HandsOn DIAGNOSTICS

Healing Hands Guided by Technology

Newsletter | September, 2026

Dear HODS Members,

Welcome to the HODS Monthly Newsletter!

This month, we're looking at what it actually takes to train the next generation of clinical electrophysiology specialists, the residency structure, the mentorship, and the standards that keep the credential meaning something as the specialty grows. We also have a new scholarship opportunity worth $10,000 for eligible DPT residents, plus this month's course highlights.

Training the Next Generation of Clinical Electrophysiology Specialists

Residency education, mentorship, competency, and maintaining standards as the specialty grows.

As primary care PT practice expands, the question stops being whether physical therapists can function as first-contact clinicians — and becomes how we prove it, systematically, at scale. The HODS Primary Care PT Residency was built to answer that question.

The program requires 1,550 patient-care clinical hours and 400 didactic/lab hours, delivered through a Practice-Based Training Model: residents complete their hours at their own clinical site while working full-time, layering a 21-course curriculum aligned to the 2023 Primary Care DSP Taxonomy on top of an active caseload. Two tracks — a 24-month Standard Track and a 12-month Accelerated Track — both begin October 1, 2026, and both hold residents to the same competency bar: 15 Critically Appraised Topics, continuous case logs, a Quality Improvement Project with four checkpoints, and a capstone case presentation.

Mentorship is built into the structure, not left to chance. Case logs are reviewed regularly with a mentor. Case discussions bring real caseload complexity to the cohort for faculty-guided integration. Required in-person weekends — including MSKUS Upper and Lower Extremity through AAMU and EDX Stage I through AACE — put residents in the room with faculty and peers for hands-on sign-off, not just online modules.

Under **Program Director Dr. Korry Wheeler, PT, DPT, ECS, D-EDX** — who spent over a decade as a first-contact clinician in rural Wyoming — the residency has already achieved ABPTRFE Candidacy status. That is the accreditation infrastructure that makes "primary care PT" a defensible clinical designation, and it is what keeps the bar high as the specialty grows.

Founding Cohort begins October 1, 2026 — 20% off standard tuition, with an additional exclusive rate for HODS Members. Limited enrollment.

See Program Details

Join us at the 13th Annual HODS Symposium Primary Care Physical Therapy Powered by Diagnostics and Value

Elevating Patient Outcomes, Practice Profitability, and Professional Autonomy

October 17–18, 2026 | Fully Virtual | All times ET

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to this year's Annual HODS Symposium. This year, we are going fully virtual to ensure that the clinical education, the business strategy, and the VOS unveiling reach the widest possible group of PTs, practice owners, and colleagues who could benefit not just the ones already inside the HODS network. Yes you read right, alongside the clinical program, we're unveiling something new: **VOS, the Patient Value Optimization System**, a roadmap built on five pillars

1. **Clinical Education**
2. **Clinical Advancement**
3. **Practice Expansion**
4. **Organizational Stability**
5. **On-site Diagnostics**

So as to help your practice become more valuable, more competitive, and more sustainable.

This year, both the **Clinical Track and Business Track are open to each one of you,** HODS members and non-members alike.

And with the Symposium moving **fully virtual**, geography, travel budgets, and staffing gaps are no longer the reason your team misses it.

What's New This Year

- **$49.95 for everyone, HODS members included** — a nominal investment that keeps this program growing.
- **12 CEUs** pending approval, plus a pre-symposium electrophysiology course.

How Access Works

General Session + Clinical Track run as one Zoom Webinar (same link, both days). The Business Track is a separate Zoom Meeting. After registering, you'll get both links plus the full agenda by email.

Register here

★ Bring your entire clinical and administrative team

The Intro to EMG, NCS, & MSKUS Course Trains Your Staff, Grows Your Referrals & Expands Your Reach

Course Recap- Newberry, FL

HODS Member **Tony Cere of Kinetix Physical Therapy opened his doors in Newberry, FL** for a two-day Introduction to EMG, Nerve Conduction Studies, and Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Imaging course — bringing advanced diagnostic education directly to North Central Florida.

The **Introduction to EMG, Nerve Conduction Studies, and Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Imaging** course is designed with two powerful goals in mind. For your clinical staff, it serves as an inspiring entry point into the world of physical therapy diagnostics, equipping them with the knowledge and hands-on expertise needed to make more confident, accurate, and appropriate referrals within your practice. At the same time, the course is crafted to enlighten your referral sources, giving physicians, specialists, and healthcare partners the meaningful clinical context they need to refer their patients directly to you, strengthening your referral relationships and expanding your diagnostic outreach in the community.

The course awards **20.5 CEUs** for physical therapy professionals and **20.5 CMEs** for physicians and medical providers, ensuring that every attendee walks away with meaningful, accredited continuing education credit.

Whether you are growing your team's capabilities or deepening your network, this course delivers on both fronts.

What an exciting time for HODS. What an exciting time for the PT practice profession.

