Hands On DIAGNOSTICS

Healing Hands Guided by Technology

Newsletter | October, 2026

Dear HODS Members,

Welcome to the HODS Monthly Newsletter!

October is here, and so is the 13th Annual Hands-On Diagnostics Symposium. On October 17–18, we bring together 21 speakers, three tracks, and two full days built around one idea: primary care physical therapy, powered by diagnostics and value.

This year the entire program is online, so every clinician, practice owner, and team member can join from anywhere. Below you'll find the full agenda and every speaker on the program. Pick your sessions, register your team, and we'll see you on Zoom.

13TH ANNUAL HODS SYMPOSIUM · OCTOBER 17–18, 2026

Primary Care Physical Therapy Powered by Diagnostics and Value

Elevating patient outcomes, practice profitability, and professional autonomy

2 Days Online (ET) · 21 Speakers · 12 CEUs · $49.95

REGISTER NOW →

This year's program is built for practices that want to lead: clinical excellence, operational efficiency, and patient value you can measure. Sessions cover:

- Primary care physical therapy models
- EMG and musculoskeletal ultrasound in clinical practice
- Diagnostic-driven clinical decision-making and earlier, more accurate diagnosis
- Expanding access through advanced physical therapy services
- Practice growth, profitability, and business innovation
- Professional autonomy and the future of physical therapy

CONTENT HIGHLIGHTS

What to Expect, Day by Day

Two full days of General and Clinical sessions — here's what's on the program and why it matters for your patients and your practice.

Saturday, October 17

9:35 AM ET · GENERAL

The Value Imperative + Built for More

Dr. Dimitrios Kostopoulos · Angie McGilvrey

Dr. Kostopoulos opens with HODS's milestones in electrodiagnostics, MSK ultrasound, and residency training, and makes the case for primary care PT as the profession's next chapter. Angie McGilvrey follows with a call to think bigger, lead boldly, and build a purpose-driven practice.

10:15 AM ET · GENERAL

The Value-Centered Healthcare Organization

Dan Brown

A practical framework where every role, process, and service is designed to create, communicate, or protect value — linking patient experience, referral relationships, team engagement, and financial performance.

11:00 AM ET · CLINICAL

MSK Ultrasound at the Point of Care

Dr. Konstantine Rizopoulos

Clinical examples show how real-time imaging separates competing diagnoses, reveals structural findings that change management, guides safer interventions, and strengthens communication with referring providers.

11:30 AM ET · CLINICAL

Acute Shoulder Pain and Sudden Weakness

Dr. Mark Brooks

A clinical reasoning and electrodiagnostic approach to differentiating cervical radiculopathy, brachial plexopathy, and focal nerve lesions, including Parsonage-Turner syndrome, using NCS and needle EMG for localization, severity, and chronicity.

12:00 PM ET · CLINICAL

Can Treatment Change the EMG?

Dr. Daniel Neff

Two confirmed cervical radiculopathy cases treated with spinal manipulation, with repeat EMG showing resolution of active denervation. The session weighs treatment effect against natural recovery, and what serial testing can prove.

1:00 PM ET · GENERAL

Knowing When PT Isn’t the Answer

Joe McGilvrey

In a true primary care model, value includes knowing when to refer. See how timely specialist referral and coordinated care create measurable value for patients, providers, and health systems.

1:30 – 2:20 PM ET · GENERAL

Making Value Visible + the VOS Reveal

David Brier · Dr. Kostopoulos · James Savas

David Brier shows how brand, language, and positioning shape perceived value. Then HODS unveils

the Patient Value Optimization System and its five divisions: Clinical Education, Clinical Advancement, Practice Expansion, Organizational Stability, and On-Site Diagnostic Services.

2:30 PM ET · CLINICAL

From Testing to Treatment: The Afternoon EMG Block

Three case-driven sessions: EMG and NCS findings that change the plan of care; ultrasound plus EMG to separate structural shoulder pathology from neurologic dysfunction; and serial EMG to track reinnervation and avoid premature escalation of care.

4:00 PM ET · GENERAL

Celebrating Excellence

Recognition Ceremony

We honor Diplomate and Residency graduates in Electrodiagnosis, new ECS board-certified clinicians, MSK Ultrasound Diplomate and Fellowship graduates, and new RMSK credential holders.

Sunday, October 18

9:30 AM ET · GENERAL

National Advocacy Update with APTA

Justin Elliott · Michael Matlack

APTA's current legislative, regulatory, and payment priorities, the role of political advocacy, and the actions needed to improve reimbursement, expand patient access, and strengthen private practice.

10:00 AM ET · GENERAL

From Research to Results: Lumbar Radiculopathy

Garrett Salpeter · Dr. Kostopoulos · Dr. Lisa Griffin

Findings from their lumbar radiculopathy study using direct-current neuromuscular stimulation: changes in pain, function, strength, and electrophysiologic measures, the study's limitations, and how to evaluate emerging technology responsibly.

10:20 AM ET · GENERAL

FCE Diagnostics + the Margin Stack

Bill Holl · Steve Coen

Two rapid-fire sessions on growing a diagnostic practice: adding FCE diagnostics, and completing the Test, Treat, Track margin stack.

10:40 AM ET · CLINICAL

Distinguished Special Guest Lecture

Dr. Reuben S. Ingber, MD

Lumbar radiculopathy with weakness or foot drop often escalates fast to imaging, injections, and surgery. Dr. Ingber walks through a live case — anatomy, exam, differential diagnosis, and imaging and EMG findings — to show how iliopsoas dysfunction can drive symptoms and how targeted myofascial care changes the response.

11:55 AM ET · CLINICAL

Beyond the Spine: Visceral vs. Musculoskeletal Pain

Dr. Daniel Neff

A primary care framework for spotting when thoracic or lumbar pain is referred from an organ, with a review of abdominal anatomy, organ location, and focused abdominal assessment.

12:25 PM ET · CLINICAL

Primary Care Physical Therapy in Practice

Dr. Korry Wheeler

The role of the primary care PT: screening, red flags, recognizing conditions outside the musculoskeletal system, deciding when diagnostic testing is warranted, and coordinating referral.

12:55 PM ET · GENERAL

Closing Leadership Roundtable

Panel · Moderated by Dr. Kostopoulos

Practice owners and healthcare leaders take live questions on primary care PT, diagnostic authority, professional autonomy, payment reform, workforce development, and practice ownership.

1:55 PM ET · GENERAL

Closing Remarks: From Vision to Value

Dr. Kostopoulos · Dr. Rizopoulos · James Savas

The central themes of the weekend, tied back to the HODS mission, and a challenge to turn knowledge into action.

For HODS Member Practice Owners: Business Owner Track
Running in parallel with the Clinical Track on a separate Zoom Meeting.

Saturday: the Patient Value Map workshop (Dan Brown), the VOS Strategy Session (Dr. Kostopoulos & James Savas), and a hands-on Branding Workshop (David Brier).

Sunday: From Best-Kept Secret to First Choice (Neil Trickett) and Creating Employee Value (Kristian Srica).

AGENDA

The Full Program

General Sessions bring everyone together. The Clinical Track runs alongside a Business Owner Track reserved for HODS member practice owners.

Our Amazing Sponsors

This program is made possible by NeuFit, Esaote, Cadwell, Empower EMR, webFCE, SaRA Health, Justworks, Practice Promotions, MGE Management Experts, and Hands-On Seminars. Catch their messages during breaks throughout both days.

See You October 17–18

SECURE YOUR SPOT →

HODS Member? Register through the Members page

Warm regards,
HODS Leadership Team