

Section on Geriatrics (SoG)

Our Mission: To further our members' ability to advocate for optimal aging and to provide best practice physical therapy.

Position Title: Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Advocacy Committee Member

Responsible To: PTA Advocate

Program Goal(s):

- Represent the interests of PTAs to the SoG Board.
- Promote the SoG and best physical therapist assistant practice for the older adult to Physical Therapist Assistants.

Benefits To You:

- Become familiar with resources available to members through the Section on Geriatrics, and become more familiar with APTA resources.
- Use your creativity to benefit consumers and PTAs
- Participate as a member of the committee throughout the year via e-mail and phone conferences, and at national meetings.
- Make lasting contacts and friendships with outstanding PTs and PTAs from all over the US with an interest in geriatrics.
- Learn how to get involved in the leadership of an APTA Chapter or Section, with opportunities to expand your involvement in the Section on Geriatrics.

Responsibilities:

1. Participate in the following committee tasks, as lead by the Chair:
 - o Submit ideas to the Program Chair each year when called upon by the Chair, for PTA Issues Forum at the Combined Sections Meeting. These ideas can be collected from other PTAs or generated by you.
2. Creatively enhance PTA practice or PTA membership in the SoG, by taking on at least one project for yourself each year. Projects can be completed in a team of up to two committee members, or on your own (depending on the project), and should be approved by the Chair.

Examples:

- o Work to get at least one article per year directed toward the PTA for GeriNotes, the Section's newsletter. Articles can be written by you or by others.
- o Use your contacts, or contact PTA members of the Section individually (list available from SoG Office) in order to generate at least two nominations for the Outstanding PTA Award each year.
- o Assist the Regional Course Chair in finding a course topic and presenter(s) for a PTA-specific regional course. You should run your initial ideas by the PTA Advocate, and should copy the PTA Advocate on your initial communications with the Regional Course committee until a working relationship is established. Considerations include: what topics are most needed by PTAs, what topics are marketable to PTAs, in which states are PTAs required to get continuing education credits . . .
- o Come up with your own project to expand SoG member benefits available to PTAs (ex: write a fact sheet on a topic of interest. . .)
- o Come up with your own outreach project to encourage PTA membership in the Section on Geriatrics. You can discuss your ideas with the PTA Advocate and/or Section office to determine effectiveness, budgetary needs, etc.

Qualifications:

Must be a PTA member of the Section on Geriatrics.

Must maintain a working e-mail address in APTA's database.

Must be generally able to respond to member and leader queries received via phone or e-mail within one week.

Training and Supervision: The Executive Director will provide an orientation packet. The PTA Advocate will arrange to talk over the telephone with you within two weeks of receipt of the orientation

packet. The PTA Advocate will provide support throughout the term and is available to answer any questions.

Evaluation: Evaluation in the Section on Geriatrics is a two-way street. At the end of each term, you will be given the opportunity to evaluate your function and how effectively you have been supported by and integrated into the Section. The PTA Advocate will also offer feedback for your professional development, if you wish. The goal of the evaluation process is to improve the Section's support of officers, and provide for the personal and professional development of members.

Commitment: 3 year term, 1-3 hours per month.

I have read and understood my responsibilities according to this job description.

Volunteer- PTA Advocacy Committee

Date