



APTA Geriatrics

An Academy of the American
Physical Therapy Association

Presenting the Candidates for the **2023** Election

The Nominating Committee of the Academy present to the membership the following list of candidates for the 2023 election.

Our governance is only as good as the people and ideas that we vote for. This is as true in volunteer and professional organizations as it is in your local, state and national government. These generous volunteers who are stepping up for positions in the APTA Geriatrics community deserve our respect and thanks.

Only PT and PTA members of APTA Geriatrics are eligible to vote. All others are restricted. Those eligible to vote all have the same weight.

Please review the candidates in preparation for the election that will be held **October 1 - 21 2023**.

Presented in alphabetical order by last name, using APTA's Appropriate Use of Designations.

Candidates

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Cathy H Ciolek, PT, DPT, FAPTA

*Board-Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist
Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults*

Professional Accomplishments

During my term as President of APTA Geriatrics, I have worked to increase awareness of all that geriatrics has to offer and to make the academy a place where everyone can belong. We opened up membership to students for free. This has led to gaining over 2,000 student members and offering them the opportunity to get involved and exposed to how fun and challenging working with aging adults can be. Beyond that, experienced physical therapists and PTA members have also seen our association as a group they want to be a part of. APTA and other components are looking to our academy seeking more opportunities to work together. This was achieved with hard work from our board, staff and individual members working together to make this happen. I consider myself quite fortunate to be in a position to lead and serve with this board to help make it happen.

Activities and Leadership

APTA Geriatrics President 2021-2024. Submission reviewer for *Journal Geriatric Physical Therapy* 2022-present. APTAG Best Practice Task Force, Co-Chair 2020-2021. APTAG Vice-President 2018-2021. APTAG CEEAA Faculty 2015-present. APTAG Bylaws Task Force 2014. APTAG Delegate 2008-2013. 2021-2024, Alternate Delegate 2019-2020. APTAG Finance Committee 2011-2013. APTAG Appointed Task Force Member- Essential Competencies in the Care of Older Adults at the Completion of the Entry-level Physical therapist Professional Program of Study 2009-2011. APTAG Nominating Committee 2002-2005, Chair 2005. APTAG Listserv Coordinator 2000-2009. APTAG Leadership Task Force, 2001-2006. APTAG CSM Program Committee, 1997- 2004. APTAG Editorial Board *GeriNotes*, 2000- 2002. APTAG Secretary, 1999-2001. APTAG Chair Task Force on Alternative Environments, 1998-2000. APTAG State Liaison for State Liaison Delaware, 1995 to 2002. APTA Council of Section Presidents 2021-2024. APTA Post-Acute Care Workgroup 2021- present. APTA Centennial Steering Committee 2017-2021. APTA Leadership Development Committee 2015-2017.



[See Cathy's CV](#)



Tamara Gravano, PT, DPT, MSPT, EdD

*Board-Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist
Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults*

Professional Accomplishments

During my term as Membership Chair and while on the Board of Directors, I advocated for geriatrics and our membership. I believe APTA Geriatrics should hear, value, and represent the needs of its members first. While I was Chair, we became the third-largest section, created student awards, and met with our membership at CSM. Membership meetings were member-driven, and I would like to see AGPT become more inclusive and supportive of our membership. Members are our greatest resource and deserve a greater voice for change. Everyone should know that APTA Geriatrics hears their concerns and advocates for them so they can provide the best care for their patients/clients. When I was on the Geriatrics Board, I advocated for our members to have access to education like CEEAA, Advanced Credentialed Exercise Expert for Aging Adults, PTA Focus, Balance and Falls Professional Credential, Webinars, and Journal Clubs to elevate their practice. I seek to continue to serve the academy that has provided me with great inspiration.

Activities and Leadership

For 20 years, I have served the APTA to support geriatrics and post-professional education. I served two terms on the APTA Geriatrics Board, was the Founding Chair of the RFSIG, Chair of the Residency and Fellowship Subcommittee, and Chair of the AGPT Membership Committee. I am currently the Co-Administrator and faculty in the CEEAA course series leading 11 faculty in creating and delivering contemporary geriatric continuing education. I am a servant leader with a holistic view of my profession. My contributions to APTA Geriatrics were recognized with the President's Award in 2016 and the Joan M. Mills Award for Service in 2018. I received the APTA Lucy Blair Award for Service in 2017. I was one of the first two graduates of the first Geriatric PT residency and was later appointed to two terms on the ABPTRFE Board of Directors, of which I am still a site visitor. I served on the Specialty Council on Geriatric Physical Therapy of the ABPTS, am currently a Credentialed CI trainer for the APTA, and a former item writer for the FSBPT.