What makes this experience truly unique is what happens before the course even begins. The **HODS Leadership Team** dedicates a full day with your administrative and marketing staff, taking the time to understand your diagnostic practice needs, your specific marketplace, and the opportunities unique to your community. Together, we craft tailored solutions and strategic plans designed to take your practice to the next level.

Upcoming Dates:

1. Chicago, IL – November 7-8, 2026 hosted by HODS Member **Matthew Johnson at Muscle and Joint Physical Therapy**
2. Quarryville, PA – December 12-13, 2026 hosted by HODS Member **Dan Neff at Neff Physical Therapy**
3. Escondido, CA – January 23-24, 2027 hosted by HODS Member **Skye Grayson at NCEPT Physical Therapy**

Interested in hosting this course at your facility? Reach out to James at deputyceo@ihods.com

Upcoming Courses

September – December 2026

COURSE	DATES	LOCATION	STATUS
MSKUS Lower Extremities	Sept 25–26	Astoria, NY	
Intro to EMG, MSKUS & Patient Management	Oct 24–25	Louisville, KY (KORT PT)	
MSKUS Upper Extremities	Oct 30–31	Astoria, NY	
EDX Stage 2	Nov 6–8	Astoria, NY	
Intro to EMG, MSKUS & Patient Management	Nov 7–8	Chicago, IL (Muscle & Joint PT)	
MSKUS Lower Extremities	Nov 13–14	Astoria, NY	
MSKUS Advanced Upper Pathology	Dec 11	Astoria, NY	Online option available
Intro to EMG, MSKUS & Patient Management	Dec 12–13	Quarryville, PA (Neff PT)	
MSKUS Advanced Lower Pathology	Dec 12	Astoria, NY	Online option available

NEW PARTNERSHIP

Hands-On Seminars × Niel Asher Education — 40+ New CE Courses Now Available

Effective July 1, 2026, Hands-On Seminars has announced a formal collaboration with Niel Asher Education — one of the leading providers of online continuing education for rehabilitation and integrative health professionals. This partnership immediately expands the CE catalog to include 40+ online courses covering:

- Trigger Point Therapy (including a 50-CEU Certification program)
- Pelvic floor rehabilitation and female athlete health
- Sports injury mechanics, return-to-play planning, and running biomechanics
- Joint mobilization, manual therapy, and soft-tissue techniques
- Shoulder, knee, cervical, thoracic, and lumbar rehabilitation
- Vestibular rehabilitation and TMJ dysfunction
- Resistance training, Pilates-based rehab, and strength programming
- Artificial intelligence in rehabilitation practice
- Osteoporosis, hypermobility management, and peripheral nerve entrapment

Whether you are seeking to strengthen clinical reasoning, develop new treatment skills, satisfy CE requirements, or expand your scope of practice — this catalog delivers meaningful options across every specialty area.

Explore Course Catalog

Help Your Residents Cover the Cost: The Surge Scholarship

Rizing Tide is offering a **$10,000 scholarship** for incoming and current DPT residents from underrepresented racial and ethnic backgrounds. The award is paid directly to the residency program or the resident and can be applied to tuition, room and board, or fees — a direct funding option for residents in the HODS Primary Care PT Residency and any ABPTRFE-accredited program.

Eligibility

- Graduated from a CAPTE-accredited physical therapy program
- Minimum cumulative 3.2 GPA in their PT program
- Underrepresented racial and/or ethnic heritage
- Attending an ABPTRFE-accredited PT residency program within the U.S.
- U.S. citizen or DACA status

Application requirements

- 3 short essays
- 1 official transcript
- 1 acceptance letter from their DPT residency
- 2 letters of recommendation

Note: funds applied to qualified education expenses (tuition, enrollment fees, supplies, CEUs) are non-taxable; funds applied to non-qualified expenses (room and board, food, personal travel) count as taxable income per IRS guidance.

Applications are open through **11:59 PM PDT, Tuesday, October 6, 2026.**

Apply Here

Featured Podcast Episode

Build the Practice of the Future:

Inside the HODS Primary Care PT Residency

In this episode of Your Practice, Your Money, Dr. Dimitrios Kostopoulos explores how Primary Care Physical Therapy (PCPT) can move the profession beyond direct access and closer to the front end of the healthcare system.

Learn how stronger clinical decision-making, medical screening, diagnostics, and the Triage, Screen, Clarify & Guide model can help physical therapists determine what patients truly need next.

Dr. Kostopoulos also explores how Primary Care PT can strengthen clinical authority, differentiate your practice, improve recruitment and retention, and create sustainable growth. Plus, Dr. Korry Wheeler shares how the HODS Primary Care PT Residency prepares clinicians for the greater responsibility that comes with first-contact care.

New episodes every week. Subscribe on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or visit yourpracticeyourmoney.com.

Listen Now

Warm regards,
HODS Leadership Team