

**Manisha Sharma, OTR, CHT, MHS, CEAS
Board-Member-at-Large**



**TOP 5 PROFESSIONAL
ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

1. Recognized as providing outstanding service to local community in Strafford, MO newspaper.
2. Certified Ergonomic Assessment Specialist
3. Functional Capacity Evaluator
4. Organized Splinting workshop at Florida Hand Society, annual meeting May 2009.
5. Cofounded Tampa Bay Hand Club in October 2009.

**SUMMARY OF YOUR BACKGROUND AND
SKILLS YOU BRING TO THE POSITION**

I have been an occupational therapist for the past 17 years and have specialized in hand therapy for 10 years. I graduated from the National Institute for the orthopedically handicapped in Calcutta, India in 1993 with a degree in Occupational Therapy. After becoming a CHT in 2007 I completed my Masters in health science with an orthopedic track in 2009 at the University of Indianapolis. I am planning to apply for my clinical doctorate in OT with a hand therapy focus at Rocky Mountain University, Utah. Currently I work with two Hand Surgeons at the Tampa Bay Hand Center, Tampa, FL. I have been part of this great organization for the last three years. I like the fact that hand therapy, hand surgeons and our surgery center are all located in one setting that serves as a good framework for hand surgeon and hand therapist interaction for the highest quality of patient care.

I have always been a supporter of the ASHT and their efforts towards the advancement and recognition of our profession. I observed tremendous growth in the ASHT and would love to serve this great organization. I consider myself to be a good team player, organizer, and problem solver. I have time, dedication, zeal, passion, good people skills, leadership, commitment, and organizational knowledge for improving the standards of our care and to provide a good networking platform for all hand therapists and hand surgeons to interact together as a team. I recently co-founded the Tampa Bay Hand Club along with my hand surgeons and invited all area hand surgeons and hand therapist to our biannual networking event which has been well supported. We had around 40 attendees at our event held in the fall 2009 and spring 2010 with great sponsors. I would like to be part of the ASHT board to help support our efforts to provide an educational platform for all hand therapists and improve research based evidence in the field of hand therapy. I am very interested in increasing global awareness in the practice of hand therapy in the United States as well as helping to disseminate knowledge and techniques to less developed countries.

**THE 5 KEY ISSUES FACING THE
PROFESSION OF HAND THERAPY
INCLUDE**

1. Lack of evidence based research to integrate into clinical practice.
2. Lack of local hand care professional groups to serve as a platform for educational and professional networking.
3. Many family practice physicians and insurance providers are unaware of the services provided by a certified hand therapist.
4. Lack of standardization of protocols among hand therapists.
5. Increase networking among hand therapy professionals at the national and international levels.