[See Tamara's CV](#)



Kenneth L Miller, PT, DPT

Board-Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist

Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults

Advanced Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults

Professional Accomplishments

For my entire career, I have been passionate about providing quality care by supporting therapists in their work environments and giving therapists the tools they need to perform their role. I was able to streamline documentation and improve work processes to allow for better work/life balance. I have advocated for appropriate reimbursement for services provided and worked on showing the value of physical therapy to outside stakeholders. I was honored to have served the Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy in defining autonomous practice in 2012 and more recently was privileged to have co-led the work group developing the guiding principles in geriatric physical therapist practice. Serving on the board of directors and executive committee of the Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy has allowed me opportunities to advocate for physical therapists and our patients with a larger voice. I believe that my greatest accomplishments have been in the area of program and professional development. I have led to the development of DPT student programs, new graduate mentorship programs and clinical programs, all of which have been created to support professional development towards providing better care to our patients and showing value for our profession.

Activities and Leadership

I have had the privilege of serving various positions for the last 15 years or so, either through appointment or elected office. I was elected and served on the nominations committee as a member and chair several years ago and was appointed to roles on the practice committee including several task forces and work groups helping to develop evidence-based documents to promote best practices. I am currently serving my second term on the board of directors for the Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy overseeing the evidence-based documents, GeriEdge, Knowledge Translation and Research committees. In this role, I have overseen the development of an academy research agenda, guiding principles of best practice in geriatric physical therapy and other evidence-based documents. I am an editorial board member for several peer-reviewed professional journals and have served on the National Board of Medical Examiners ABPTS Geriatrics Standards Setting Committee and was an expert reviewer for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Prehabilitation and Rehabilitation for Major Joint Replacement workgroup. I have served as an item writer for the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy.



[See Kenneth's CV](#)



Jacqueline A Osborne, PT

*Board-Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist
Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults
Advanced Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults
Credentialed Balance and Falls Professional*

Professional Accomplishments

I have been blessed with the flexibility in my 20-year career to integrate advocacy for my profession in my day-to-day clinical and non-clinical activities. I developed and delivered a successful residency program for 10 years in the area of geriatrics and continue to serve my graduate colleagues as a mentor for their own professional development and advocacy efforts. I have clinical experience across the continuum of care which has allowed me to confidently serve my peers by developing and publishing clinically relevant resources in the areas of documentation and best practices for fall prevention and the PT management of individuals with Parkinson disease. I was recently appointed to the President's Council on Sports Fitness and Nutrition 2022 Science Board to represent our profession and I continue to consult with this group related to stakeholder resources for physical activity promotion and integration into daily life.

Activities and Leadership

I have had the honor of serving APTA Geriatrics as an active member since 2000, as the Secretary of the Residency and Fellowship SIG and most recently two terms on the Board. I was privileged to serve during a time when the Academy rebranded, during the challenges of the pandemic and during important transitions for *JGPT* and *GeriNotes*. I am the immediate past Chair for ABPTRFE and will conclude my service on this Board in 2023. However, I will continue to represent ABPTRFE on the Collaborative for Physical Therapy Education. I am an active member of the Florida Physical Therapy Association which includes continued efforts to appeal to insurers to support beneficiaries by covering at least an annual PT visit. I advocate for older adults in the areas of access and integration of preventative services as well as achievement of mobility milestones related to disease prevention and aging in place.



[See Jacqueline's CV](#)



Myla Quiben, PT, DPT, PhD, MS

Board-Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist

Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults

Advanced Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults

Professional Accomplishments

Throughout my career, I have been entrusted with various leadership roles in diverse organizations. In higher education and professional associations, I advocate for many aspects of the profession: clinical and academic faculty development, interprofessional education, entry-level and post-professional physical therapist education, clinical education models, and the PT role in health care. I was honored with the APTA Lucy Blair Service Award, and APTA Geriatrics President's Award and the Joan Mills Award for Outstanding Service — a testament to my commitment and passion for our profession. In my administrative roles, I led an initiative to introduce the physical therapy profession early on in a child's education. I continue to promote the profession in entrepreneurship efforts. I am currently working on a pro bono clinic within the university to serve underserved populations. As both a clinician and educator, I'm a strong advocate for safe and high-quality patient care through interprofessional collaborative practice.

Activities and Leadership

APTA Geriatrics: Board of Directors as Secretary and Director of Education. Engaged in the Governance Review Task Force and participated in strategic planning and development of post-professional education. Currently, I am on the Geriatrics Movement System Task Force and GeriEdge. Texas Physical Therapy Association: Nominating Committee Chair and Delegate, House of Delegates. APTA: Trainer for the Credentialed CI Program, Levels 1 and 2. Participate in the Education Leadership Partnership's Reactor Panel. I serve in the APTA Neurology Movement System Task Force. FSBPT: Examination Development Committee and recognition as an NPTE Advanced Item Writer. ABPTS: past Board Director and Chair of the Geriatric Specialty Council. Served in the Specialization Academy of Content Experts and Geriatric Standard Setting Committee. ACAPT: Past Chair, National Interprofessional Education Consortium; member, Strategic Initiative Panel on Simulation in Physical Therapy Education. Current service on the Board of FCCPT and the Texas Geriatric Society.



