



Global Health for  
Aging Adults SIG

## 2021 Work Plan

Develop a SIG Journal Club Committee

This group will support **#3 on the SIG work plan to Facilitate collaboration among geriatric physical therapists and researchers to address significant healthcare issues in the US and abroad.**

This group will support the following areas of APTA Geriatrics Strategic Outcomes Trusted Resource  
Lifelong Learning

Project Team: Senior Athletics Around the World

This group will support **#1 on the SIG work plan to Develop and implement projects in all parts of the world to enhance health and well-being of older adults. As this project develops it could support all 3 of the items on the SIG work plan**

This group will support the following areas of APTA Geriatrics Strategic Outcomes Advocacy

Project Team: Global Health for Aging Adults Quarterly Newsletter

This group will support **#2 on the SIG work plan to facilitate networking and collaboration between geriatric PTs of various countries.**

This group will support the following areas of APTA Geriatrics Strategic Outcomes Trusted Resource

Project Team: CSM 2023 Educational Programming

As an ongoing effort throughout 2021, the SIG will cultivate ideas for submission for CSM 2023 that meet the scope of the GHAA work plan.

Those with ideas should feel free to contact the GHAA leadership team for mentoring.

This group will support **#3 on the SIG work plan to Facilitate collaboration among geriatric physical therapists and researchers to address significant healthcare issues in the US and abroad and #2 on the SIG work plan to facilitate networking and collaboration between geriatric PTs of various countries.**

This group will support the following areas of APTA Geriatrics Strategic Outcomes Trusted Resource

Lifelong Learning

**SIG History:**

Created in 2018 as a vehicle for APTA Geriatrics to investigate how to better connect with international work in physical therapy.

In 2018 GHAA established a list of initiatives which were presented at CSM 2019.

In 2019 the SIG officers further refined the initiatives to develop a work plan for the SIG to meet the founding goals of how to better connect with the international work of physical therapy.

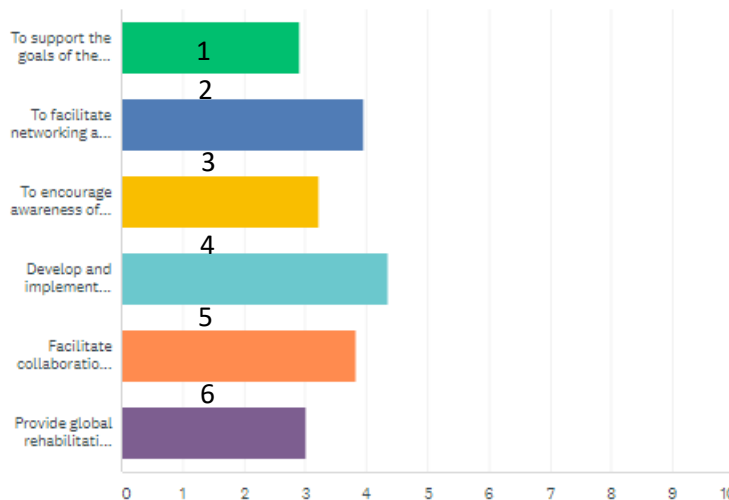
A survey was sent to all APTA Geriatric and GHAA members to define the work priorities for the SIG for 2020-2022.

**Survey Results:**

Number completed: 57 (22 SIG members; 24 APTA Geriatric members)

Please rank the following Global Health for Aging Adults SIG activities for importance to you, from most important to least important (1 is the most important, 6 is the least important). Thank you.

Answered: 56 Skipped: 1



1. To support the goals of the International Association of Physical Therapists Working with Older People (IPTOP)

**Example Activity: Provide a newsletter recapping the goals of IPTOP and events that occur throughout the year.**

2. To facilitate networking and collaboration between geriatric PTs of various countries

**Example Activities:**

- **Connect with other countries' Physical Therapy organizations that are parallel to the**

***AGPT and invite to provide regular focus article in newsletter.***

- ***Establish international Journal club***
- ***Build international contact list for various topics in Geriatric Rehabilitation***

3. To encourage awareness of the education and practice of geriatric physical therapy in other countries.

***Example Activity: Connect with educators in other countries to invite to provide regular focus article in newsletter.***

4. Develop and implement projects in all parts of the world to enhance health and well-being of older adults.

***Example Activity: For example, teach a course on geriatric rehabilitation to physical therapists in a developing country, provide equipment and supplies for clinicians in a developing country.***

5. Facilitate collaboration among geriatric physical therapists and researchers to address significant healthcare issues in the US and abroad.

