

## **Section on Geriatrics Position Statement: Cultural Diversity**

In recognition of the cultural diversity of our nation, the Section on Geriatrics of the American Physical Therapy Association commits itself to respect the cultural diversity of each Section member and older adult whom we serve.

Since the Section membership serves an older population from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds, cross-cultural understanding is an integral part of clinical, educational, and research skills. The Section will provide its members with opportunities to develop awareness of and sensitivity to cultural and ethnic issues. We believe this awareness will increase communication and the effectiveness of treatment, education, and research, and will enhance our profession's contribution to quality patient care.

Currently the Section membership, its leadership, and the profession as a whole do not reflect the cultural diversity inherent in our nation. The Section on Geriatrics of the American Physical Therapy Association is committed to the development of a membership and leadership which proportionately represents peoples of all cultures. Such representation will enrich the professional development of the members and the effectiveness of the Section as a whole.

In order to enhance the members' ability to better serve a culturally diverse society by providing the best health care possible, the Section on Geriatrics embraces these two concepts.

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