[See Myla's CV](#)



Keith Avin, PT, DPT, PhD

Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults

Advanced Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults

Professional Accomplishments

As an Associate Professor of Physical Therapy I have served as a leader for the Academy as well as demonstrated success in research, teaching, service and clinical work. I have served in multiple workgroup and leadership roles that have focused on the development of evidence-based documents and knowledge translation. These efforts have resulted in multiple publications and grants, but more importantly provided guidance to practice. My research explores mechanisms and interventions of skeletal muscle health in aging and disease by utilizing pre-clinical and clinical models to answer clinically relevant questions. In the classroom, I serve as a model for the students by utilizing contemporary evidence to support care and treat everyone with respect. This perspective is also utilized in the clinic where patients truly value knowing that their treatment is supported by evidence. These collective efforts support my role as an advocate for the profession.

Activities and Leadership

In 2011, I began working with APTA Geriatrics as a member of the falls evidence-based document work group. In 2015, we published a falls guidance statement and subsequently were honored with the Jack Walker Award. This award recognizes an author or team whose published study in *Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Journal* presents novel and innovative research related to patient care and advance clinical science. The core work group member, myself included, also served as the evidence-based documents, where I served as a working group member to organize and facilitate additional evidence-based documents. Recently, I led the efforts of two osteoporosis-related evidence-based documents published in *JGPT*. In addition to EBDs I have served as Practice Chair from 2017-2019 and am currently the Chair for Knowledge Translation.



[See Keith's CV](#)



Kaelee Sara Brockway, PT, DPT

Board-Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist

Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults

Advanced Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults

Professional Accomplishments

I have spent the last three years as the Section Programming Chair for APTA Geriatrics, increasing transparency in the CSM programming process for members, aligning CSM programming with strategic priorities of the organization, and working to increase the innovative presence of APTA Geriatrics at CSM. My other professional roles span academia, clinical work, continuing professional education, and as a specialty consultant for complex chronic disease management. My research is focused on maximizing exercise prescription for aging adults using high-intensity interval training on which I have presented and published numerous pieces. I am a regular volunteer with Sixty & Better and Walk with a Doc, providing education and home-based pro bono services for the seniors in my community and nationally. This fall, I will complete my Doctorate in Education and begin working with APTA Geriatrics on getting the word out regarding high-intensity interval training. My philosophy has always been to move others forward so we can all make progress together, and my goal is to work through interdisciplinary channels to push the potential of teaching, learning, and patient care for older adults.

Activities and Leadership

In 2015, I became a District Chair in Michigan and served on the APTA Michigan Board of Directors, also taking a role as Delegate to the APTA House of Delegates for three years. During that time, I began developing my research agenda around high-intensity interval training in patients with complex comorbidities, which I used as a regular intervention strategy in home-health practice. In 2016, I earned the Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults credential and became a Board-Certified Specialist in Geriatric Physical Therapy in 2017. In 2019, I achieved the Advanced Credentialed Exercise Expert for Aging Adults certification and then served on the APTA Geriatrics Section Programming Committee for two years before taking the Chair position in 2022. In 2021, my research was published as a textbook chapter on rehabilitation for older adults that advocated for proper exercise prescription, and I took on the lead position in development of a CPG for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. In 2022, I hosted the first annual University of Saint Augustine Dallas Geriatric Health Fair, ensuring APTA Geriatrics representation and won a University-Wide Award for Innovation. This year, I gained the Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator credential while designing interprofessional aging and complex patient management simulations for entry-level PT and OT programs.



[See Kaelee's CV](#)



Gretchen Jackson, PT, DPT

*Board-Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist
Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults*

Professional Accomplishments

As the Tennessee state advocate for geriatric physical therapy, I made significant contributions at various levels across the state. Fall Prevention Fairs over multiple years demonstrates my commitment to reaching out to the public and engaging other healthcare professionals in promoting senior health and safety. Attending Senior Health Fairs and delivering age-appropriate lectures allowed me to provide a hands-on approach in raising awareness and empowering individuals to take proactive steps in maintaining their health. Participating in the Day on The Hill in Nashville, TN and meeting legislators shows my dedication to advocating for the interest of senior citizens. Each of us has a crucial role in shaping policies and ensuring that the needs of older adults are addressed. I am presently the State Legislative Chair for TN APTA as well as engage in the Federal Advocacy efforts of APTA.

