#### Introducing the New Faces of Advocacy in APTA Home Health & APTA Geriatrics

Ellen Strunk and Eva Norman, Co-Chairs of the **Joint Government Affairs Committee** (JGAC) of APTA Home Health and APTA Geriatrics, are thrilled to introduce five outstanding professionals who have been selected to join the committee. Each brings a unique combination of clinical expertise, advocacy experience, and a passion for shaping policies that improve care for older adults. Get to know the newest members of our advocacy leadership team:

### Amy Hedrick, DPT, MBA

## AVP of Value-Based Care, CenterWell Home Health

Amy is a healthcare executive and clinician with 14+ years in the home health space. From treating patients to leading strategic initiatives across 13 states, she has been instrumental in implementing innovative, value-based care models that improve quality and reduce disparities.

With additional certifications in AI strategy, behavioral science, marketing, and OASIS-E, Amy brings a forward-thinking approach to healthcare delivery. Her commitment to aging in place and policy-driven care transformation aligns seamlessly with the mission of the JGAC.

## Jamie Kuettel, PT, DPT, NCS, GCS

## Associate Professor, A.T. Still University | Chief Delegate, APTA Arizona

A dual board-certified clinical specialist in neurology and geriatrics, Jamie is a clinician, educator, and seasoned advocate. Her advocacy journey began in 2009 and continues with influential work in the APTA House of Delegates, federal forums, and multiple APTA workgroups.

Jamie's leadership in curriculum development, mentorship, research, and community outreach positions her as a powerhouse for policy development focused on the needs of older adults and the advancement of the profession.

#### Kevin Cezat, PT, DPT, GCS, RAC-CT

Director of Clinical Excellence, TMC | Vice Chair, APTA Geriatrics SNF SIG

Kevin brings over a decade of experience as a geriatric physical therapist and clinical leader. He currently oversees clinical programming and regulatory compliance across multiple healthcare sites nationwide. His advocacy experience is wide-ranging, including service on the Orange County Commission on Aging and numerous contributions to APTA programming.

With his board certification in Geriatrics (GCS), LSVT BIG, and healthcare informatics in progress, Kevin's expertise bridges policy, education, and clinical practice. He is committed to using his voice to support policies that promote equitable, evidence-based care for older adults.

#### Silke Mildenberger, PTA

# Physical Therapist Assistant, BAYADA Home Health | PTA Council Representative, APTA Home Health

Silke has spent over a decade in geriatric and home health care, combining clinical care with community engagement and mentorship. Her passion for advocacy has driven her to take on leadership roles, from legislative outreach to precepting future clinicians.

Eager to collaborate nationally, Silke aims to expand PTA involvement in policy work and raise public awareness about the value of physical therapy. Her voice will bring vital representation and grassroots insight to the committee's efforts.

## Steven Osovsky, PT, DPT, GCS

## Shore Strength Physical Therapy | Pro-Activity, NYC Metro Area

Steven is a board-certified geriatric PT with a diverse background spanning outpatient, neurology, rehab, and academia. His policy interest was sparked during his work with Maryland's Community for Life program, where he performed in-home fall risk assessments to support aging in place.

With advanced degrees and a record of research, education, and clinical leadership, Steven brings a well-rounded and deeply informed perspective to advocacy, with a focus on improving access and outcomes for older adults. **Please join us in welcoming Amy, Jamie, Kevin, Silke, and Steven to the JGAC.** Their expertise and dedication will help drive forward policies that protect, promote, and elevate the role of physical therapy in aging care across the country.

To learn more about the work of the Joint Government Affairs Committee or how you can get involved in advocacy, visit <u>APTA Home Health</u> or <u>APTA Geriatrics</u>.

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