

Local physical therapist lobbies for action on Capitol Hill

From Staff Reports

Decatur resident and owner of Intown Physical Therapy Dr. Ingrid Anderson, PT, DPT, OCS, was among nearly 100 physical therapists from across the country who convened in Washington as part of the first-ever fly-in hosted by the private practice section of the American Physical Therapy Association July 22 and 23.

Anderson — chair of the public relations committee for the Physical Therapy Association of Georgia — met with congressional representatives and discussed hard-hitting issues affecting the future of health care, the physical therapy profession, small business owners and their patients.

"Our health care system faces critical regulatory and policy issues as one of the nation's most constantly evolving occupations," said Anderson.

"We want to ensure the voice of Georgia's physical therapists and their patients is heard and effective treatment options will continue to be made available."

Anderson asked Congress to take action on pending legislation and topics that will enable the delivery of high-quality, cost-effective therapy to seniors and other patients in need of rehabilitation. The two issues discussed were:

- Sustainable growth rate: physical therapists support the Medicare Physician Payment Innovation Act of 2013, H.R. 574.

This bill would repeal and replace the sustainable growth rate formula that determines Medicare payment rates, fixing the broken reimbursement method so therapists can be paid fairly and commensurate with the value of their services.

- Medicare therapy cap: physical therapists support the Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services Act, H.R. 713/S. 367, which



Special Photos

Above, left, from left, Dr. Herb Silver, association public policy chair, Dr. Barney Poole, association president and Dr. Ingrid Anderson, association public relations chair. Above right, from left, Dr. Ingrid Anderson, Physical Therapy Association of Georgia public relations chair, Dr. Barney Poole, association president and Dr. Herb Silver, association public policy chair.

would permanently repeal the arbitrary annual per-beneficiary cap for physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech-language pathology services. The bill would allow patients access to physical therapy services needed



to restore their health and function.

"As entrepreneurs in the health field, our physical therapists face legislative challenges and roadblocks in delivering good care," said Tom DiAngelis, president of the private practice section. "Having the opportunity for the first time to speak honestly with Congress and bring to their attention the overlooked impact of healthcare reform is a defining moment for the private practice section."

"We thank Ms. Anderson for being a part of this historic occasion and contributing to the thought-provoking dialogue."

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