Activities and Leadership

Presently, I am the alternate delegate of the Geriatric Section for the House of Delegates 2023. I have recently obtained my CEEAA certification. I was the Tennessee State Advocate for 7 years. I have had the privilege of representing APTA Geriatrics at the TN Senior Olympics by providing the Senior Athlete Fitness Exam (SAFE) for 7 years and counting. I am on the TN Senior Olympics Board, continuing to perform the SAFE and support healthy decisions for the athletes. I support the ministry of JOY (Just Older Youth) at St. Philip Catholic Church who meet monthly.



[See Gretchen's CV](#)

**David W. M. Taylor, PT, DPT**

Board-Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist

Professional Accomplishments

I have three accomplishments I consider significant. The first is service in the House of Delegates as a Delegate and Chief Delegate for APTA Georgia and APTA Geriatrics. I was able to vote for the current vision of the profession and cast one of the first two votes for the Academy. The second is testifying for self-referral in Georgia before the state Senate and seeing the legislation passed. The third is my work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention via STEADI where I have advocated for physical therapists to be at the table and we are.

Activities and Leadership

I have served in elected and volunteer activities within APTA Geriatrics and APTA Georgia. In the Academy, I recently concluded a 3-year term on the Board of Directors as Chief Delegate. As a Board member, I also served on the Finance Committee, the Governance Review Task Force, and CEEAA Hybridization Task Force. Prior to Board service, I served as the Georgia State Advocate and an active member of the Balance and Falls and Health Promotion, Wellness, and Prevention (HPWP) Special Interest Groups. Through the HPWP-SIG, I worked on a team to develop the annual visit for older adults. In APTA Georgia, I served on the Board as chief delegate and the chapter as a delegate. I served on multiple committee including chair of the Nominating Committee.



[See David's CV](#)



Bethany Castellini, PT

Board-Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist

Professional Accomplishments

It's important to me to lead by example, whether in my role is as a front-line clinician, student preceptor or supervisor. My goal is to inspire others to be lifelong learners and not be afraid to fail. When I consider my "most significant accomplishment," I keep coming back to events of the past year. I stepped out of my professional comfort zone to study for and sit for the GCS exam after graduating from PT school 30+ years ago and likely having less than 10 years left of my career. I shared the experience of my journey to demonstrate the depth of skills PTs possess and rarely showcase. My peers range from young to seasoned professionals, locally and nationally. Regardless of the outcome of the exam, I continue to encourage those around me to advocate for best practice despite external pressures. Many have begun pursuing their own journeys as a result.

Activities and Leadership

I have been an APTA Geriatrics Colorado State Advocate since 2018, growing our membership engagement from my personal PT peers to across the entire state. I've recruited 2 co-advocates to ensure we have representation on both sides of the state. As a team, we have hosted a monthly call with a variety of speakers since 2020 that has grown in attendance year after year. In 2021, I became the Mid-Regional State Advocate Coordinator, supporting 17 states and over 25 State Advocates. I was elected in 2021 to serve as the Secretary for APTA Geriatrics Balance and Falls SIG. In September of 2022, I was one of the authors of and presented the case study for the APTA Geriatrics September Journal Club. I actively attend APTA Leadership chats, coordinate collaboration with local Area Agency on Aging Matter of Balance classes and sponsor a Journal club with interdisciplinary attendance.



[See Bethany's CV](#)



Edward Reyna, PT, DPT

*Board-Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist
Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults*

Professional Accomplishments

I've displayed my strengths in optimizing results, performing trainings, providing leadership development across my market, and working with multidisciplinary teams. I focus on supporting my company as a therapy resource providing long term program development consisting of contracture management, W/C seating and positioning, fall prevention and sensory integration programs. I've headed a research think tank where we seek out cutting edge equipment and technology to facilitate down to the facility level where we can pilot equipment for a trial period and determine a return on investment from a financial and clinical standpoint. In return, we utilize the equipment with patients within our facility and provide a case report to get evidence-based research back to the company. I've created an app on the Apple platform titled "Test & Measure" which houses 20 functional outcome measures utilized by PT/OT to provide reference and measurements to determine a patient's level of function.

Activities and Leadership

TPTA Practice & Professional Development Committee. Chair for Research Think Tank (Ensign Services, Inc.)



[See Edward's CV](#)



Sandra W Conran, PT, MSPT

Board-Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist

Professional Accomplishments

I consider myself a life-long learner. As I have been practicing for forty years in a variety of settings, this is a lot of learning! I sat for and passed my Board Certification at the thirty-eight-year mark; something of which I am quite pleased. I also have certifications in BoneFit, dry needling, and the Meeks Method. I am happy to have donated countless hours to Virginia chapter legislative endeavors such as improving Direct Access to Physical Therapy. I currently work in an independent, Physical Therapist owned practice, where I strive to treat each client in a holistic manner while modeling best evidence practice to clients and coworkers. I love to mentor and have applied that to new graduates, employees, and clients.

