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## Balance and Falls SIG: Secretary



**Melissa Allen, PT, DPT, PhD**

The strong desire to positively impact the lives of older adults and their families is what led me to a career in physical therapy. For the past 14 years, I have served older adults and the physical therapy profession as a clinician and DPT educator, and now I would like the opportunity to work alongside like-minded colleagues to further the mission and vision of APTA Geriatrics. As primary care providers, physical therapists should be on the forefront of holistic care and collaboration with other professionals to best meet the unique (and often complex) needs of this population. We must transition beyond a reactive approach to rehabilitation and emphasize proactive, preventive services and holistic wellness that will allow the older adults in our communities to maximize their quality of life with an emphasis on aging in place. My desire is for the perception of aging among professionals, students, and the community at large to shift from that of frailty and decline to an image of vibrancy and experiencing all of the fullness that life has to offer at all stages. I am proud to be a member of such a dynamic Academy of professionals and would love the opportunity to serve.