT website for practice management, which are highlighted monthly in the ASHT Connect app Practice Division posting
- Reviewed and updated ASHT position papers in collaboration with the ASHT Research Division, and determined a timeline process for monitoring
- Assisted the Research Division as reviewers for updates to the *Clinical Assessment Recommendations: Impairment-Based Conditions, 4th Edition*
- Reviewed, updated and developed new ASHT website resources related to advocacy and reimbursement issues, including What is CAQH, What is Tax ID/EIN, Checklist for Developing a New Hand Therapy Practice, Gross Budget for a New Practice, Business Structure and FAQ, Client Intake Form, Taking the Plunge, and developing a 3D printing document

Research Division

ASHT is committed to being a recognized leader in advancing the science and practice of hand and upper extremity therapy. Through the work of the Research Division, ASHT supports evidence-based clinical practice and research focused on advancing the specialty. Over the past year, the society engaged in several initiatives to build and support science that informs the specialty of hand and upper extremity therapy.

- Formed a task force to comprehensively review ASHT's *Clinical Assessment Recommendations, 3rd Edition*. Two task force chairs will lead an update of this reference with the release of ASHT's *Clinical Assessment Recommendations, 4th Edition* slated for 2027.
- Designed, ran and submitted for publication a modified Delphi consensus project on hand therapy assessment and clinical treatment of PIP joint flexion contractures. The project was led by six members of the Research Division and included three ASHT members seeking research mentorship. This work was accepted for presentation at the ASHT Annual Meeting as an oral scientific session.
- Supported ASHT's research community via hosting in-person and online meetings for hand therapy researchers of all experience levels to discuss research interests and needs, offer or request mentorship and hear what is happening in current hand therapy research. **Eleven** virtual meetings and **one** in-person meeting (ASHT Annual Meeting) have been hosted to date.
- Hosted the monthly Journal Club, the official online forum for the *Journal of Hand Therapy* (**249 participants**). Each month, a volunteer researcher, academic or clinician in the field leads the Journal Club discussion and engages with attendees in a discussion of the selected journal article.
- Hosted four Student-led Journal Club sessions (**65 participants**). This offering is designed to involve and educate students on appraising the current literature on the hand and upper extremity. The journal discussion is facilitated by students under the supervision of a faculty member or ASHT member.
- Facilitated, critically reviewed and distributed **nine** research surveys to ASHT membership.
- Collaborated with the ASHT Education Division and Practice Division and will be offering a free webinar entitled "Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Hand Therapy," presented by Sarah Grate, EdD, OTR/L, CHT, Angie Stevens, DHS, OTR/L, CHT.
- Published monthly Research Updates on the ASHT website. These summaries of original published research papers serve to increase awareness of emerging evidence and relevant research from peer-reviewed journals in the field of hand and upper extremity rehabilitation.
- Continued activities to bring awareness of the *Journal of Hand Therapy* by contributing a highlight of a *JHT* article for each issue of the *ASHT Times* and a monthly highlight of a *JHT* article for a social media collaboration with *JHT* to highlight upcoming articles prior to publication (posted to X/ Twitter and shared on LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram.).
- Recorded a Hands in Motion podcast episode on the collaborations in research as a project with the Outreach Division
- Promoted participant recruitment for a study run by ASHT members via the Research Division's Study Participant Recruitment on ASHT's website and via eblasts to ASHT members
- Updated and released a new Understanding Research portion for ASHT's Hand Therapy Review Course in collaboration with the Education Division
- Assisted with monitoring and promoting the Research Community on the ASHT Connect app
- Graded all scientific session submissions for the 2026 Annual Meeting and slotted the scientific oral presentations, scientific poster presentations, critically appraised paper posters and critically appraised topic posters for ASHT's 2026 Annual Meeting
- Awarded three research awards at the 2025 Annual Meeting:
 - » **Best Paper:** *An Exploratory Study on the Predictors of Lifelong Participation in Adults with Upper Limb Musculoskeletal Differences* – Emily Ho, PhD, OT Reg. (Ont.)
 - » **Best Poster:** *Occupational Therapy using Proximal Interphalangeal Joint Block Orthosis for Conservative Treatment of Trigger Finger: A Retrospective Study* – Jee Yoon Chong, OTD, CHT, CLT
 - **First-Time Researcher:** *Observed Treatment and Patient Characteristics Associated with Carpometacarpal Osteoarthritis in an Outpatient Occupational Therapy Setting* – Michele Auch, OTD, OTR/L, CHT

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee

The ASHT DEI Committee continues its commitment to advancing inclusivity, equity and belonging within our organization and the field of hand and upper-extremity rehabilitation. Through the dedicated work of its subcommittees, the committee has expanded DEI initiatives, strengthened member engagement and continued building a sustainable foundation for ongoing learning, accountability and meaningful action.



- The DEI Book Club continues to serve as a forum for meaningful discussion and reflection. Hosted two book club events **(60 participants)**.
 - » The fall event featured the book *A Guide to Culturally Competent Healthcare*, by Larry Purnell, PhD, RN, FAAN. The book explores intercultural learning in healthcare settings, emphasizing the importance of recognizing and respecting cultural differences to provide effective, compassionate and patient-centered care to individuals from diverse backgrounds. The author joined members to discuss the book and shared his Model for Cultural Competence, a framework to enhance cultural awareness and sensitivity among healthcare professionals.
 - » The summer event featured the book *Borders of Care: Immigrants, Migrants, and the Fight for Health Care in the United States* by Beatrix Hoffman. The book examines the relationship

between immigration and the healthcare system in the United States and highlights the activism of patients, health care workers, and community organizations who have challenged restrictions and fought to expand access. The author joined members to discuss her book and shared perspectives on how debates over immigration and health care are deeply intertwined with broader struggles over rights, belonging and social justice in the United States.

- » The next society-at-large DEI Book Club event is scheduled for November 4, 2026, and will feature the book *¡Un Doctor, Por Favor! Why We Need More Hispanic Doctors in the U.S.*, by Paola Mina-Osorio, MD, PhD. With 40 million U.S. residents who speak Spanish but have limited access to culturally and linguistically competent healthcare, this book presents an overview of the complex health and educational disparities affecting



Hispanics in the U.S. and features the narratives of Hispanic physicians who overcame obstacles to achieve their goals, illustrating what is possible through courage, perseverance and support.

- Finalized the **DEI Toolkit**, scheduled to launch in September 2026. This online resource center supports ASHT members in engaging with DEI learning and initiatives. The DEI Toolkit is scheduled to launch in September 2026. Highlights include:
 - » **Case-Based Curriculum**, developed by Valerie Aziegbe, OTR/L, CHT, COEE, covers DEI topics specific to hand and upper extremity practice.
 - » **Member Spotlight** highlighting accomplishments in local communities.
 - » **DEI Dictionary**, an organized glossary of terms related to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, providing a shared vocabulary of clear, respectful definitions of commonly used DEI concepts, along with practical context for using those terms in professional settings.
 - » **Articles, Events and Podcasts**, a resource of DEI-related content from ASHT and other allied organizations, including AOTA, APTA, ASSH
- Strengthened engagement with ASHT committees and divisions and explored partnerships with allied organizations.
- Developed and proposed changes to the ASHT bylaws that were adopted by the ASHT membership.
- Proposed updates to the ASHT Leadership Development Program curriculum that were adopted by the committee.
- Continued collection and analysis of ASHT programming and member demographics.
- Merged the ASHT Sustainability Task Force with the ASHT DEI Committee. The integration brings together two groups who shared priorities around long-term community well-being, equitable outcomes, inclusive decision-making and responsible

organizational practices. The combined committee will work to align these principles across ASHT's programs and organizational priorities.

- Highlighted the voices and scholarship of underrepresented ASHT members and allies through the *ASHT Times*:
 - » *Cultivating Inclusive Leadership in Hand Therapy: Supporting Underrepresented Students* by Sharniece Pierce, EdD, OTD, OTR/L, CLT-UE, CEAS, CAFS, CSC, CPT, MFDc, CKTP, AIB-VR/CON, LSVT BIG Certified, explores how hand therapy leaders can create more welcoming, equitable learning environments for students from underrepresented backgrounds. The article highlights practical approaches to mentorship, representation, cultural humility and reducing barriers to entry and success within the profession. (*ASHT Times*, Vol. 33, Issue 1, Spring 2026)
 - » *Upholding Cultural Humility in Hand Therapy: Advancing Professional Excellence, Elevating Patient Satisfaction, and Improving Health Outcomes in a Culturally Diverse World*, by Eric John Grispo, OTD, OTR/L, CHT, CWT, examines how cultural humility can strengthen hand therapy practice by promoting ongoing self-reflection, respectful communication and responsiveness to each patient's cultural background and lived experience. The article connects culturally humble care with improved patient satisfaction, more equitable outcomes and higher standards of professional practice. (*ASHT Times*, Vol. 33, Issue 2, Spring 2026)

The ASHT DEI Committee remains committed to advancing diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging across the society's membership, leadership, educational offerings and hand and upper-extremity therapy practice. This year's work—including the development of the DEI Toolkit, expansion of educational resources and partnerships, data-informed accountability efforts and opportunities for dialogue through the Book Club and *ASHT Times*—reflects a growing and sustained commitment to meaningful action.

Through the continued dedication of our subcommittees, collaborators and members, ASHT is building an enduring foundation for learning, engagement and equitable professional growth. Together, we move forward with a shared vision of a hand and upper-extremity therapy community that is inclusive, responsive and representative of the diverse individuals and communities we serve.

International Committee

The ASHT International Committee was established to advance and support the development of hand and upper extremity therapy globally. Over the past year, the committee has continued to actively pursue this mission through international education, collaboration and relationship building.



- 
- Organized and hosted three Virtual Education Series (**262 participants across 20 countries**) that included topics covering the shoulder, elbow and evidence-based grip and forearm strengthening. ASHT continues to collaborate with IFSHT and international colleagues to expand access to hand and upper extremity therapy education worldwide.
 - The American Association for Hand Surgery (AAHS), in partnership with ASHT, established the International Reverse Therapy Fellowship in 2019. The selected Fellow receives a \$10,000 award from AAHS to support a two-week educational visit to North America, including training at two participating AAHS and ASHT member institutions and attendance at the AAHS and ASHT Annual Meetings.
 - » The fellowship was placed on hold this year due to federal travel restrictions.
 - » The 2027 selection process is underway.
 - The committee has continued to expand its global network and establish relationships with therapists in developing countries. Over the past year, we maintained regular communication with therapists in Chile, Colombia, Ghana, Kenya, Mexico, Romania and Ukraine to better understand local needs and identify opportunities to provide educational resources, support and collaboration.
 - As part of the 2026 ASHT Annual Meeting, the committee will host the International Invited Lecturer Luncheon, featuring Nathan Short, PhD, OTD, OTR/L, CHT. Dr. Short will present, "More Than a Fist Bump: Building Enduring Global Partnerships in Hand Therapy." We are honored to welcome Dr. Short and look forward to his perspective on building meaningful and sustainable global partnerships and advancing knowledge within the hand therapy community.
 - Promoted awareness of global hand care issues through regular contributions to *ASHT Times*. These articles highlight differences in hand therapy practice and education worldwide and give ASHT members opportunities to learn from international colleagues and perspectives.
 - Three members of the International Committee presented academic lectures at the 27th Argentine Congress of Hand Surgery, further strengthening ASHT's educational partnerships and international presence.

