

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: Section on Geriatrics Advocate for (your state)

Responsible To: Regional Coordinator, (name here), who is responsible to Jill Heitzman, SoG Board Liaison

Program Goal(s): - Educate the consumer to utilize the physical therapist as the practitioner of choice to achieve optimal physical function and mobility in older adults.

-Promote and support autonomous physical therapist practice through professional and career development in geriatrics.

-Serve as conduit for information between SoG and your Chapter.

Benefits To You: - Develop a working knowledge of your chapter and section's activities
- Communicate with chapter/section leaders.

- Work creatively at the grassroots level to promote PT for the older adult.

- Make a lasting contribution to the quality of physical therapy care given to older adults in your state.

- Opportunities to network with other PTs/PTAs in your state, and with other SoG Advocates.

Responsibilities:

1. Provide two-way communication between the SoG and the chapter. Examples:

- Updates on reimbursement/legislative issues
- Identify possible research/clinical collaborations
- Notify the Section of related practice act revisions
- Promote the call for nominations for Section awards (or notify the Section when a Geriatric-related award is given at Chapter level)

2. Communicate with SoG members in your state when there are geriatric-related issues, courses, meetings, etc. in your chapter. (You can send an e-mail to SoG members in your state by sending the e-mail to andreasaevoon@apta.org for distribution. All responses will be sent to you. We can also provide a list of phone numbers or mailing labels at your request).

3. Once a month, you will get a list of new SoG members in your Chapter (generally, 3-10 people). Call or email them to thank them for their membership, and offer to make them aware of Section resources, events, and activities. If using e-mail, please e-mail people one at a time, and personalize the e-mail (no blasts).

4. Keep a list of all your activities and submit once a year to your Regional Coordinator, prior to the Combined Sections Meeting in February.

5. If attending the Combined Sections Meeting, attend the State Advocate Meeting (generally one hour).

6. **Complete at least two activities each year to promote increased awareness and knowledge of PT for the older adult in your chapter.** Examples:

- The Section can send a booth, promotional materials, and raffle items to you for display at your chapter meeting.
- Facilitate one of your chapter's courses (at a meeting, regionally, etc) to be a geriatric topic.
- Organize a study group for the GCS exam.

- Hold an awareness/consumer education event at a LTC facility, senior center, mall, etc. Could be osteoporosis seminar, balance and falls awareness fair, exercise for Seniors event, etc. (Support resources for these types of events available through the Section)
- Contact three community health fairs that are already occurring, and get a local PT to attend and participate.
- Through personal contact, get 20 people who would identify as having a Geriatric practice focus to sign up for APTA's "Find a PT" database.
- In concert with your chapter, hold a fitness screening for older adults
- Develop a relationship with a state agency that handles elder issues
- Start a Geriatric Special Interest Group within your chapter, if it doesn't already exist (counts as two activities!)
- Make a presentation at a PT or PTA program, to promote geriatric practice to students. (A PowerPoint for this should be available through the Section Office by April 2008).
- Come up with your own ideas to promote PT for the older adult in your state!

Qualifications:

Must be a member of the Section on Geriatrics.

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

Attend chapter meetings as often as possible, or otherwise educate self of chapter projects and events. Meeting attendance is optimal.

Training and Supervision: The Executive Director will provide an orientation packet. The Advocate Coordinator will arrange to talk over the telephone with you within two weeks of receipt of the orientation packet. The Regional Advocate Coordinator 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. Your Regional Director will also offer feedback. The goal of the evaluation process is to improve the Section's support of SoG Advocates, and provide for the personal and professional development for you.

Commitment: 2 year term, 2-8 hours per month. This includes 1-2 hours calling new members and following up from those calls, and additional time to plan and implement other projects. We encourage you to recruit other Section members and delegate tasks.

I have read and understood my responsibilities according to this job description. My activities for 2008 are (see #6 above): (2 minimum)

1.

2.

Volunteer- SoG Advocate

Date