**APTA Geriatrics Michigan Member News**

Osa Jackson Schulte helped to write a chapter on aging, the brain and dementia in Darcy Umphred Neurological Rehabilitation 7th edition.    Congratulations Osa!

Have you been part of writing a geriatric related book, research study, article, or blog?  Have you been part of a geriatric related podcast, community event?  We'd love to share the great things our members have been up to!

**GCS**

There are currently 27 Geriatric Board Certified Specialists in Michigan.   Are you planning on becoming one of them?  Let us know if you'd like to be part of a GCS study group

**Telehealth**

Are you participating in Teleheath?  Let us know if you would like to connect with others who are?

**Advocacy**

Due to an overwhelming email response CMS has resolved the CCI edit change that disallowed eval, ther act and/or group therapy to be billed on the same day.  Thank you to everyone who sent an email!  Our voices do matter!

On Feb 5, 2020, a bipartisan letter signed by 99 members of the U.S. House of Representatives was sent to CMS regarding the proposed 2021 Medicare cuts.  There is still time for you and your patients to contact member of Congress:

* [Patient specific letter](https://www.votervoice.net/APTA/Campaigns/70107/Respond)
* [General letter](https://www.votervoice.net/APTA/Campaigns/69563/Respond)

Also encourage your patients, family, friends, colleagues to visit <https://www.healthcantwait.org/> and support SB 612.  "Prior authorization and step therapy **delay** care and treatment for Michigan patients.  It’s time for a change. **Because health can’t wait."**

**Balance & Falls Outcome Measures Toolkit from APTA Geriatrics:**

<https://geriatricspt.org/special-interest-groups/balance-falls/Outcome-Measure-Toolkit/?fbclid=IwAR1wbPN8taMGuzz-FFZPyOpxZUExENh1YKWbw5q42O2JNN5VC-YvBCrUqnU>

**Get Stronger, Walk Faster**

As geriatric therapists, we should all be aware of the importance of gait speed and use it as one of our assessments.   But are we training our patients to improve their gait speed?  Here's a link [to a short podcast on the topic](http://seniorrehab.libsyn.com/get-stronger-walk-faster?fbclid=IwAR1s_olPihDWlKSG6HyIM8nairx8xfow1T15PJMXtpU5iHpPhvD3RBtvUOU).   Let us know how you incorporate gait speed training with your patients

**Continuing Education**

Register [here](https://geriatricspt.org/events/courses/ceeaa/) to become a Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults (PT only).  Or register [here](https://geriatricspt.org/events/courses/PTA%20Focus/) for the Advances in Exercise for the Older Adult:  A PTA Focus Course

Register [here](https://mpta.com/events/conferences/2020/spring/pain-summit/) for the MPTA Spring Conference.  This year's conference features a geriatric track with several nationally known speakers.  Earn 7.25 CEUs/PDRs (including your pain requirement) in one day!  Early bird registration ends March 11.

Register [here](https://www.greatseminarsandbooks.com/clinical-geriatric-orthopedics/) for "Orthopedic Examination and Intervention for the Older Adult".  This course will be held in Royal Oak and is being taught by Carol B Lewis!  Earn 20 PDRs in one weekend

Are you teaching or hosting an upcoming geriatric related course?  Is there a course you highly recommend?  Let us know so we can share with Michigan members of APTA Geriatrics

**FACEBOOK**

Join our  [FB Group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2408422059435907/)

Attached are several other resources we thought would be beneficial.

Please share with us any information, question, concern, etc you think would help advance the practice of our APTA Geriatrics Michigan members.

Your Michigan Advocates,

*Melanie Wells PT*

*Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults*

*Certified Dementia Practitioner*

*Certified Brain Injury Specialist*

*Mihirkumar Trivedi, PT, DPT*

*Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults*

**Please reply with Unsubscribe if you are no longer a member of APTA Geriatrics**