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Leadership Development Committee

The mission of the Leadership Development Committee is to provide education, mentoring and networking opportunities that develop the leadership skills of ASHT members, thereby encouraging and supporting future leaders in hand therapy. Through the annual Leadership Development Program, committee events and outreach, ASHT promotes life-long learning and growth to meet leadership challenges and changing leadership dynamics within academia, healthcare and the hand care community.

Over the past year, the Leadership Development Committee:

- Welcomed six new committee members – all past Leadership Development Program participants
- Graduated the third cohort of ASHT member participants from the Leadership Development Program **(17 participants)**. This is an AOTA-approved provider program whereby participants earn 12 CE hours by completing all program modules.
 - » Participants completed six modules on leadership topics over six months.
 - » Participants received 1:1 mentoring from committee members throughout the program.
 - » At the end of each module, the participants and committee met via Zoom to reflect on learning from that month through discussions and presentations.
 - » Building upon the success of last year's lunchtime session, this year's cohort will again present their clinical posters in person at the ASHT Annual Meeting. "Empowered to Lead: Shaping the Future of Hand Therapy" will provide conference attendees with the opportunity to learn more about the Leadership Development Program and hear from current cohort members as they share their final program projects.
- Hosted the second Leadership Development Book Club, highlighting *Dare to Lead* by Brenè Brown.
- The next event is expected to be held in early November 2026.

Participants
completed
six modules
on leadership
topics over six
months.

Pediatric Committee

The inaugural year of the ASHT Pediatric Committee has focused on establishing a strong foundation for integrating pediatric-focused resources and initiatives throughout the organization. Key priorities included building collaborative relationships across ASHT committees and divisions, onboarding committee members and developing the infrastructure necessary to support the committee's long-term goals. During this first year, the committee successfully developed and implemented its standard operating procedures, which were approved by the Board of Directors in May.

The Pediatric Committee achieved two significant deliverables for ASHT members during its first year. First, a **dedicated pediatric resources landing page** was established on the ASHT website under the Practice tab, creating a centralized location for pediatric-focused clinical resources. Second, in collaboration with the Outreach Division, the Committee developed and published a **Patient Education Resource on pediatric grasp development**, expanding the availability of pediatric educational materials for clinicians and families.

Looking ahead, several strategic initiatives are underway to further expand pediatric resources and engagement across all ASHT pillars. Current collaborative projects include:

- Contributing a pediatric hand assessment chapter to the updated *Clinical Assessment Recommendations, 4th Edition*, slated for 2027
- Partnering with the Outreach Division to develop pediatric hand therapy mentorship opportunities
- Collaborating with the Education Division to offer pediatric-focused webinars and update the Foundations in Pediatric Hand and Upper Extremity Rehabilitation virtual course
- Working with the Research Division to incorporate pediatric-specific content and opportunities within its programming and initiatives

Throughout the year, the committee also supported Pediatric Specialty Day programming and activities. Building on the momentum and accomplishments of this inaugural year, the Pediatric Committee remains committed to providing meaningful resources, educational opportunities and professional support for ASHT members seeking to advance pediatric-focused hand and upper extremity practice.

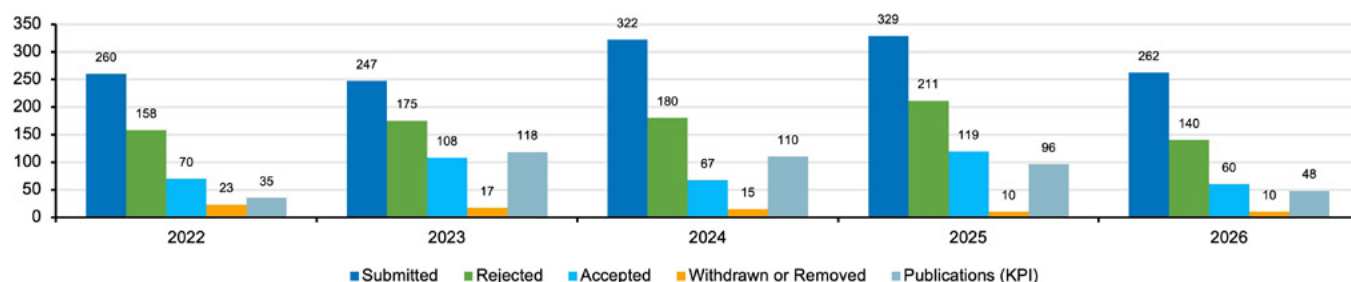


Journal of Hand Therapy

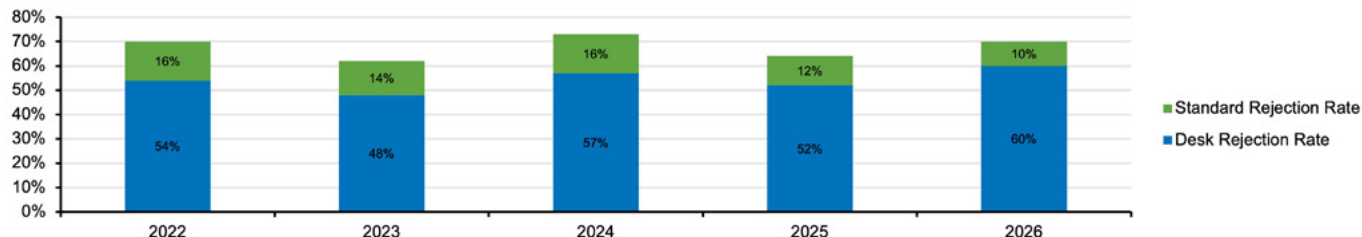
The *Journal of Hand Therapy* continues to serve as the recognized source of cutting-edge scientific and clinical articles for advancing the field of hand and upper extremity rehabilitation. Regularly published features include scientific/clinical articles, case reports, practice forums, research reports and departments, including book reviews and literature abstracts.

Manuscript Flow

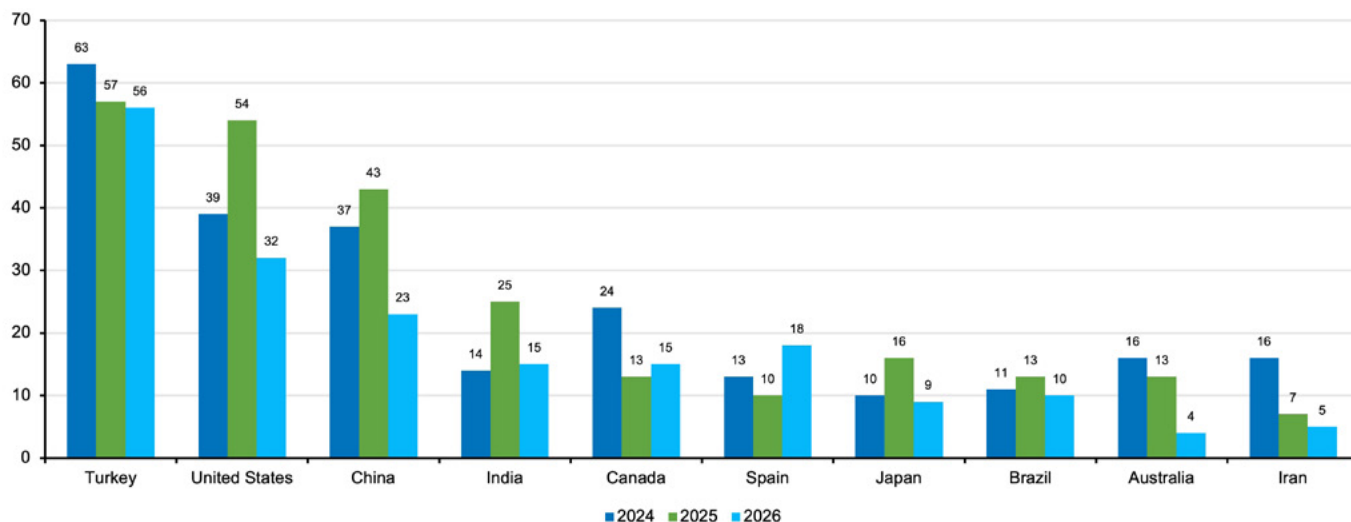
Submissions, Editorial Outcomes and Published Counts