Activities and Leadership

Within the APTA, I have served in multiple roles at the Virginia state level and the local District level. I served (4) two-year terms, non-consecutive, as a Virginia Director; (2) two-year terms as Virginia Treasurer; six years on the Finance Committee, and a three-year term as Nominating Chair. At the District level, I served as Director and Treasurer. I have been a member of the APTA since 1983 and an active member of the Bone Health SIG since 2019. I also highly value giving back and have done so through multiple venues: serving on the Boards of both Trinity Christian School 2001-2007, a non-profit private school, and The Temple Foundation, a rehab provider, 2020-current. I have been a volunteer instructor for Senior wellness courses at a local University extension program and volunteered at a free clinic. I would be humbled to extend my reach to the National level.



[See Sandra's CV](#)



Nancy Malay, PT, DPT, MEd, MGS

Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults

Professional Accomplishments

Advocating for our profession can take many forms throughout one's career. As the supervisor of an outpatient clinic in a large hospital and the director of a private practice, I helped to delineate our scope of practice while promoting our contributions to the interdisciplinary team of patient care. As the only physical therapist on faculty at a university in the Department of Kinesiology, Nutrition, and Health, I provided the physical therapy lens to colleagues in my department and students in my courses. I also served as one of the two advisors for the Pre-PT/OT Student Club and provided general student advising, especially with students who expressed an interest in the physical therapy profession. In community-based programs, I have promoted our unique role in prevention and wellness with fall prevention and exercise promotion programs for older adults and concussion awareness programs for high school students in their health classes.

Activities and Leadership

As a member of APTA Geriatrics, I have participated in online meetings and Journal Clubs for multiple Special Interest Groups including Bone Health, Health Promotion and Wellness, Balance and Falls, Cognitive and Mental Health, and Residency and Fellowship. I have been most engaged with the Bone Health SIG and have been collaborating on building the Bone Health Toolkit to benefit members of the APTA broadly, as well as those in the BHSIG. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with older adults and teens in the community as an instructor/facilitator in the Greater Cincinnati region over the past several years with the TriHealth Community Benefit Program supported by grants from the Bethesda Foundation and the Think First National Injury Prevention Foundation. These programs include Stepping On for Fall Prevention, Tai Chi for Health, Think First to Prevent Falls, and the Cincinnati Crosstown Concussion Crew.



[See Nancy's CV](#)



Mary Milidonis, PT, MSPT, PhD

Professional Accomplishments

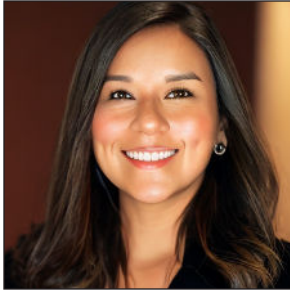
As the Chair of the RF SIG, I was able to launch a successful residency scholarship and promotional programs for geriatric PT residents with support from the APTA Geriatrics Board and my RF SIG officers. Concurrently, the number of residents applying for scholarships doubled and geriatric residents slightly increased in 2020. Second, the Passport Program at CSM 2020 had 11 residency programs and 6 sponsors participating to raise awareness with students about applying to residency programs. The Passport program was advertised in 5 different PT social media forums. Third, the RF SIG and I were able to reach out to over 90 students at the 2019 student conclave as well as PT program directors to survey student needs regarding residencies.

Activities and Leadership

I have held a number of positions with the Ohio APTA State Chapter including, Vice President, Director, District Chair, and Continuing Education Committee Chair. To support APTA Geriatrics as the RF SIG Chair we worked to support the Journal Club, publications in *GeriNotes* and new leaders in the RF SIG. I have worked to support Ohio liaisons to APTA Geriatrics.



[See Mary's CV](#)



Katherine Calvert, PT, DPT

Board-Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist

Professional Accomplishments

I have demonstrated growth in the last couple of years, first by attending advocacy day at the Florida Capitol and advocating for our profession in general, teaching a geriatric DPT level course to being accepted as full time faculty at a DPT program. I have ongoing goals of assisting with the Florida Senior Games and SAFE evaluations for seniors, and have a call in with the VP of programming for the Alzheimer's Association to discuss collaboration for increased exposure of student DPTs and those living with dementia.

Activities and Leadership

Chair of the FPTA West Central District and new a member of the Bone Health SIG. I have attended virtual conferences on mental health, and have other conferences on geriatric rehabilitation scheduled for June.



