Dear New CMHSIG Member:

Welcome to the Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy Cognitive and Mental Health Special Interest Group (CMHSIG)! The purpose of the CMHSIG is to provide a forum through which individuals having a common interest in older adults with dementia and other cognitive-based conditions and mental health issues can learn from each other.

The CMHSIG has a page on the Section on Geriatrics website, http://geriatricspt.org/?z3ad3r, where you will find helpful information. We encourage you to join the Academy listserv, which serves as a discussion forum for PTs and PTAs with an interest in older adults to ask questions and share information. Every post regarding dementia and other cognitive-based conditions and mental health issues will raise awareness in the PT community about these topics, so we encourage you to participate!

The CMHSIG also hosts a business meeting at the Combined Sections Meeting every year in February, which I hope you will consider attending. I will be there this February and warmly encourage you to reach out to me, the other Officers and our many Liaisons. This CMHSIG leadership group represents people, across the United States and in various settings, who are committed to sharing their talents, knowledge and time in order to broadening our collective knowledge of how physical therapy care management services can effectively help people living with cognitive and mental health conditions.

Our society is undergoing another renaissance with regard to healthcare reform. In these turbulent and exciting times, the birth of this SIG in 2014 has been very timely. We have been successful in developing projects in many areas -- see our January 2017 GeriNotes project report for details. If you are interested in volunteering with our SIG, we have Liaison positions open which typically require a 1-2 hour time commitment each quarter. I have found that volunteering my time to our profession has been truly one of the most professionally satisfying experiences of my career to date. Should you decide to volunteer your time with us, know you will have tremendous support and opportunities for professional growth.

We are always looking for ways to hone and expand the scope of our SIG, so please forward any suggestions for programming and CMHSIG activities to me at lise@mipt.us. I look forward to your participation in our CMHSIG! Your ideas are most welcome!

Sincerely,

Lise McCarthy, PT, DPT, GCS
CMHSIG Founding Chair