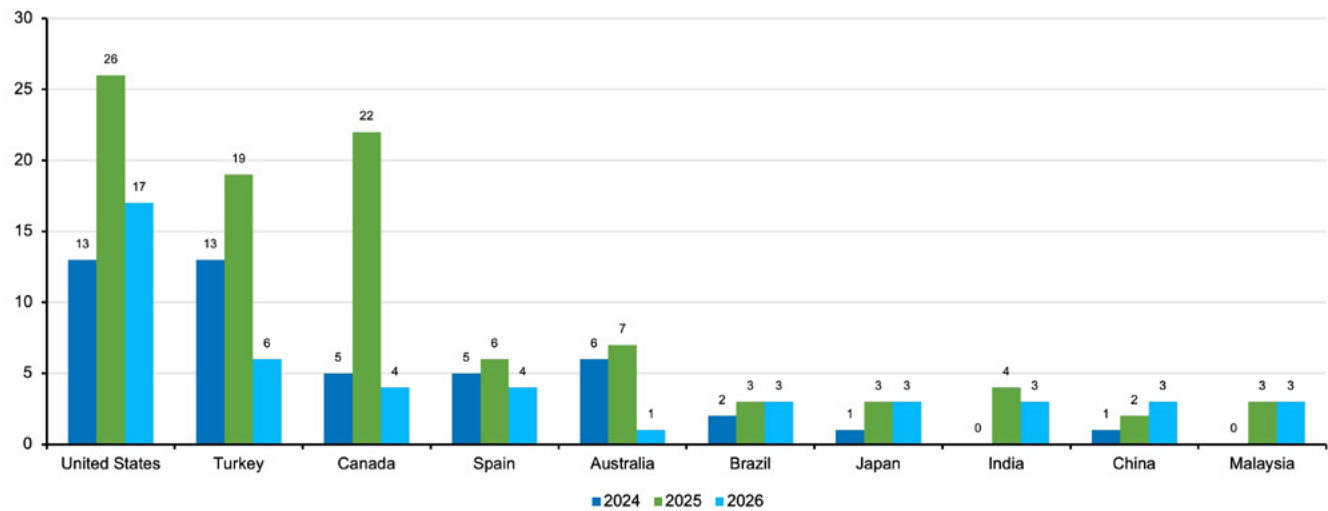
Rejection Rate



Trend in Top 10 Countries by Submissions

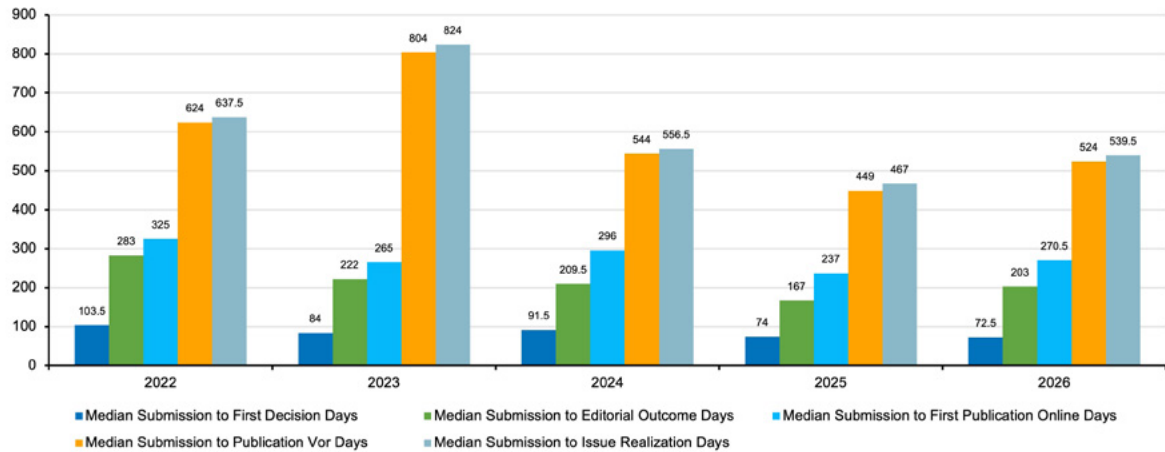


Trend in Top 10 Countries by Accepted

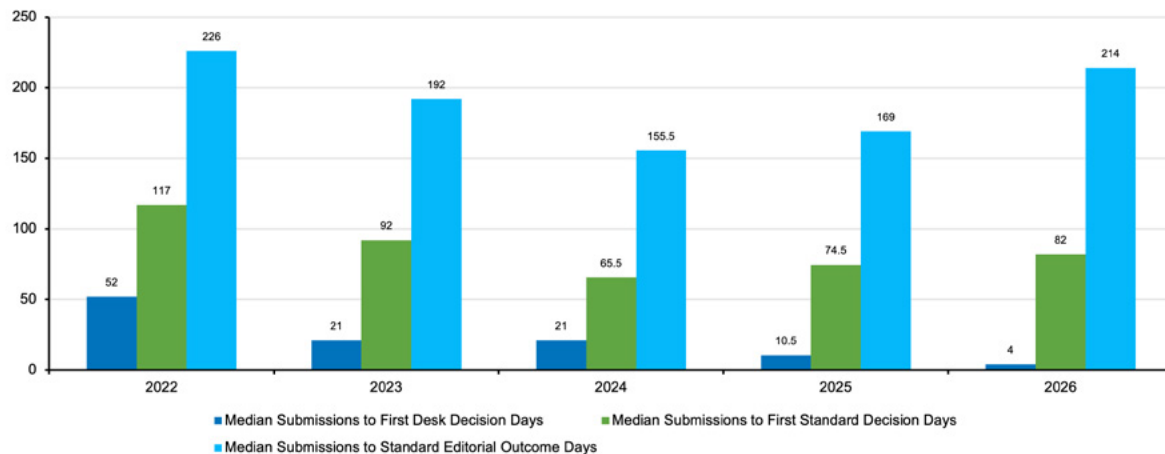


Speed

Median Editorial and Publication Speed for Published Articles



Median Editorial Speed for Accepted and Rejected Articles



Citation Impact

- **Impact Factor:** Developed by Clarivate Analytics and available in the Journal Citation Reports, this metric measures the average number of citations received by papers published in the journal during the previous two years.
- **CiteScore:** Calculated by Elsevier and available in the Scopus database, this metric measures the average number of citations received per peer-reviewed document published in the journal during the previous four years.

Journal Metrics Clarivate Impact Factor

Title	Publisher	2022	2023	2024	2025
<i>Hand Clinics</i>	Elsevier	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.4
<i>Hand Therapy</i>	Sage	1.0	0.9	0.6	1.7
<i>Journal of Hand Surgery (Asian-Pacific Volume)</i>	Elsevier	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
<i>Journal of Hand Therapy</i>	Elsevier	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.8

Journal Metrics Scopus CiteScore

Title	Publisher	2022	2023	2024	2025
<i>Hand Clinics</i>	Elsevier	2.6	2.0	2.4	2.2
<i>Hand Therapy</i>	Sage	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.7
<i>Journal of Hand Surgery (Asian-Pacific Volume)</i>	Elsevier	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0
<i>Journal of Hand Therapy</i>	Elsevier	3.1	3.5	3.1	3.2

Category

The *Journal of Hand Therapy* is included in three SCIE (Science Citation Index Expanded) categories:

Index	Category	Journal of Hand Therapy Rank	Total Journals	Quartile
SCIE	Orthopedics	76	147	Q3
SCIE	Rehabilitation	84	177	Q2
SCIE	Surgery	157	321	Q2

Top Cited Articles 2026 YTD, Published 2024-2025 (Scopus)

- Chen Q, Shen P, Zhang B, Chen Y, Zheng C. A meta-analysis of the risk factors for lateral epicondylitis. *J of Hand Ther.* 2024;37(1):44-52. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2023.05.013.
- Guvenc B, Kuru CA, Namaldi S, Kuru I. Virtual goniometric measurement of the forearm, wrist, and hand: A double-blind psychometric study of a digital goniometer. *J of Hand Ther.* 2025;38(1):103-112. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2024.05.001.
- McCarron L, Coombes BK, Bindra R, Bisset L. Current rehabilitation recommendations following primary triangular fibrocartilage complex foveal repair surgery: A survey of Australian hand therapists. *J of Hand Ther.* 2023;36(4):932-939. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2023.08.009.
- Yates SE, Glinsky JV, Hirth MJ, Fuller JT. Orthotic interventions for restoring proximal interphalangeal joint motion for patients with hand injuries or conditions: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *J of Hand Ther.* 2024;37(4):495-506. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2023.12.018.
- Pérez-Parra JE, Henao-Lema CP, Arcos-Rodríguez AV, López-Ocampo N, Castaño-García C, Pérez-Gamboa OP. Handgrip strength and upper limb functional performance measures in people over 18 years old: Analysis of relationships and influencing factors. *J of Hand Ther.* 2024;37(1):101-109. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2023.05.009.
- Tobler-Ammann B, Schuind F, Voillat L, Vögelin E. Acceptability and safety of 3D printed wrist-based orthoses compared to fiberglass casts for the treatment of non-surgical distal radius- and scaphoid fractures: a randomized feasibility trial. *J of Hand Ther.* 2025;38(1):143-151. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2024.11.004.
- Comoletti S, Mercogliano C. Focal Dystonia in Musicians, a literature review. *J of Hand Ther.* 2024;37(4):616-624. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2024.02.011.
- Yendi B, Atilgan E, Namaldi S, Kuru CA. Treatment of trigger finger with metacarpophalangeal joint blocking orthosis versus relative motion extension orthosis: a randomized clinical trial. *J of Hand Ther.* 2024;37(3):311-318. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2023.10.008.
- Campos-Villegas C, Pérez-Alenda S, Carrasco JJ, Igual-Camacho C, Tomás-Miguel JM, Cortés-Amador S. Effectiveness of proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation therapy and strength training among post-menopausal women with thumb carpometacarpal osteoarthritis. A randomized trial. *J of Hand Ther.* 2024;37(2):172-183. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2022.07.005.
- Rezaie M, Negahban H, Mostafaei N, Ebrahimzadeh MH, Eshraghi R, Raeesi J. Comparison of the physiotherapy with and without focus on the scapulothoracic joint on pain, range of motion, functional disability, quality of life, and treatment effectiveness of patients after arthroscopic shoulder rotator cuff tendon repair: A randomized controlled trial with short-term follow-up. *J of Hand Ther.* 2024;37(3):319-330. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2023.09.009.

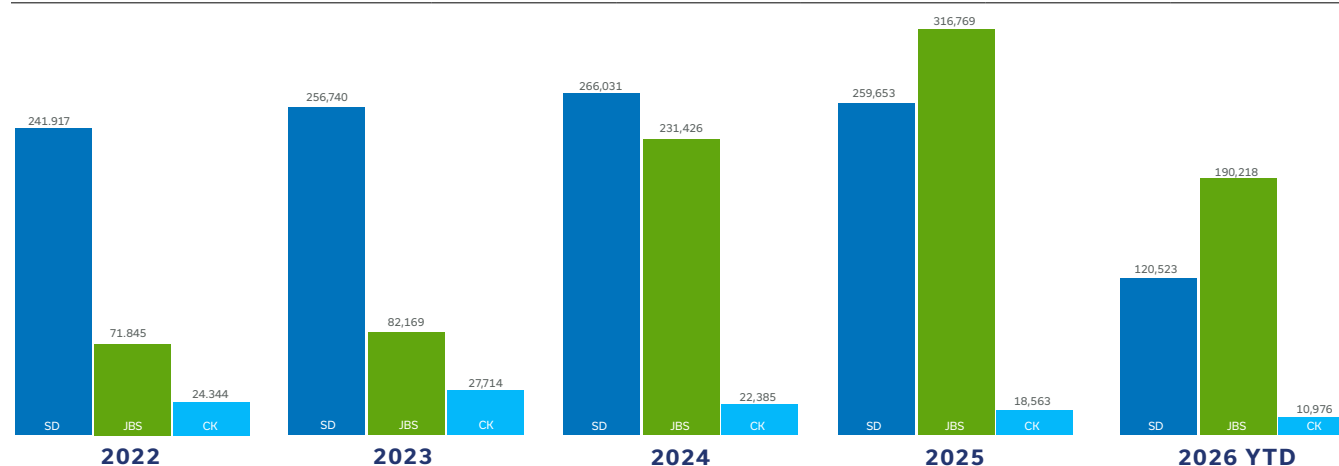
Top Cited Articles 2025, Published 2023-2024 (Scopus)

1. Schwartz DA., Schofield KA. Utilization of 3D printed orthoses for musculoskeletal conditions of the upper extremity: A systematic review. *J of Hand Ther.* 2023;36(1):166-178. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2021.10.005.
2. Temporiti F, Mandaresu S, Calcagno A, Coelli S, Bianchi AM, Gatti R, Galli M. Kinematic evaluation and reliability assessment of the Nine Hole Peg Test for manual dexterity. *J of Hand Ther.* 2023;36(3):560-567. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2022.01.007.
3. Karanasios S, Korakakis V, Moutzouri M, Drakonaki E, Koci K, Pantazopoulou V, Tsepis E, Gioftsos G. Diagnostic accuracy of examination tests for lateral elbow tendinopathy (LET): A systematic review. *J of Hand Ther.* 2022;35(4):541-551. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2021.02.002.
4. de Sire A, Curci C, Ferrara M, Losco L, Spalek R, Cisari C, Invernizzi M, Solaro C. Efficacy of kinesio taping on hand functioning in patients with mild carpal tunnel syndrome: A double-blind randomized controlled trial. *J of Hand Ther.* 2022;35(4):605-612. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2021.04.011.
5. Erickson M, Lawrence M, Lucado A. A description of the barriers, facilitators, and experiences of hand therapists in providing remote (tele) rehabilitation: An interpretive description approach. *J of Hand Ther.* 2023;36(4):805-816. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2023.06.004.
6. Valdes K, Manalang KC, Leach C. Proprioception: An evidence-based review. *J of Hand Ther.* 2024;37(2):269-272. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2023.09.015.
7. Joshi SA, Patel VD, Eapen C, Hariharan K. Proportion and distribution of upper extremity musculoskeletal disorders and its association with disability in type 2 diabetes mellitus. *J of Hand Ther.* 2022;35(4):597-604. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2021.04.013.
8. Valdes K, Naughton N, Téllez RC, Szekeres M. The use of occupation-based interventions and assessments in hand therapy: A cross-sectional survey. *J of Hand Ther.* 2023;36(1):214-220. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2021.10.008.
9. Bonini-Rocha AC, de Andrade ALC, Santos-Pereira R, de Moraes AM, Matheus LBG, da Fonseca ST, Ribeiro AL, Martins WR. Biofeedback interventions for short term upper limb function following stroke: a systematic review with meta-analysis. *J of Hand Ther.* 2023;36(3):693-705. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2022.05.001.
10. Pérez-Parra JE, Henao-Lema CP, Arcos-Rodríguez AV, López-Ocampo N, Castaño-García C, Pérez-Gamboa OP. Handgrip strength and upper limb functional performance measures in people over 18 years old: Analysis of relationships and influencing factors. *J of Hand Ther.* 2024;37(1):101-109. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2023.05.009.