***Example Activity: Work with faculty members in schools of physical therapy in other countries, share data, knowledge, and resources. For example, a researcher in the US who is developing a survey or some type of objective measure could work with a collaborator in another country to translate the test/survey into another language and implement it in a country that speaks that language.***

6. Provide global rehabilitation opportunities for geriatric physical therapists in the U.S. and abroad to eliminate disparity of healthcare and social condition in elderly people in developing countries.

***Example Activity: Work with IPTOP to identify global opportunities, not for international service trips, but other forms of volunteering, such as sharing information knowledge and resources.***

## SIG 2020-2021 Work Plan

- ***Develop and implement projects in all parts of the world to enhance health and well-being of older adults.***
  - Investigate and establish a process to connect entities in the US to donate unused equipment to geriatric clinics around the world. (Project leader: Rick Black)
  - Collaborate with Physical therapist association/PT schools in India and or Asia to create a course/tools for assessment of an elderly. May include translation of established US outcome measure tools into foreign languages. (Project leaders: Manjula Ramachandran, Soshi Samejima, and Joseph Ka-Chun Siu)
- ***To facilitate networking and collaboration between geriatric PTs of various countries.***
  - Develop GHAA website to include resources to support communication: Project Leaders: Chair and Secretary Time line: Finish by June 2020
    - Utilize available networking resources/links that have been identified
    - Publish GHAA minutes of leadership activities
    - Publish a Featured International Article
    - In the news feature/ IPTOP News
    - Section to highlight positions available and opportunities for volunteering
    - A section to Introduce each leader of the GHAA
    - Allow members to submit information to be added to the website
  - Submit information for the Academy's bi weekly newsletter several times per year.
    - Project leasers: Chair and Secretary
    - Time line: Begin Submissions: By May 2020
  - Develop regular email blast to SIG members to direct them to the website for updates and provide a highlight of the SIG's activities.
    - Project leader: Chair and Secretary
    - Time Line: Begin by March 2020
  - Develop international relationships to share geriatric resources between nations utilizing existing collaborations and share this information through SIG communication resources.
    - Canada Physiotherapy Association: Rick Black
    - Taiwanese PT Association Global committee: Joseph Ka-Chun Siu
    - IPTOP: Joseph Ka-Chun Siu
- ***Facilitate collaboration among geriatric physical therapists and researchers to address significant healthcare issues in the US and abroad.***
  - Gather Physical Therapy geriatric education curriculum from other countries to start a conversation identifying areas of opportunities to collaborate. Will begin with Taiwan and Hong Kong due to established relationships. (Project leaders: Soshi Samejima, and Joseph Ka-Chun Siu)

Who Are the Players: Other Global Health Organizations

### **International Association of Physical Therapists working with Older people (IPTOP)**

<https://www.wcpt.org/iptop>

#### IPTOP Initiatives/Goals

- To foster collaboration between physical therapists working with older people throughout the world
- To encourage high standards of physical therapy practice with older people,
- To advance practice by communication and exchange of information,
- To encourage scientific research and promote opportunities for the spread of knowledge of new developments in the field,
- To assist WCPT member organizations in the formation and development of recognized groups working with older people.

### **World Health Organization (WHO)**

<https://www.who.int/ageing/en/>

WHO began 7 April 1948 – a date now celebrated every year as World Health Day. WHO is now more than 7000 people working in 150 country offices, in six regional offices and at our headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. WHO's primary role is to direct and coordinate international health within the United Nations system. The main areas of work are health systems; health through the life-course; noncommunicable and communicable diseases; preparedness, surveillance and response; and corporate services.

WHO has a group Ageing and Life Course. The WHO Department of Ageing and Life Course (ALC) coordinates WHO's work on ageing and health, which takes place in many different departments and at all levels of the Organization. that does work on ageing throughout the world. The current initiative:

- The *Decade of Healthy Ageing (2020-2030)* is an opportunity to bring together governments, civil society, international agencies, professionals, academia, the media, and the private sector for ten years of concerted, catalytic and collaborative action to improve the lives of older people, their families, and the communities in which they live.