[See Katherine's CV](#)



Michelle Keller, PT, MPT

*Board-Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist
Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults*

Professional Accomplishments

Most recently, I advocated at the North Dakota's 68th legislative Assembly specific to SB 2191, as an active Board member of the APTA-ND to add physical therapists to the list of health care practitioners who can sign applications for mobility impaired parking permits. This bill was passed and signed by the Governor and will take effect August 1, 2023.

Activities and Leadership

I have been an APTA member for 10 years for the North Dakota Chapter and hold section memberships in the areas of education and geriatrics. I have been an active Board member for the APTA-ND since 2019 and my primary role is the Co-Chair of the Continuing Education Committee for our state chapter. One of my primary roles at the University of Mary is leading our Physical Therapy Pro Bono Clinic as the Clinic Director. This has been a huge part of my role in academia since I transitioned to this career from full time clinician in 2019.



[See Michelle's CV](#)



Kelly A. Musti, PT, DPT

Board-Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist

Professional Accomplishments

I have been blessed to be able to teach geriatrics modules for PTA students, impact the future relationships between new clinicians and the geriatric population in a positive manner, and partner with the United Way to expand the ROAM (Remote Older Adult Monitoring) project to Wayne County in PA.

Activities and Leadership

I work for a non-profit private college and oversee our Health Sciences programs. I am also currently serving a term as Vice Chair of the Northeast PA Area Health Education Center.



[See Kelly's CV](#)

Vice Chair, Global Health for Aging Adults SIG



Sushil Ramchandani, PT, MHA

Professional Accomplishments

I have represented our profession in the community within a variety of settings. I have maintained my position as a member of North Carolina Tennis and its Adaptive Committee for over five years, continuously working to promote accessibility to tennis for wheelchair athletes and athletes with developmental disabilities. I have volunteered at the Winter Chill Tournament hosted by Abilities Tennis at North Carolina State University for the past five years, as well as other activities in the community that contribute to adaptive tennis. I have supported students with internship opportunities as a Certified Clinical Instructor with the APTA. I have remained a committed leader of the community with over 30 years of clinical experience, including being a team lead and manager at EmergeOrtho for several years. I have held my Orthopedic Clinical Specialist certification for over 20 years. I have and will continue to promote this profession and the overall tennis community as a Certified Tennis Performance Specialist with the International Tennis Performance Association.

Activities and Leadership

To support APTA Geriatrics, APTA State Chapter, and the National APTA Organizations, I have remained an active member of the APTA and a variety of its sections, including orthopedics, sports, and geriatrics. My prior experience includes Public Relations Chair for the North Carolina APTA, Nominating Committee member with the Global Health for Aging Adults SIG, and membership in the Research Task Force with SIG.



[See Sushil's CV](#)

Vice Chair, Global Health for Aging Adults SIG



Tiara Stingley, PT, DPT

Professional Accomplishments

I have worked in geriatrics in the skilled nursing and senior living industry, since 2010. I fell in love with geriatrics through a PRN job and transitioned from outpatient that year – never looking back. I served as a Director of Rehabilitation in a large CCRC until 2017 when I accepted an Area Director position in the West. I grew my region to oversight of 36 SNFs. My passion for senior care and expertise in urinary incontinence helped me achieve clinical success across all of my facilities. I worked alongside other members of the APTA in 2017, 2018 and 2019 to produce a white paper for the APTA on PTNS in the treatment of OAB in seniors. The APTA subsequently accepted this treatment as within scope of practice of a PT, and I have continued to work with my organization to promote urinary incontinence care, and this treatment where indicated. I have transitioned to Divisional Vice President of Operations with my current organization. My role gives me unique insight into the many challenges facing our industry and our clinicians. There is no greater honor than making the lives of seniors better, and I live out my why every day for my teams. The stories of our seniors remind me that the beauty of life is not bound by age, but enhanced by it. Every treatment reinforces the richness of the human spirits and joy of making a difference in the lives of those who have enriched our world before us. Our industry faces so many challenges with burnout, regulatory changes, reimbursement cuts and so much that can distract us from our ultimate purpose in caring for our Seniors. I have remained committed to the APTA through various committees and I remain a student of our profession. It would be my honor to serve as Vice Chair.

Activities and Leadership

PTNS task force, CO State Advocate, State Advocate of the Year 2021, CPG Core group member, Elected to the Colorado State Board of Commissioners for Veterans Living Communities by Governor Jared Polis 2021. I serve as the Divisional Vice President of Operations in my current organization and am tasked with leadership development of Regional Vice President, Area Directors, Directors, and field staff.