Usage

Full Text Usage per Platform

Platform	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 YTD
Science Direct	241,917	256,740	266,031	259,653	120,523
Journal Branded Solutions	71,845	82,169	231,426	316,769	190,218
Clinical Key	24,344	24,714	22,385	18,563	10,976

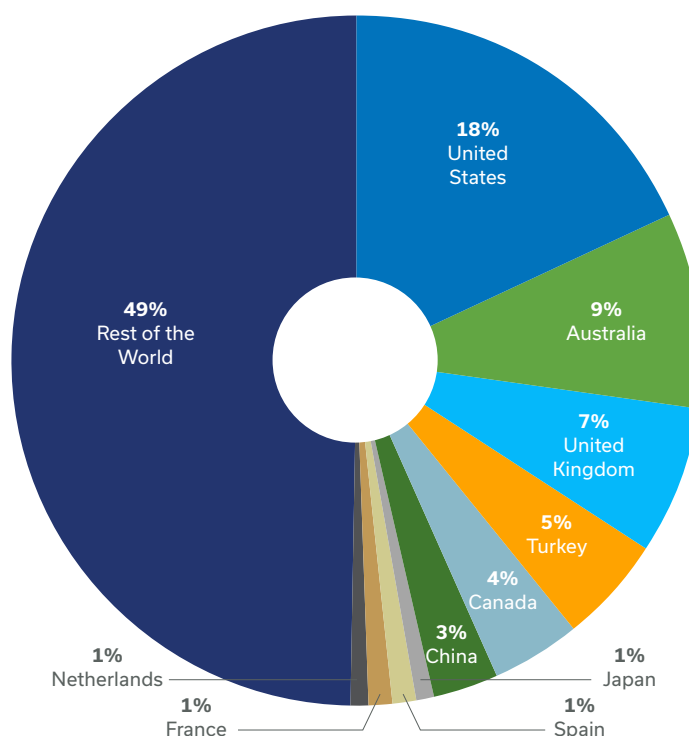


Top ScienceDirect Downloaded Articles in 2026, Published in 2026

- de Blas-Zamorano P, Montagut-Martínez P, Pérez-Cruzado D, Merchan-Baeza JA, Fugl-Meyer Assessment for Upper Extremity in Stroke: A Psychometric Systematic Review. *J of Hand Ther.* 2026;39(1):22-51. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2025.04.004.
- Henao SC, Cuartas-Escobar S, Salazar-Salgado S, Poscada-Borrero AM. Upper-limb prosthetic requirements from the healthcare providers, end-users and relatives' perspectives. *J of Hand Ther.* 2026;39(1):147-155. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2025.04.006.
- Benson AC, Cross SM, Soon B, Barber LA, Guérin M, Coppieters MW. Non-invasive management of carpal tunnel syndrome and changing treatment patterns over a 15-year time span. A practice survey among Australian hand therapists. *J of Hand Ther.* 2026;39(1):266-274. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2025.07.001.
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- Rosén B, Wijk U, Björkman A. Neuroplasticity and sensory-motor synergy: Implications for hand function and rehabilitation. *J of Hand Ther.* 2026;39(2):469-478. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2025.10.004.
- Reischl S, Furtado R, MacDermid J, Grewal R, Schabrun S, Trejos AL. Effectiveness of mirror therapy to treat musculoskeletal injuries of the hand and wrist: a systematic review. *J of Hand Ther.* 2026;39(1):168-177. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2025.04.013.
- Shafiee E, Milani-Zadeh S, MacDermid J, Daniel-Langohr G, Johnson J, Lu S. Reliability and validity of using smartphone sensor and photography to measure hand and upper extremity joints range of motion: A systematic review. *J of Hand Ther.* 2026;39(1):52-71. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2025.04.018.
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- Türkmen E, Kuş G, Yeldan I. Effectiveness of the therapeutic rehabilitation methods applied to scapula on rotator cuff pathologies: A systematic review of randomized controlled trials. *J of Hand Ther.* 2026;39(1):72-87. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2025.05.003.
- Dalton K, Lyall-Watson S, Young A, Bade S, Simons M. Therapy-led model of care for simple, diagnostic-defined pediatric hand fractures can maximize service access and improve consumer outcomes: An implementation study of value-based healthcare using mixed-method design. *J of Hand Ther.* 2026;39(1):224-235. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2025.05.006.

ScienceDirect Usage: Top 10 Countries and Regions, 2025

Country	Request for Articles
United States	46,170
Australia	22,636
United Kingdom	19,133
Turkey	12,357
Canada	10,784
China	6,540
Japan	3,855
Spain	3,836
France	3,823
Netherlands	3,527
Rest of the World	126,992



Top Articles by Social Media Count, Published All Time

1. Hamzeh H, Madi M, Alghwiri AA, Hawamdeh Z. The long-term effect of neurodynamics vs exercise therapy on pain and function in people with carpal tunnel syndrome: A randomized parallel-group clinical trial. *J of Hand Ther.* 2021;34(4):521-530. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2020.07.005.
2. McVeigh KH, Kannas SN, Ivy CC, Garner HW, Barnes CS, Heckman MG, Brushaber DE, Murray PM. Dynamic stabilization home exercise program for treatment of thumb carpometacarpal osteoarthritis: A prospective randomized control trial. *J of Hand Ther.* 2022;35(3):435-446. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2021.06.002.
3. Ackermann B, Altenmüller E. The development and use of an anatomy-based retraining program (MusAARP) to assess and treat focal hand dystonia in musicians: A pilot study. *J of Hand Ther.* 2021;34(2):309-314. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2021.05.007.
4. Hofstetter C. The hands I've been dealt. *J of Hand Ther.* 2022;35(3):319-321. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2022.03.001.
5. Sim G, Fleming J, Glasgow C. Mobilizing orthoses in the management of post-traumatic elbow contractures: A survey of Australian hand therapy practice. *J of Hand Ther.* 2021;34(1):90-99. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2019.12.014.
6. Karanasios S, Korakakis V, Moutzouri M, Drakonaki E, Koci K, Pantazopoulou V, Tsepis E, Giotftsos G. Diagnostic accuracy of examination tests for lateral elbow tendinopathy (LET): A systematic review. *J of Hand Ther.* 2022;35(4):541-551. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2021.02.002.
7. Larsson S, Carlsson IK, Rosberg HE, Björkman A, Brogren E. Patients' experiences before and after total wrist fusion or total wrist arthroplasty. A qualitative study of patients with wrist osteoarthritis. *J of Hand Ther.* 2022;35(1):41-50. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2020.10.004.
8. Larsson S, Carlsson IK, Rosberg HE, Björkman A, Brogren E. Effect of a stabilization exercise program versus standard treatment for thumb carpometacarpal osteoarthritis: A randomized trial. *J of Hand Ther.* 2023;36(1):546-559. doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2022.03.009.
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Journal of Hand Therapy X/Twitter

In 2021, the *Journal of Hand Therapy* debuted on X/Twitter (@JrnlHandTherapy) to promote relevant research and education within the hand and upper extremity therapy field.

Working with members of ASHT's Research Division and staff, the journal highlights open-access articles from each quarterly issue and fosters insightful discussions among followers with an interest in the hand and upper extremity.

We invite you to follow the *Journal of Hand Therapy* account and join the discussion!

Financial Summary

FY 2025 Audit Results: Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2025, ASHT had total assets of \$1,668,976 and total liabilities of \$677,414 for total net assets of \$991,562. Net assets decreased from December 31, 2024, by \$56,416. The detail is outlined below.

ASSETS	2025	2024
Cash	\$ 409,724	\$ 760,955
Accounts receivable	12,476	34,342
Prepaid expenses and other assets	86,411	78,446
Investments	1,123,984	1,013,640
Website development costs, net of accumulated depreciation	36,381	56,317
Total assets	\$1,668,976	\$1,943,700

LIABILITIES	2025	2024
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 392,530	\$ 555,228
Deferred revenue		
Membership dues and subscriptions	241,864	286,469
Annual Meeting and education	43,020	54,025
Total liabilities	677,414	895,722

NET ASSETS	2025	2024
Without donor restrictions	\$ 936,212	\$ 992,545
With donor restrictions	55,350	55,433
Total net assets	991,562	1,047,978
Total liabilities and net assets	\$1,668,976	\$1,943,700

Volunteer Recognition

Volunteer service contributes to the core products, programs and services offered to ASHT membership. Our volunteers' passion for hand and upper extremity therapy provides them with the energy to create new learning opportunities and/or services to help therapists meet the demands of clinical practice. Thank you to all of our generous ASHT volunteers. These individuals named here may or may not know their contributions have made a difference to their fellow members, to a professional colleague or to a patient with an upper extremity condition, but they have served willingly and passionately.

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Robert McClellan, OTR/L, CHT, COMT-UL
Cindy Ivy, M.Ed, OTD, CHT
Phyllis R. Ross, OTD, OTR/L, CHT, CLT, CAPS
Stephanie Strouse, OTD, OTR/L, CHT
Tauni Bird, OTD, OTR/L
Katherine Spanos, MS, OTR/L, CLT
Alexandra Nguyen, OTR, MOT, CHT

Tip of the Week Contributors

Courtney Card, OTD, OTR/L, CSCS
Chelsea Gonzalez, OTD, OTR/L, CHT
Marie Hole OTR, CHT
Kim Kraft, PT, DPT, CHT
Kenny Ness, OTR, CHT
Alex Nguyen, OTR, CHT
Jessie Perchaluk OTD, MS, OTR/L, CHT, CLT
Justin Reed, COTA
Phyllis R. Ross, OTD, OTR/L, CHT, CLT, CAPS
G Mona Saeed, DPT, CHT, CMDT, CCI, AIB-VR
Ella Savalox, OTRL
Angie Schreck, OT, CHT
Amy Sitabkhan, OTR, OTD, CNS
Danielle Sparks DHS, MOT, OTR, CHT
Stefanie Stevenson, OTR/L, CHT
Stephanie Strouse, OTD, OTR/L, CHT
Amanda West, OTR/L, CHT
Adam Westenhofer, OTR/L, CHT
Jennifer Wood, OTR/L, CHT



ASHT Times

ASHT members look forward to receiving updates on current trends, clinical practice, higher education, continuing education activities and advocacy initiatives through the society's flagship publication, *ASHT Times*. To better understand how members engage with the magazine, we track a range of readership metrics. These measures give insight into overall readership, the popularity of specific articles and the ways readers interact with this digital publication. Together, they help the editorial team refine content and ensure that the magazine continues to provide value, both as a whole publication and through individual features.

