

# Strategic Plan for the *Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy*

The Editorial Board of the *Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy (JGPT)* has crafted a Vision Statement and list of strategic goals to guide the development of the *JGPT* over the next 5 years. We encourage readers to read and reflect on this document, and invite comments and suggestions that would help us to accomplish our goals. Additionally, if you are interested in working with us toward achieving one or more of the goals, you would be welcome to join the team. Contact Michelle Lusardi, *JGPT* Editor-in-Chief, by email at [lusardim@sacredheart.edu](mailto:lusardim@sacredheart.edu), to contribute to the development of the journal.

## VISION STATEMENT:

The *Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy* is the leading source of clinically applicable evidence for achieving optimal health, wellness, mobility, and physical function across the continuum of health status for the aging adult.

## STRATEGIC GOALS:

1. to enhance and improve governance policy & procedures for the Journal, including
  - a. the review process (rigor, effective training of reviewers, efficiency)
  - b. examine/define/refine role of editorial board
  - c. administration and distribution of resources and responsibilities
2. to encourage established and mentor emerging authors/

- researchers to use the journal as a way to disseminate their work
3. to be an effective “translator” of evidence to guide clinical practice with aging adults, including
  - a. content relevance and how it is presented
  - b. improve reader friendliness via clinical applicability
  - c. increase diversity of readership
  - d. increase diversity of journal content (types of articles, reviews, etc)
4. to move to quarterly publication, including
  - a. increase submission rate by 50%
  - b. clarify/define niche of *JGPT* to distinguish from other journals in geriatrics/gerontology/aging
  - c. publicize the journal’s uniqueness in geriatric rehabilitation and in the area of wellness
5. to improve the quality of the presentation of the journal
  - a. examine and refine the format and appearance of journal’s cover
  - b. improve the presentation of articles within the journal
6. to assess the impact of the journal as a source of information for clinical practice and knowledge development/research
  - a. develop and implement strategies to assess the “external impact factor” and reputation of the journal
  - b. develop and implement strategies to measure how the journal impacts on clinical practice, ie, the “internal impact factor”

## Call for Manuscript Reviewers

The *Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy* is seeking to expand its cadre of reviewers for manuscripts, books, and media submitted for peer review.

The Journal currently invites submissions of quantitative and qualitative reports of original research, systematic and integrative reviews of the literature, case reports and case series, and clinical updates providing evidence about current best practice in geriatric physical therapy. The Journal will soon be accepting book and media reviews.

Qualifications for potential manuscript reviewers include:

- 3 or more years of clinical experience.
- Authorship or co-authorship in an article published in a peer-review journal relevant to physical therapy
- Working knowledge of research design and basic principles of statistical analysis (or commitment to quickly build this knowledge)
- Maintain currency with the peer-review literature related to geriatrics. For example, regular critical reading of two or more peer-review journals relevant to Physical Therapy (eg, *Physical Therapy*, *Journal of the American Geriatric Society*, *Journal of Gerontology*, *Archives of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation*, *Age & Ageing*, *Journal of Physical Activity*, and *Aging*, etc) in addition to the *Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy*; or regular active participation in journal clubs.
- APTA member
- Access to the internet and familiarity with searching databases of scientific literature
- Content expertise in one or more areas applicable to geriatric physical therapy practice.
- For those interested in book or media review, contribution to preparation of a chapter, text, or media resource; or responsibility for reviewing and selecting such resources for use in clinical or academic settings is more relevant than research experience.

Experienced and novice reviewers are invited to apply. Anticipated commitment is 4 to 5 reviews per year. The Editor will match those new to the process to experienced reviewers for mentorship during the first year as a reviewer. The Journal’s Editorial Board is in the process of developing a resource manual to guide the peer-review process. “How to be an effective reviewer” sessions (sponsored by the *Journal of Physical Therapy*) will be available at the 2008 Combined Sections Meetings. A meeting of all *JGPT* reviewers is planned for CSM 2008 as well.

Individuals interested in becoming reviewers should submit (via attachment to email) a letter describing their qualifications to review and their areas of interest/expertise relevant to Geriatric Physical Therapy, and a current Curriculum Vita / Resume to:

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Section on Geriatrics, APTA  
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