

**Melissa "Missy" Cathcart Thurlow, MBA,  
OTR/L, CHT  
Candidate for Vice President**



**TOP 5 PROFESSIONAL  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

1. 2010 Secretary – Treasurer, ASHT
2. 2009 Secretary – Treasurer, elect ASHT
3. 2008 Senior BMAL
4. 2007 BMAL
5. 2010 - ASHT Annual Meeting Chairman, Orlando , FL

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

My strengths are my openness to new ideas as well as having a well rounded approach to ASHT due to my previous experiences in a wide variety of outpatient settings as both a manager and a clinician. I have been involved in ASHT for many years, as chairman of several ASHT Annual Meetings and on the board as BMAL and Secretary/Treasurer. My interest is to continue to build membership and to make ASHT the best organization that therapists who have upper extremity experience will look to for education, ideas, and leadership. I want to further the educational endeavors of our organization thru continuing education, mentoring that would be beneficial and assisting in growth of the therapist involved in upper extremity rehabilitation. My involvement in ASHT annual meetings and providing quality education is important to me while maintaining cost effectiveness of the programs. I am willing to work diligently and consistently for ASHT to help us grow membership, raise awareness of our organization as well as assist with educational pursuits which would benefit all members.

Melissa "Missy" Cathcart Thurlow, MBA, OTR/L, CHT has her B.S. degree in Occupational Therapy from University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX. She received her MBA from Brenau University, Gainesville, GA. Missy currently works for Peachtree Orthopedic Physical Therapy in Atlanta, GA. Missy is active in ASHT and is currently Secretary/Treasurer; and the Chairman of the 2010 ASHT Annual Meeting in Orlando. Missy has two sons and a husband Greg and she enjoys doing yearly mission work in foreign countries.

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

1. Economy and healthcare reform - what is the future of OT's, PT's and hand therapists
2. ASHT membership - need ways to grow membership, offering services that are needed
3. Offering excellent education in a cost-effective way
4. Billing and coding - how to charge better for what we do.
5. Continued recognition of hand therapists by insurance co. and physicians