

**Section on Geriatrics Position Statement:
2020 PT Practitioner for the Aging Population**

By 2020, physical therapists practicing with the aging population will be autonomous practitioners of choice for exercise, physical activity, prevention, and optimization of function in all settings. Practitioners in geriatrics, applying their knowledge of the indicators and consequences of the aging process, will promote remediation of impairments, activity and functional limitations, participation restrictions, and disabilities and will promote prevention, health promotion, fitness, and wellness. Physical therapists practicing with the geriatric population will be evidence-based practitioners, applying the appropriate level and specificity of exercise and other interventions that will improve and maintain function and quality of life.

Physical therapists practicing in geriatrics will incorporate the values of altruism, compassion, commitment, competence, integrity and respect into all patient/client interactions. They will be advocates for their patients/clients, serving as a resource directing them towards appropriate health interventions outside the scope of PT practice, and actively lobbying for legislative changes that will benefit the older population.

Approved by the APTA Board Committee to Review Component Documents, in a letter dated 9/18/06.