[See Tiara's CV](#)

Secretary, Global Health for Aging Adults SIG



Swathi Balantrapu, PT, MS

Professional Accomplishments

I am currently a PT working in home health, recently elected by APTA as State Advocate of CA. Passionate about promoting optimal aging and wellness. Certified in evidence based programs like TJQMBB, Bingocize and SAIL. Volunteering and giving back to community in senior livings is what I enjoy in my free time. I conduct talks with both patients and clinicians on fall prevention and balance. Ultimate goal is to create awareness and provide resources to facilitate safe living, independence and improved quality of life for aging adults. Recently, finished the CEEAA coursework 1, and working on applying to Board Certification in Geriatrics this year. Alongside, I am passionate on research and honored to start a new role through Stanford as researcher in May, 2023. The work involved will be very closely related to my geriatrics experience. Academically, published 15 manuscripts on Multiple Sclerosis in my early career.

Activities and Leadership

Currently, working hard to reach out to local/national fall coalition groups in nearby communities. Feel strongly about being a part of APTA and would love to be considered to do my part and help the community. Transform lives through education and interventions. I believe, we are appropriately educated and qualified to make healthy generations and I will continue to do this as long as I can. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to express myself and look forward to proudly continuing to serve APTA.



[See Swathi's CV](#)

Secretary, Global Health for Aging Adults SIG



Adrian Suratos, PT, DPT, MS

Board-Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist

Professional Accomplishments

I am a Board-Certified Clinical Specialist in Geriatric Physical Therapy and have been a practicing clinician for 30 years primarily in skilled nursing facilities. I have been an APTA-credentialed clinical instructor since 2011. During the pandemic, while being furloughed, I decided to pursue an MS in Anatomical Sciences Education at the University of Florida. In addition to working full-time at Palm Garden in Aventura, I am a faculty lab instructor at the University of St. Augustine - Miami teaching Clinical Neuroscience and Geriatric Physical Therapy. I am also a faculty lab instructor at South College - Atlanta teaching Anatomy. I am a peer reviewer for the Philippine Physical Therapy Journal.

Activities and Leadership

I am a member of the Academy of Geriatric's CSM Programming Committee. I am also an Assembly Representative in the Florida Physical Therapy Association. I have been a CAPTE onsite visitor since 2017 and have participated in 15 onsite visits in diverse DPT programs. I am also currently a member of CAPTE's Nominating Committee, assisting in its restructuring. This year, I have presented in the FPTA's Spring and [Fall Conferences](#) on geriatric physical therapy topics. During the pandemic, I built a website where I could share 30 years of acquired knowledge on PT practice in the SNF (www.ptpractice.net). I would like to use my knowledge and acquired experience to be of service to the Academy of Geriatrics.



[See Adrian's CV](#)

Secretary, Health Promotion & Wellness SIG



Sarah Cooper, PT, DPT

Board-Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist

Professional Accomplishments

Advocacy for our profession is something I strive for everyday in all of the “little things.” I am always most proud of advocating for what we, as physical therapists/assistants, can do for our patients, to our patients. I am also a frequent advocate for our profession to other healthcare providers. Physical therapy is able to do so much more than others realize, and it is always an accomplishment being able to open someone else’s eyes to that. As it relates to Health Promotion & Wellness, I spend a significant amount of time in my current position educating and mentoring fellow PTs on incorporating a higher focus on health promotion (example: the annual wellness visit) into their plans of care. I know that we, as a profession, can make a huge impact if we embrace this part of practice and I look forward to continuing to advocate for that in the future.

Activities and Leadership

I have been a member of APTA Geriatrics since I was a student PT. Since then, I have been involved in numerous ways, including serving as the Cognitive and Mental Health SIG Secretary, volunteering as a member of the Programming Committee, volunteering at the APTA Geriatrics booth at CSM, sharing expertise as a mentor for those pursuing their GCS, and more. I have also presented a session at CSM sponsored by APTA Geriatrics. Through my APTA State Chapter, I have served as a leader of the Early Professional SIG. I have also served as an Item Writer for SACE, writing questions for the GCS exam and am a member of multiple other academies of the APTA. I believe that my experience as Secretary of the Cognitive and Mental Health SIG will serve me well in this new role for the Health Promotion & Wellness SIG.



[See Sarah’s CV](#)

Secretary, Health Promotion & Wellness SIG



Lashia Hicks, PT, DPT

Board-Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist

Professional Accomplishments

I have worked at Brooks Rehabilitation for the past 7 years advocating for older adults in a variety of ways including developing fall prevention education and dosing older adults for fall prevention. Additionally I am a faculty member of the University of St. Augustine working in lab to add in education of special considerations for older adults. I also volunteer with the American Heart Association advocating for physical activity for all, especially older adults, via community outreach events.

Activities and Leadership

I have mostly supported financially but I am looking to make more of an impact personally.