ASHT Times Readership Metrics

October 1, 2025 – September 15, 2026

1,793

ISSUE VIEWS

This measures the number of times the magazine was opened or accessed. This metric provides an overall sense of readership, indicating how many members are engaging with the magazine as a whole.

29,230

PAGE VIEWS

Beyond issue-level engagement, page views capture the total number of times an individual page or article was loaded, including repeat views by the same reader. Page views are important because they indicate which articles resonate the most with members.

13,065

UNIQUE PAGE VIEWS

To better understand true reach, unique page views count each visitor only once per session, even if they return to the same page multiple times. This reflects distinct interest in specific content and gives a clearer picture of reader engagement.

574

PAGES PRINTED

Some members find content valuable enough to save, share or reference offline. Pages printed tracks the number of pages readers chose to print, underscoring which articles hold lasting relevance.

1,214

PAGE ZOOMS

This metric shows how often readers enlarged a page to view it more closely. It highlights where members are engaging with detailed content, such as images, charts, or fine print and points to which pages may hold particular value.

Top 10 Articles

1 Kenya Hosts the Inaugural Hand Therapy Training Workshop
(Volume 32, Issue 3/4, Fall/Winter 2025)
Erastus Shuma, OTR, and Mary Collier Barnes, MOT, CHT, CIDN

2 Golfer's Guide to Prevention and Intervention for Golf Injuries
(Volume 33, Issue 1, Spring 2026)
Brianna Alicia Martinez, OTD, OTR and Lesley Khan-Farooqi, PhD, OTD, OTR

3 Eccentric Loading in the Treatment of DeQuervain's Tendinopathy
(Volume 32, Issue 3/4, Fall/Winter 2025)
Christopher Brown, OT, CHT

4 Restoring Function Through Prosthetic Collaboration: The ARMS Clinic Series Part 3
(Volume 32, Issue 3/4, Fall/Winter 2025)
Alta Fried, OTR/L, CHT, Omar Sarahan, MS, Ajul Shah, MD, and Anirudh Kulkarni, BS

5 Salvaging Scraps to Creative Masterpieces: A Sustainability Project
(Volume 32, Issue 3/4, Fall/Winter 2025)
Dianna Lunsford OTD, MEd, OTR/L, CHT, Blair Carsone PhD, MOT, OTR/L, BCP, Anne Moscony OTD, CHT, OTR/L, Bonnie Decker EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA and Karen Dishman OTD, OTR/L, ATP

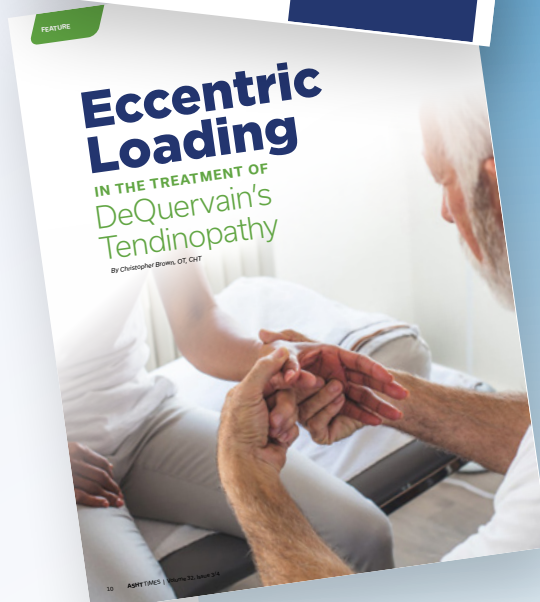
6 Expanding Practice Boundaries: Advancing Upper Extremity Expertise into Sports
(Volume 33, Issue 1, Spring 2026)
Mo Herman, MA, OTR/L, CHT

7 Across Borders: Global Perspectives in Hand Therapy
(Volume 32, Issue 3/4, Fall/Winter 2025)
Miremonde Joseph, OTD, OTR/L, CLT, CHT, ASHT International Committee Member

8 The Role of the Hand Therapist in Rehabilitation of Pickleball Athletes for Safe Return to Sport
(Volume 33, Issue 2, Summer 2026)
Christopher Pruitt, CSCS, OT, COMT, CHT

9 Upholding Cultural Humility in Hand Therapy: Advancing Professional Excellence, Elevating Patient Satisfaction and Improving Health Outcomes in a Culturally Diverse World
(Volume 33, Issue 2, Summer 2026)
Eric Grispo, OTD, OTR/L, CHT

10 Hand Therapy in Ukraine: What is it like to Provide Hand Care in a War Zone?
(Volume 33, Issue 1, Spring 2026)
Mary Collier Barnes, MOT, CHT, CIDN, Oksana Myronenko, MD, Andrii Lysak, MD, Khrystyna Tsap, PT, Oleg Rukavitsyn, DPT, Romana Kolomiya, OT, Max Palamarchuk



Social Media

ASHT's social media following and engagement surged over the last year, with a **14.2-percent increase in total followers year over year**, and a **9.9-percent overall increase since January 2026**.

This growth was due in large part to ASHT's Instagram account, which surpassed 8,000 followers in the three years since launching. The account has continued its steady growth, with a **40-percent increase in followers year over year**, and a **27-percent increase in followers since January 2026**.

ASHT's YouTube channel saw significant growth this year thanks to dedicated video content from our Outreach Division. The channel experienced a **13.4-percent increase in subscribers year over year**.

The most popular posts of the last year across all platforms included the Tip of the Week series, hands-on course spotlights, Annual Meeting content, podcast episode previews, volunteer shoutouts and Hand Therapy Week celebrations.

 The society also now has a presence on **Threads**, so please follow us there – **@handtherapyASHT!**

Total ASHT Social Media Followers

				
YEAR	FACEBOOK	INSTAGRAM	LINKEDIN	YOUTUBE
2024	9,578	4,177	7,056	619
2025	10,424	6,580	7,301	660
2026*	11,348	8,380	7,363	743

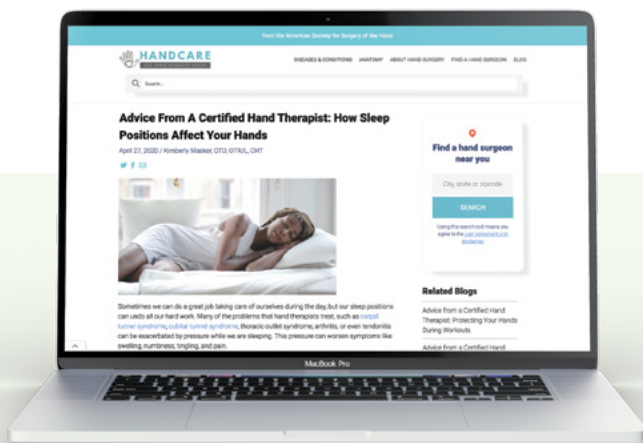
*As of August 20, 2026. All other totals are as of December 31 of the respective year.

HandCare.org

For more than 10 years, ASHT has partnered with the American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH) to provide important information to patients and the public through ASSH's HandCare.org blog.

ASHT's Outreach Division contributes content focused on the value of hand and upper extremity therapy, authored by committee members and ASHT volunteers. This information has become some of our most shared posts on social media, helping our therapists share the importance of the specialty with the public.

Between October 2025 and August 2026, the HandCare.org blog received nearly 860,000 overall views. According to ASSH's metrics, ASHT-generated content accounted for about 6.9% of traffic on the HandCare.org blog.



Two of ASHT's contributions – How Sleep Positions Affect Your Hands and Why Bite Injuries to the Hand and Arm Are So Serious – were 19th and 21st, respectively, among the HandCare.org blog's top 25 most-read posts with nearly 18,000 total views.



Other popular ASHT blog topics included:

Hand Edema

<https://www.assh.org/handcare/blog/advice-from-a-certified-hand-therapist-hand-edema>

Scar Management

<https://www.assh.org/handcare/blog/advice-from-a-certified-hand-therapist-scar-management>

Exercising Without Wrist Pain

<https://www.assh.org/handcare/blog/advice-from-a-certified-hand-therapist-exercising-without-wrist-pain>

How to Manage a Bruised Hand

<https://www.assh.org/handcare/blog/advice-from-a-certified-hand-therapist-how-to-manage-a-bruised-hand>

Trigger Finger

<https://www.assh.org/handcare/blog/advice-from-a-certified-hand-therapist-trigger-finger>

Radial Head Fractures

<https://www.assh.org/handcare/blog/advice-from-a-certified-hand-therapist-radial-head-fractures>

Modification to Pencil Grip for Handwriting

<https://www.assh.org/handcare/blog/advice-from-a-certified-hand-therapist-modifications-to-pencil-grip-for-handwriting>

Mallet Finger

<https://www.assh.org/handcare/blog/aadvice-from-a-certified-hand-therapist-mallet-finger>

ASHT Connect

At the 2024 Annual Meeting, ASHT launched **ASHT Connect**, our official mobile app designed to strengthen connections and enhance access to resources within the hand and upper extremity therapy community.



Since launch, **675 members have joined the app**, engaging in meaningful ways that demonstrate its value as a digital community hub. Members have opened the **News Feed nearly 11,000 times**, generating nearly **3,000 post views and over 600 likes**. The **Community Forums have been opened nearly 10,000 times**, with members actively reading, sharing expertise and networking with peers. The Events module has also become a popular feature, with nearly **2,700 views** since launch.

While adopting continues to grow, these early usage numbers show strong engagement among members who have downloaded the app. ASHT Connect is already proving to be a dynamic space to **stay connected, exchange knowledge and access society resources anytime, anywhere.**

If you haven't yet, we encourage you to **download ASHT Connect today** through the App Store or Google Play and experience the future of our professional community at your fingertips!



HAND THERAPY WEEK



— June 1–7, 2026 —

SPONSORED BY



ASHT experienced another incredibly successful Hand Therapy Weeks this year, due in part to creative daily challenges, the release of a new safety and injury prevention video, dedicated volunteer efforts and a highly engaged audience both among the membership and social media.

New Video Release:

Pulley Injuries & Rock Climbing Safety

Working with ASHT's digital media team, the Outreach Division created a new video focused on rock climbing and returning to the sport following finger and pulley injuries. The video — launched during Hand Therapy Week — highlighted the anatomy of the finger pulley system, common causes of A2 pulley injuries, signs and symptoms to watch for, treatment options and recovery timelines. The video also discusses how a Certified Hand Therapist can help manage a rock climbing finger injury through splinting, exercises and a gradual return-to-climbing program. Since its release, the cyclist's palsy video has yielded **nearly 4,300 views** across all ASHT social media platforms.

The Hand Therapy Week page on the ASHT website earned **3.71%** of website traffic, falling behind only the homepage, Find a Therapist Director and Patient Education Resources (heavily marketed during the week) in number of page views during that period.

