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Shockwave Medicine at an Inflection Point: Why ASMST's 2026 Summit Signals a New Era for Regenerative Care

Springfield, MA, February 20, 2026 — Shockwave medicine is no longer an emerging adjunct therapy. It is rapidly becoming a defining pillar of non-invasive regenerative care, and the question facing clinicians today is not whether shockwave works, but how to standardize, optimize, and responsibly expand its use.

That question will take center stage March 13–15, 2026, when the [American Society for Medical Shockwave Treatment \(ASMST\)](#) convenes its [Second Annual Summit](#) at The Royal Sonesta Boston. More than a conference, the gathering represents a strategic alignment of the field's most influential voices at a pivotal moment in its evolution.

"Shockwave therapy has reached a critical phase in the United States," says Dr. Brice Blatz, President of ASMST. "We have growing adoption, expanding indications, and increasing public awareness. What we need now is rigorous collaboration — shared standards, thoughtful certification, and disciplined clinical excellence. That is exactly what this Summit is designed to accomplish."

From Innovation to Standardization

Globally, extracorporeal shockwave therapy (ESWT) has been utilized for decades in orthopedics and bone healing. In Europe, leaders such as Professor Dr. Wolfgang Schaden helped establish early protocols that transformed the treatment of nonunions and chronic musculoskeletal conditions. Today, that legacy continues to influence the next generation of shockwave applications.

In the United States, momentum is accelerating.

At major academic centers, clinician-scientists are redefining shockwave's role in sports medicine, spine care, and biologic integration. Harvard-affiliated physicians, including ASMST Vice President Adam Tenforde, Joanne Borg Stein, Pierre D'Hemecourt, HC Rhim, Nicole Katz, and Felipe Fregni, are contributing research and consensus-building that moves the field from anecdotal success toward evidence-based precision.

Board Member Jennifer Soo Hoo of Weill Cornell Medicine is refining non-operative sports care strategies that integrate shockwave with orthobiologics and advanced rehabilitation protocols.

The conversation is shifting from "Does shockwave work?" to "How do we dose it correctly? When do we combine it? How do we guide it with imaging? How do we avoid misuse?"

That shift toward disciplined clinical practice is central to ASMST's mission.

Expanding Clinical Frontiers

The 2026 Summit reflects the widening scope of shockwave therapy. What began largely as a musculoskeletal intervention now spans multiple specialties.

Sports medicine leaders such as ASMST Treasurer Dr. Amol Saxena, a surgeon who has treated Olympians and pioneered shockwave classifications, are integrating shockwave into elite athletic care and surgical augmentation strategies. Pain management specialists like John Knab are exploring its role in spine and chronic pain applications.

International physiotherapist Paul Hobrough brings a perspective shaped by elite athletic rehabilitation and applied biomechanics, emphasizing clinical reasoning and precision in dosing and timing.

Neurological researchers such as Felipe Fregni are examining emerging data on the role of shockwaves in neurorehabilitation, while clinicians, including Keith Roed, are presenting case-based insights into applications in multiple sclerosis.

Sexual health physicians Anne Truong and David Cunningham are addressing erectile dysfunction, pelvic floor disorders, and urinary incontinence — areas where patient demand is rising and structured clinical guidance is essential.

This interdisciplinary breadth reflects a larger truth: shockwave medicine is not a single-specialty tool. It is becoming a platform technology within regenerative care.

Industry as a Strategic Partner in Clinical Advancement

As clinical applications expand, so too does technological innovation. Leading manufacturers and technology developers are playing a critical role in advancing device precision, treatment customization, and safety.

The 2026 Summit is supported by industry partners, including Premier Sponsors Cutting Edge Laser Technologies, Chattanooga, SoftWave, and Storz Medical — organizations whose investments in research, device development, and clinical education continue to shape the trajectory of shockwave therapy worldwide.

Rather than operating as a parallel industry track, these partners are part of an integrated ecosystem where responsible innovation and clinician education advance together. By bringing academic leaders and industry innovators into the same forum, ASMST is fostering the kind of transparent dialogue that strengthens standards and benefits patients.

Certification as a Strategic Imperative

Perhaps the most consequential development in U.S. shockwave medicine is the expansion of structured certification pathways.

Through its partnership with the International Society for Medical Shockwave Therapy (ISMST), ASMST will again offer the ISMST Instructional Certification Course (ICC), providing U.S. and international clinicians the opportunity to validate competency through formal examination. Unlike certain European models, the U.S.-based pathway broadens accessibility to allied health physicians while reinforcing accountability.

“Certification is not about exclusivity,” Blatz explains. “It is about responsibility. As a field grows, guardrails matter. Patients deserve practitioners who are trained, credentialed, and aligned with evidence-based standards.”

This focus on credentialing signals the field's maturation, a transition from rapid adoption to structured governance.

Leadership and Continuity

The Summit will conclude with remarks from Dr. Rob Monaco of Atlantic Health, ASMST Board Member and President-Elect, symbolizing organizational continuity and the Society's expanding role in global dialogue. With an invitation to ISMST 2026 in Madrid and a preview of ASMST 2027, the message is clear: shockwave medicine is not fragmenting — it is organizing.

A Field Defining Itself

Medical innovation often moves in waves. Early adopters experiment. Demand grows. Technology proliferates. Eventually, a moment arrives when leaders must decide whether to allow fragmentation or to build consensus.

Shockwave medicine appears to be at that moment.

ASMST's Second Annual Summit is not simply a scientific meeting; it is an inflection point. A deliberate effort to align pioneers, academic institutions, private practitioners, and global societies around shared standards and forward-thinking research.

In an era where regenerative medicine can outpace regulation, ASMST is signaling something different: thoughtful growth, interdisciplinary collaboration, and a commitment to clinical excellence.

For shockwave medicine, the conversation is evolving, and Boston will host its next chapter. For Annual Summit registration, certification details, sponsorship opportunities, and ASMST membership information, visit www.asmst.org.



PHOTO CAPTION: Attendees engage in high-level collaboration at ASMST's 2025 Annual Summit on Shockwave Medicine, where global leaders in shockwave therapy gathered to exchange research, refine clinical protocols, and strengthen professional partnerships. Building on that momentum, physicians, researchers, and industry innovators will reconvene for the Second Annual Summit, March 13–15, 2026, at The Royal Sonesta Boston to further elevate standards and drive innovation in regenerative shockwave care.

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About ASMST:

The American Society for Medical Shockwave Treatment (ASMST) is the premier resource for shockwave knowledge and professional enrichment. Established to advance the understanding and application of evidence-based shockwave medicine, ASMST offers educational programs, research opportunities, and a collaborative community for medical professionals dedicated to this innovative treatment modality. For more information about ASMST, visit www.asmst.org.