[See Lashia's CV](#)



Beth Quinn, PT, DPT

*Board-Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist
Credentialed Balance and Falls Professional*

Professional Accomplishments

I have helped create a Balance and Falls Prevention service-learning clinic for my program (Bellarmine University) where our students get to participate in a 14-week clinic. Community members come in to the clinic twice a week to work with students on balance, falls prevention, and health promotion.

Activities and Leadership

I have been a reviewer for CSM submissions annually for APTA Geriatrics. I have also led community events for National Falls Prevention Month. I serve as a faculty advisor for our Geriatric Residency Program, and I have mentored several DPT capstone groups that focus on a variety of aspects involving the geriatric population.



[See Beth's CV](#)



Jennifer Cabrera, PT, DPT

*Board-Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist
Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults*

Professional Accomplishments

I am the Program Director for the University of Miami Geriatric Residency Program and have held this position since 2017. I have also been a faculty member and mentor within our program since 2012. I believe in leading by example and frequently encourage residents, students, and peers to expand their knowledge and practice to provide optimal care to our older adults. I am passionate about residency education and have held leadership positions within APTA Geriatrics and our Residency & Fellowship SIG. I am also an advocate for older adults experiencing frailty and promote well-dosed evidence-based practice with these individuals. I recently published an invited monograph on Topics in Geriatric Rehabilitation related to the management of a person with frailty.

Activities and Leadership

1) APTA Geriatrics Residency & Fellowship SIG Nominating Chair 2019-2023. 2) APTA Geriatrics - Geriatric Specialist Certification & Advanced Proficiency Pathways for PTAs Committee Member for Program Development 2020-Present. 3) Member for the development of the Clinical Practice Guideline related to frailty: Kume, J. (PI), Miller, K, Van Swearingen, J. Wingood, M., Avers, D., Cabrera, J. Dunlap Coates, J., Lazaro, RT, Reilley, A., Voltmer, C., McDonough, C. Physical therapist management among older adults who are prefrail/frail: a clinical practice guideline of interventions for physical frailty from the APTA Geriatrics. Supporting Organization: APTA Geriatrics. Grant Funding Organization: American Physical Therapy Association. Grant Amount: \$9,000.



[See Jennifer's CV](#)

Vice Chair, Residency & Fellowship SIG



Julie Hartmann, PT, DSc

Board-Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist

Professional Accomplishments

There are two things that represent my leadership in advocacy for our profession, especially in the area of geriatrics. In my former role as the Director of Clinical Education, I worked hard to develop relationships with geriatric clinic sites to foster an increased interest in this population with Doctor of Physical Therapy students. The reward was hearing from students who opted to work in geriatric-focused sites or apply to a geriatric residency. One of the roles in my new position is the Director of the Bellarmine Geriatric Residency. As our population continues to age, the didactic and mentoring portion of the residency remain key components for the growth of the resident. I strongly believe that it is important to create a presence in the community through interaction with community partners, service projects and educational opportunities. I have sought out and developed these vital connections for the geriatric residents.

Activities and Leadership

I have been a member of APTA since 1985. I have been a member of several sections (home care, education) and have consistently been a member of the Academy of Geriatrics since 1994. I have supported my former APTA state chapter as a member of the northwest district in Pennsylvania. Nationally, I served as the nominating chair for the Clinical Education special interest group. I was a member of the task force that developed clinical education terminology for physical therapy programs. I was the Director of the Erie, Pennsylvania chapter of the Twilight Wish Foundation, a nonprofit that grants wishes for older adults. I recently started a new chapter for Twilight Wish Foundation in Louisville, Kentucky. I served on an Elder Justice Task Force in Erie, Pennsylvania. I was recently appointed Subcommittee Chair for fall prevention as a part of the Kentucky Safety Prevention Alignment Network.



[See Julie's CV](#)



Emma Phillips, PT, DPT

*Board-Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist
Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults*

Professional Accomplishments

I believe the greatest impact and accomplishment that I have made can be seen in the lives of the patients who I have treated with patient-centered, progressive, evidenced-based treatments. However, I also have been able to advocate through education as faculty for the Balance and Falls Credentialing Course, service and research within the GeriEdge group (falls screening/assessment, osteoporosis screening, and frailty), and serving within various SIGs (Balance & Falls and Residency & Fellowship).

Activities and Leadership

I have been a member of the GeriEdge group since its inception in 2011/12, served as Vice-Chair of the Balance & Falls SIG, served as Nominating Chair and Secretary of the Residency & Fellowship SIG, served on the CSM Programming Committee for APTA Geriatrics, and served as an abstract reviewer for Geriatric Platforms/Posters at CSM, and one term as a SACE item writer.



[See Emma's CV](#)