Daily Challenges

The Outreach Division again developed daily challenges in an effort to increase engagement and provide more ways to celebrate Hand Therapy Week. The challenges were promoted in advance of Hand Therapy Week, then launched daily on social media. This year's challenges had consistent popularity throughout the week, with many clinics/accounts participating every day and some even creating their own challenges with their staff.



RETURN TO ROCK CLIMBING
AFTER FINGER PULLEY INJURY



Additional Resources/Promotion

ASHT provided hand and upper extremity therapy marketing flyers tailored to surgeons, primary care providers and the public; a list of celebration ideas; a marketing toolbox with a sample press release; and more.

The popular Patient Education Resources and Spanish translations were again promoted for therapists to use as a convenient tool for patient care and public education. The flyers provide information on common diagnoses, answer frequently asked questions and educate patients on the role a hand therapist plays in their treatment.

This year, ASHT released **four Spanish-translated resources** (radial head fracture, boutonniere deformity, scapholunate wrist ligament injuries, ulnar collateral ligament injury of the thumb).

The Patient Education Resource page was accessed **914 times – up nearly 400 views from Hand Therapy Week 2025**. This made up 3.29% of website traffic during that period, ranking third among all website page views. The Find a Therapist directory landed second among page views, which could mean increased promotion of the specialty led members of the public to the ASHT website to search for a hand therapist in their area.

ASHT Contests

The ASHT Photo Contest once again displayed the creativity of our members, with 14 different entries capturing the beauty of patient care, art installations and more. The photo contest posts generated hundreds of votes, with three winners receiving ASHT gift certificates and prizes from Performance Health.



First place:
Amy Marlow,
OTR/L, CHT

Second place:
Laurie
Thurber,
OT, CHT

Third place:
Kyla Salisbury,
MOTR/L, CHT

ASHT ran a giveaway in partnership with Performance Health on Instagram. Participants simply needed to follow ASHT and Performance Health on Instagram, like the giveaway content post and tag three friends in the comments. This again helped both accounts gain visibility and followers, generating a lot of buzz throughout the week. Congratulations to Liliana Reyes on being the randomly selected winner, receiving an ASHT gift certificate and prizes from Performance Health!



Social Media Engagement

The most popular posts across all channels were the Hand Therapy Week kickoff post, Patient Education Resources, daily challenge announcements, the rock climbing video and the photo contest voting.



Instagram

ASHT's Instagram account earned 97.8K views – up about 24K from Hand Therapy Week 2025 and up 35.5% from typical traffic on the page. Content posted to ASHT's stories received 10.4K views, up 1200% from typical traffic! ASHT also gained **221 new followers** throughout the week.



Facebook

ASHT's Facebook page total views during the week was 112.3K – up 14.8K views from last year's Hand Therapy Week and up 169% from typical traffic on the page. The page also picked up 82 new followers over the course of the week.



YouTube

ASHT's YouTube channel saw an increase in engagement with the release of rock climbing video, accounting for nearly 11% of the channel's traffic during Hand Therapy Week. ASHT's other upper extremity safety and injury prevention series videos saw a resurgence, as many therapists and business pages shared them throughout the week. Specifically, the CMC/thumb arthritis and cyclist's palsy videos were popular, accounting for 13.8% and 12% of the channel's traffic during that period, respectively.



Academy of Hand & Upper Extremity Physical Therapy

JANE FEDORCZYK, PT, PHD, CHT, FAPTA, CHAIR

The Academy of Hand & Upper Extremity Physical Therapy is one of 18 specialty components within the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). Powered by a growing community of more than 2,200 physical therapy professionals and students, our leadership team — including Certified Hand Therapists — is dedicated to advancing upper extremity management through interprofessional practice, education and robust scholarship. Whether you are looking to elevate your practice, connect with a vibrant professional community or support critical advocacy efforts, the Academy offers numerous pathways to get involved.

Join Us at APTA CSM 2027 in Philadelphia

The annual APTA Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) draws between 15,000 and 20,000 professionals, students and exhibitors each year. The conference is evolving to provide an even better member experience.

- February 4-6, 2027, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia
- Unprecedented Programming: Following a historic, highly competitive submission cycle, the Academy is proud to sponsor 24+ hours of continuing education.
- What to Expect: Our curated lineup features seven scientific platforms, three in-person poster presentations, three digital poster presentations, 15 education sessions and member receptions.
- Attendance Details: Membership is not required to attend. Learn more and secure your spot at [csm.apta.org](https://www.csm.apta.org).

Planning to attend? Let's connect! Reach out to our Academy President, Jane Fedorczyk, PT, PhD, CHT, FAPTA, at president@handpt.org to coordinate a time to meet in Philadelphia.

Webinar Series

Advance your clinical skills and meet your PT licensing requirements from anywhere with our seasonal webinar series.

- **Diverse Clinical Topics:** Presentations focus on the latest evidence-based practices for upper extremity rehabilitation, inclusive of unique patient populations.
- **Fulfill CEU Requirements:** These courses offer an excellent way to earn CEUs that satisfy criteria for both state PT licensure and CHT recertification.
- **Open to All:** Webinars are open to non-members, including occupational therapy professionals.
- Discover upcoming topics at [handpt.org](https://www.handpt.org) for registration details.

Evidence-Based Practice and Open-Access CPGs

The Academy remains firmly committed to elevating global clinical standards. We continuously develop Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) that meet the rigorous standards of the Institute of Medicine (IOM). To support the broader healthcare community, these invaluable clinical resources are fully open access. Practitioners can view and download them at any time via [handpt.org](https://www.handpt.org).

Practice Affairs and Public Policy Advocacy

Protecting our specialty and securing patient access requires continuous effort. Led by Marsha Lawrence, PT, DPT, CHT, our Practice Affairs Committee actively advocates on critical payment, reimbursement and legislative issues affecting hand therapy. Your voice is vital to this mission. Please visit our [Public Policy Page](#) to learn about current legislative initiatives and access customizable tools to contact your representatives. Marsha may be reached by email at practice@handpt.org.



American Hand Therapy Foundation

GARY S. SOLOMON, MBA, MS, OTR/L, CHT, CHAIRMAN

Mission: Improve patient outcomes by promoting evidence-based practice through funding clinical and scientific research and education

The American Hand Therapy Foundation is proud to continue to support impactful research and education opportunities through our grants and scholarships.

The **AHTF Board of Directors** works tirelessly to review and award grants and scholarships, raise funds, and guide AHTF toward fully attaining our mission. We continue to evolve with the changing environment and look for new methods to support the hand therapy professional specialty.

Grants and Scholarships 2026

In 2026, we are excited to introduce the **International Therapist Education Scholarship**. This new scholarship will enable international therapists to receive tuition for virtual ASHT Annual Meeting registration, as well as other ASHT education offerings. This scholarship was made possible through an extremely generous donation from Rina Chawla, who was a prominent hand therapist in the New York City area. The new **AHTF Rina Chawla Fund** will enable this scholarship opportunity to continue for many years! AHTF is extremely grateful for her thoughtful contribution.

AHTF will also be introducing the **Aaron and Winthrop Educational Scholarship** in 2026! The purpose of this scholarship is to provide tuition cost to occupational therapists and physical therapists to attend ASHT education/orthotic fabrication courses.

The first **Hand in Hand Research Grant** was also awarded in 2026; this \$50,000 funding opportunity was made possible through a new partnership between the American Occupational Therapy Foundation, the American Society of Hand Therapists and the American Hand Therapy Foundation. The submission deadline for the next grant cycle is November 2, 2026.

Please join us in congratulating our newest grant and educational scholarship recipients!

- **Hand in Hand Research Grant:** Sarah Doerrer, PhD, OTR/L, CHT, CLT, and mentor Roger Ideishi, JD, OT/L, FAOTA (GWU), "Mas Fuerte (Stronger): Exploring the Role of Spanish-Language Video Education in Distal Radius Fracture Recovery"
- **Judy Bell-Krotoski Grab the Evidence Grant:** Corey McGee, PhD, MS, OTR/L, CHT, FAOTA "Trapeziometacarpal Arthrokinematics of Common Orthoses for Persons with Early Stage Trapeziometacarpal Osteoarthritis and Thumb Metacarpophalangeal Collapse"
- **Tri-Alliance Grant Honoring ASHT Founders:** Tara Packham, PhD, OTReg(Ont.), "Can the Dinomometer provide reliable and valid measurements of hand grip and pinch strength in very young children?"
- **The Janet Albrecht Memorial Scholarship:** Victoria Delgado

- AHTF (Orthotics) Education Scholarship: Linda Paracua and Kyle Salisbury

Each year, AHTF offers multiple grants and scholarships and invites qualified applications. A list of AHTF's funding opportunities is posted on our [website](#), along with ample and helpful information about the application process. We encourage all of you to apply and/or help spread the word about these generous funding opportunities to your colleagues who participate in research.

Donors and Sponsors

We recognize ASHT's ongoing and unwavering support of the Foundation. AHTF and ASHT continue to work closely together to support each other's goals.

The Foundation benefits tremendously from an annual commitment of donation from **North Coast Medical, Inc., Mark E. Biehl, President and CEO**. With these contributions, North Coast generously underwrites the AHTF annual fundraiser, **Happy Hour with a Scholar**, the **Evelyn Mackin Travel Grant for Education and Research**, and is the official underwriter of our [website](#). Thank you, North Coast Medical!

AHTF is pleased to underwrite the **American Society of Hand Therapists' Scientific Sessions** at the Annual Meeting through a generous donation from **Jim and Beverly King**. Thank you, Jim and Beverly, for your continuous support!

Fundraising 2026

We are grateful for all of the participants in our **Virtual Run/Walk for Hand Therapy Research** who helped us reach our fundraising goals.

We are also excited to welcome Christine B. Novak, PT, PhD as our invited scholar for our **Happy Hour with a Scholar** program at the ASHT Annual Meeting.

The Foundation is grateful to all who have applied for grants, served on the Board of Directors, taken part by donating to fund AHTF grants and volunteered their time to support the Foundation's mission and our collective professional future.

We appreciate the support of everyone who contributed by applying for one of our grants, volunteering and/or making a financial donation to the Foundation this year. We are only able to continue this magnificent work with your help. Learn more about our funding opportunities and how to make an impact through contributions at our [website](#).

We are grateful for all of the participants in our Virtual Run/Walk for Hand Therapy Research who helped us reach our fundraising goals.





Hand Therapy Certification Commission

A Year of Strategic Growth & Innovation

HTCC Mission

The mission of the Hand Therapy Certification Commission is to support a high level of competence in hand therapy practice and to advance the specialty through a formal credentialing process.

