The Balance and Falls Special Interest Group (B&F SIG) of the Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy (AGPT) membership call on July 28, 2015 had 33 participants from 17 states. Falls Prevention Awareness Day (FPAD) 2015 was the continued topic of discussion.

Minutes were read from the June 16th meeting and they can be found at http://www.geriatricspt.org/members/special-interest-groups/index.cfm

CSM will be held in Anaheim California in February 2016. The Balance and Falls SIG meeting will be held February 18th from 11:00am to noon with the location to be determined.

We then moved through the call participants by state to discuss plans for FPAD. Locations included assisted living centers, hospital lobby’s, malls, community centers, senior day care centers and health fairs. Ideas for sharing information were use of placements on meal trays, distribution of flyers in chamber of commerce newsletters and medical offices/clinics. It was discussed to remember to included local fire safety and emergency personnel, PT/OT/nursing students with instructors, and hospital emergency room personnel.

It was strongly encouraged to look into the following tools:
Stepping On (http://www.steppingon.com/)
Otago training (http://www.med.unc.edu/aging/cgec/exercise-program)
STEADI tool information (http://www.cdc.gov/steadi/index.html)

Matter of Balance, Falls Talk, FallScape and a few others can be found at: https://www.ncoa.org/healthy-aging/falls-prevention/falls-prevention-programs-for-older-adults/

There is now a STEADI CEU course available at www.educata.com and is titled Fall Prevention.

Miriana Wingood reported that GeriEDGE is currently working on a systematic review which is looking at outcome measures/screening tools for falls to identify the best screening tools to be used by clinicians to identify someone at risk for falling. Currently we are finishing our evidence table and finalizing the paper with the goal of being done this fall.
Emma Ochs shared information on the Clinical Practice Guidelines. You can find more information at http://ptjournal.apta.org/content/95/6/815?etoc

Balance and Falls SIG positions opening soon! A call for Nominating Committee and Nominating Chair positions will be sent out in September and close in October. Voting will take place in November pending multiple candidates. These positions will begin in February at CSM.

There is a wealth of information at your fingertips! Please take a look at the following resources.

- www.ncoacrossroads.org
- New CDC STEADI Older Adult Fall Prevention Online Training for Providers: www.cdc.gov/injury/stead
- American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA): http://www.aota.org/Practice/Productive-Aging/Falls.aspx
- Kaiser Permanente Hawaii Division Innovation Team partnered with the Consortium to produce a four minute educational video that concentrates on home safety for fall prevention: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60hR0-0xapY\n- Iowa Falls Prevention Coalition Informative Conference Folder (PDF, attached)
- Massachusetts Falls Prevention Coalition Presentation, “Communicating via Social Media:” Techniques for sharing falls prevention awareness via social media

We thank all participants for the fantastic information shared during our call! You are appreciated for what you do for patients and the Academy!

Respectfully submitted:
Ann Lowrey
BF SIG Secretary