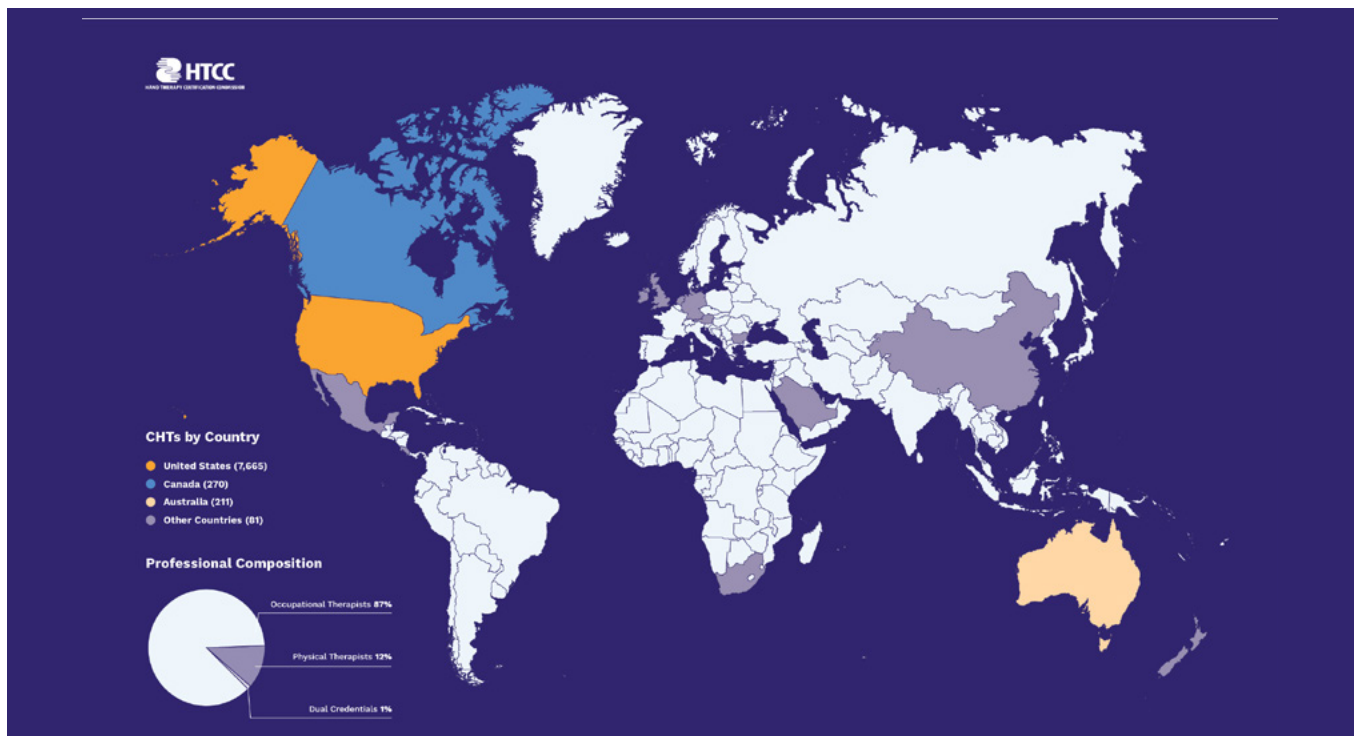
HTCC Vision

The Hand Therapy Certification Commission envisions a time when every qualified therapist who treats hand and upper limb patients will become a Certified Hand Therapist.

Community Snapshot

The global footprint of the Certified Hand Therapist community continues to expand, reflecting the growing clinical demand for specialized upper-extremity care.

- **Global Reach:** Over 8,000 active CHTs worldwide, featuring a strong foundational presence in the United States (7,665) and Canada (270), alongside a growing presence in countries outside of North America
- **Professional Composition:** Occupational therapists comprise 87% of the community, physical therapists represent 12%, and 1% hold dual credentials.



Examination & Recertification Highlights

HTCC is pleased to welcome 382 new CHTs to our community. These individuals successfully passed the hand therapy certification examination, demonstrating exceptional commitment to upper-limb rehabilitation.

Examination Performance

The certification exam continues to serve as a reliable benchmark of clinical excellence, maintaining consistent historical rigorous standards.

- Fall 2025: First-time test takers achieved a 65% pass rate (58% overall pass rate).
- Spring 2026: First-time test takers achieved a 64% pass rate (56% overall pass rate).
- **Ten-Year Trend:** These metrics mirror HTCC's decade-long average overall pass rate of 60%, validating the stability, integrity, and high standards of the examination.

Recertification Metrics

Demonstrating a profound, lifelong commitment to the specialty, the CHT community maintains exceptional retention rates. The 2025 recertification rate reached 84%, contributing to a sustained 88% historical average since 2014.

Strategic Initiatives & Milestones

The 2025 Practice Analysis Study

To guarantee that the CHT credential mirrors modern clinical realities, HTCC partnered with research consulting firm Westrock Measurement to complete its seventh *Practice Analysis Survey of Hand Therapy Practice*.

- **Validation:** This large-scale workforce study conclusively validated the existing CHT test blueprint, affirming that the examination accurately measures real-world clinical practice.
- **Key Findings:** The data firmly established the high reliability of the exam and underscored that hand therapy remains a mature, stable, and highly specialized domain within occupational therapy and physical therapy.
- **Future Outlook:** The results of the study affirmed the test specifications for the Hand Therapy

Certification Examination; affirmed the definition of hand therapy; and refined the scope of hand therapy practice. This study will provide guidance for HTCC policy decisions for the next 5-7 years.

2026 Salary & Benefits Survey

To provide the hand therapy community with critical economic benchmarks, HTCC conducted its tenth Salary & Benefits Survey in the spring of 2026. The purpose of the survey is to obtain information frequently requested by therapists and employers, serve as a resource to the hand therapy community by sharing information, and provide ongoing data. The survey results will be published this fall.

Test Development & Item Review

HTCC hosted an item writer and review meeting in the spring of 2026. The process brought together fourteen CHT Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) for a productive in-person meeting in Dallas, Texas, facilitated by our testing partner, PSI. As a direct result of this meeting, 80 new questions were formally accepted into the HTCC Item Bank. We extend our sincere appreciation to all the contributors who dedicated their time and clinical insights to this essential task.



Top Row (L to R): Marty Walsh, Nate Short, Gary Solomon, Sarah Hobbs, Megan McCray, Dan Bash, Stacy Hite. **Second Row:** Gretchen Bachman, Amy Brossard, Jenn Elsinger, Jenn Schelling. **Front Row:** Kellie Anderson (PSI Test Developer), Nora Barrett, Keri Landrieu, Angela Gerstenkorn.

Targeted Marketing & Brand Growth

HTCC extended its strategic partnership with **Willow Marketing** to elevate brand awareness and drive targeted recruitment of new CHTs. By deploying sophisticated social media campaigns and data-driven email marketing, this collaboration actively engages prospective candidates and reinforces the value of the credential to current CHTs—expanding the reach to prospective applicants while maintaining our strong recertification rates.



Transition to Digital Credentials

HTCC is proud to announce the successful transition from traditional paper certificates to state-of-the-art secure digital credentials. CHTs can now instantly access, download, and share their official digital certificates and wallet cards directly through the CHT Portal. This upgrade ensures that a practitioner's hard-earned certification is more portable, verifiable, and accessible than ever before, providing seamless integration for professional profile verification and employer credentials.



Professional Outreach & Candidate Advocacy

In our ongoing effort to connect with the broader hand therapy and rehabilitation community, HTCC exhibited at several key events in 2025 and 2026, including: the APTA Combined Sections Meeting, The Philadelphia Hand Symposium, the AOTA Annual Conference, and ASHT's Annual Meeting.

A core highlight of our outreach included hosting the popular *CHT Exam Preparation Panels* at both the Philadelphia and ASHT conferences. These sessions featured newly certified hand therapists sharing practical study strategies and insights. To expand access, a **full recording** of the panel has been archived and made available to support future candidates.

Governance & Leadership

HTCC extends its deepest gratitude to the dedicated **board members, committee volunteers and operational staff** whose governance protects and advances our specialty.

Board of Directors

Officers:

- President: Keri Landrieu, LOTR, CHT
- Vice President: Sue Blackmore, MS, OTR/L, CHT
- Secretary: JoAnn Keller, OTD, OTR/L, CHT
- Treasurer: Greg Pitts, MS, OTR/L, CHT

Directors:

- Dan Bash, OTR/L, CHT
- Anny Brossard, MS, OTR/L, CHT
- Nancy Cannon, OTR, CHT
- Mary Dimick, OTR, CHT
- Lynnlee Fullenwider, OTR/L, CHT
- Stacy Hite, PT, DPT, MS, CHT
- Tim Mullen, PhD, OTR/L, CHT
- Ann Porretto-Loerhke, PT, DPT, CHT, COMT, CMTPT
- Gary Solomon, MS, OTR/L, CHT
- Patricia Taylor, MBA, PT, CHT
- Lauren Valdata, PT, CHT
- Karol Young, OTD, OTR/L, CHT
- Physician Member: Roy Meals, MD
- Public Member: Jan Newsom, JD

HTCC Staff

- Executive Director: Martin Walsh, OTR/L, CHT
- Administrative Manager: Lisa Kahn



International Federation of Societies for Hand Therapy

Providing global networking and educational opportunities to develop and enhance the practice of hand therapy.

STACEY DOYON, OTR, CHT · PRESIDENT 2025-2028

IFSHT is an all-volunteer association with no paid management. Every effort is made to keep the executive committee (EXCO) and committee chairs as internationally diverse as possible, representing as many countries as possible. Any therapist of a full member association can be on the EXCO or hold a chairperson position.

2025-2028 Executive Committee

President, Stacey Doyon (United States)

President-elect, Francesco Romagnoli (Italy)

Secretary-General, Marie Eason Klatt (Canada)

Treasurer, Elizabeth Ward (Australia)

Information Officer, Danial Harte (Ireland)

Past President, Peggy Boineau (United States)

The EXCO's initial focus has been on transitional activities and learning our new roles. The EXCO meets every six to eight weeks throughout the triennial period. We also have one in-person meeting during our term in office in addition to our meeting at the IFSHT Triennial Congress.

2025-2028 Committee Chairs

Education Co-chair, Shovan Saha (India)

Education Co-chair, Carine Rambaud (Switzerland)

Bylaws, Susan Hannah (Canada)

Financial Review Committee, Missy Thurlow (USA)

Publications, Cynthia Srikesavan (United Kingdom)

The education committee and the publications committee have begun to meet regularly and have strong committees this year. The financial review committee meets two to three times per year, and the bylaws committee meets as needed.

If you would like to volunteer for a committee, please visit our [website](#) to find job descriptions and to apply.

Future Congresses

- The 14th IFSHT Triennial Congress will be held in Singapore, Singapore, October 23-27, 2028. This event is again being held in conjunction with IFSSH.
- During the council meeting the delegates also approved the 2031 meeting. It will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in conjunction with IFSSH. The dates are to be determined.

Awards and Grants

- In 2027, IFSHT will be seeking nominations for the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Cristina Alegri Award for Innovation. The awards will be presented at the 2028 Congress.
- Congress-related grants include the IFSHT Evelyn Mackin Congress Grant and the IFSHT/IFSSH Triennial Congress Grant.
- IFSHT also offers the IFSHT/IFSSH International Teaching Grant.

Grant information can be found on the 2028 Congress [website](#).

Membership

IFSHT has grown to 63 member countries representing approximately 11, 000 therapists worldwide.

- Membership categories include Full, Associate and Corresponding. Through ASHT's membership in IFSHT,

ASHT's members are a part of IFSHT. Please visit our [website](#) and set up a user account to receive ongoing updates and information.

- New members this past year include Kuwait and Costa Rica.
- The IFSHT website can be used to locate a therapist in any of our member countries. Click [here](#) to explore a country abroad:
- Each member appoints a delegate to IFSHT to ensure communication with the member societies.
 - » IFSHT held an in-person Delegate Council meeting at the 2025 Triennial Congress in Washington, DC. Those who could not attend joined virtually. We reviewed IFSHT accomplishments over the past 3 years, voted on bylaws amendments and the next triennium budget.
 - » The Delegates Council also meets virtually one time during the triennial term. Updates are provided on IFSHT and are often used as a brainstorming session on how to improve IFSHT offerings.

Education

- Over the past year, the Education Committee has reviewed the website to make sure information is accurate and up to date. This includes:
 - » Apps
 - » Postgraduate programs (changed format to include language and degree/certificate provided)
 - » Educational offerings (both society and private offerings)
 - » Visit a clinic - allowing you to visit clinics around the world
 - » Video library. A criteria form for video selection is being completed
 - » The committee is exploring new options to link therapists with educational opportunities.

Publications and Social Media

- **R.E.A.C.H.** newsletter (Research, Education, Achievement, Clinicians in Hand and Upper limb therapy) is published three times a year. You can find past newsletters [here](#).
- **IFSSH EZINE**, published by the International Federation of Societies for Hand Surgery, welcomes a hand therapy article, which the IFSHT publications committee organizes. Volunteer submissions are welcome. You can find the full newsletter [here](#). Click [here](#) access the IFSHT submitted articles.

- Facebook posts are published once per month, increasing to every week, three to five months prior to the Triennial Congress.
- Volunteer submissions and ideas are welcome for all publications and social media. Please reach out to our information officer at informationofficer@ifsht.org.

Sponsorship

- IFSHT has a corporate sponsorship program to help raise funds for our programs and grants.
- Our corporate sponsorship program welcomes sponsors from commercial organizations that market equipment, supplies, services and virtual products to hand therapists on an international basis.
- We offer four different sponsorship levels and an opportunity to support the Silent Auction at the Triennial Congress.
- If you would like to learn more about sponsorship opportunities, please reach out to president@ifsht.org.
- IFSHT is grateful for the ongoing support of our gold sponsor, T-Tape, and our silver Sponsor, 3-Point Products.

2028 Congress

- Two co-chairs have been appointed. Singapore has chosen Zhiqing Chen and IFSHT has chosen Susan de Klerk (South Africa) from six applicants.
- The co-chairs are exploring potential members for the scientific review committee.

Website

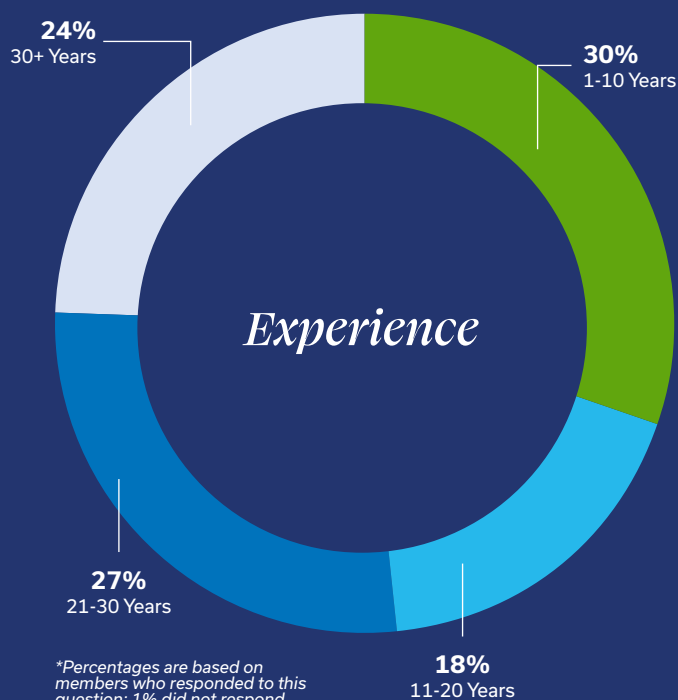
- Offering a variety of information from apps, articles, links to clinics to visit, post-graduate programs, educational opportunities, hand therapy resources and more.
- Over the past year we have attracted 10,998 active users and 37,012 new users.
- Users span 79 countries. The top five countries by usage include the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and Argentina.
- Please explore our [website](#) and become a frequent visitor.

Over the next three years, IFSHT will continue to focus on expanding our educational links and offerings, organizational efficiencies, and donations/fundraising for our grants to further our mission and goals.

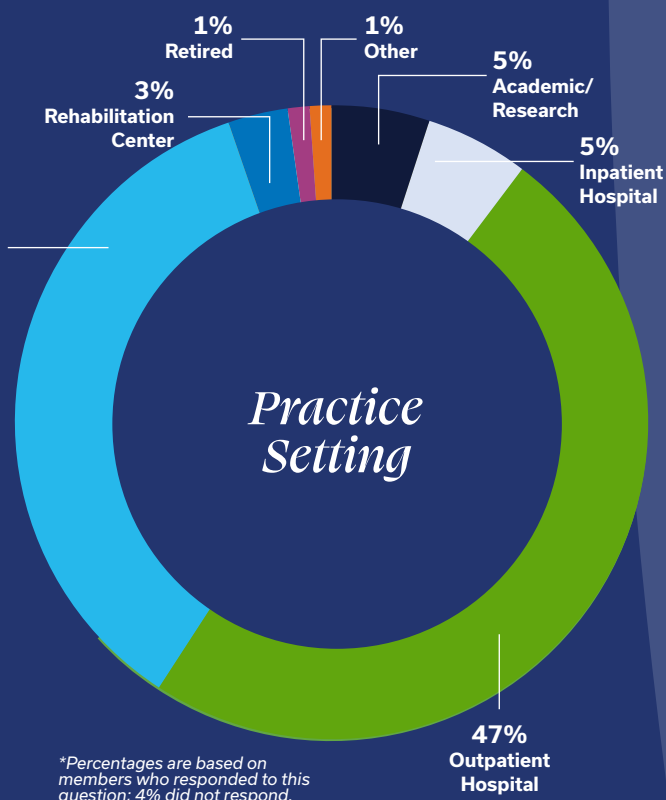
ASHT Membership By the Numbers

Years of Hand and Upper Extremity Therapy Experience

ASHT membership reflects a vibrant mix of therapists across the full spectrum of career stages. Nearly one in three members (30%) are in their first decade of practice, bringing fresh ideas and energy to the specialty. Fewer than one in five members (18%) fall into the 11–20-year range, representing a smaller but important group of mid-career professionals. Just over one-quarter of members (27%) have been practicing for 21–30 years, contributing seasoned experience. And almost one-quarter of members (24%) have more than 30 years of experience, offering a wealth of perspective and mentorship.



Total ASHT Membership



ASHT welcomed 290 new members in 2026, re-captured 323 lapsed members and reported a 85-percent member retention rate. The ASHT Board of Directors, leadership volunteers and staff remain focused on growing membership value. Our goal has been and continues to be building on past and present organizational accomplishments in an innovative, collaborative and global manner to meet the future needs of hand therapists, allied professional communities and patients.



Incoming President's Message

KIM MCVEIGH, MBA, OTR/L, CHT, FACHE

Dear members,

As we look ahead to ASHT's 50th year as an organization and prepare to gather in Portland, Oregon, for our 50th anniversary Annual Meeting, I am filled with deep gratitude, humility and excitement. This milestone is more than a celebration of time. It reflects the vision, dedication and care of generations of hand therapists who have built, sustained and advanced our specialty.

It is an incredible honor to serve as your ASHT president during such a meaningful year. I step into this role with great appreciation for the leaders who have come before me, the board members and volunteers who continue to give so generously of their time and talents, and each of you—our members—who bring the mission of ASHT to life every day through your clinical practice, teaching, research, advocacy and service.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to Danielle Sparks for her outstanding leadership this year. Danielle's meeting theme, **"Bridging the Gap — Collaborating and Amplifying Our Voices,"** has reminded us that advocacy is both collective and personal. Through her focus on advocacy and the power of small, intentional habits, she encouraged us to recognize that meaningful change does not always begin with one large action. Often, it begins with the small choices we make consistently—the

conversations we have, the voices we amplify, the colleagues we support and the patients we empower.

As we move into our 50th year, the ideas of small habits creating lasting change become even more meaningful. How do we ensure longevity of our specialty, our patients and ourselves? How do we help our patients build habits that support not only recovery, but long-term health and participation in life?

These questions are at the heart of my presidential theme: **"Rooted in Purpose: Upper Extremity Care to Whole-Person Health."** Our tagline, **"Lifestyle, Leadership, and Longevity,"** reflects an opportunity to honor the roots of our specialty while expanding our view of the impact we can have. We are, and will always remain, specialists in hand and upper-extremity rehabilitation, but the patients we serve are whole people. Their pain, strength, movement, sleep, stress, nutrition, relationships and confidence all influence their healing.

As hand therapists, we are uniquely positioned to lead—not necessarily through titles or formal roles, but through daily influence. We lead when we help a patient move from fear to confidence. We lead when we connect function to meaningful participation. We lead when we model healthy habits, support one another and create environments where patients and colleagues can thrive.

Our 50th anniversary meeting in Portland will give us an opportunity to reflect on where we have been, celebrate who we are and imagine where we can go next. Portland's mountains and trails offer a fitting backdrop for this moment in ASHT's history. No summit is reached in a single step, and no specialty reaches 50 years without dedication, perseverance and shared purpose.

I am especially excited that our Portland meeting will include the **inaugural Sports Specialty Day**, creating a new opportunity to highlight the breadth, innovation and evolving expertise within hand and upper extremity therapy.

As we enter this historic year, I want to thank our Board of Directors, committee leaders, volunteers, ASHT staff and every member who contributes to this organization. ASHT's strength has always come from its people—from those who founded the organization, to those who sustain it today, to those who will carry it forward into the next 50 years.

I am humbled to walk this path with you. I look forward to listening, learning, serving and celebrating alongside this extraordinary community.

With gratitude and excitement for the trail ahead,

Kim McVeigh, MBA, OTR/L, CHT, FACHE

Supporter Acknowledgement

ASHT gratefully acknowledges the individuals and organizations whose 2025-2026* contributions further the mission of our organization and the work of the hand and upper extremity therapy specialty. Without you, our work would not be possible.

**August 22, 2025 – September 30, 2026*

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ASHT Annual Meeting

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The American Society of Hand Therapists is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the field of hand and upper extremity therapy by promoting education, advocacy, research and clinical standards.

Donate to the American Society of Hand Therapists

Please see the following descriptions outlining your donation options. All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Consult your tax advisor regarding specific questions about your deductions.

- **Annual Meeting Sessions Fund:** Donations support continued evidence-informed programming and learning opportunities to help ASHT members meet the demands of clinical practice.
- **Awards and Scholarship Fund:** Donations support continuing education for the next generation of hand therapy professionals.
- **Vision Fund:** Donations support ASHT's strategic initiatives in advancing advocacy, education and research.

Donate

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asht.org/donate**

Thank you for considering a donation to support the field of hand and upper extremity therapy.

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