



**Slate of Candidates for  
the ACEWM Student Special Interest Group**

The ACEWM Student Special Interest Group is pleased to present the slate of candidates for the 2020 Election for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Admin and Marketing. Election runs from July 16, 2020 to August 16, 2020.

**Candidate for Chair:**

Oscar Estrada

**Candidates for Vice Chair:**

Maria Elgendi

Amber Custodi

**Candidates for Administration:**

Shonda Cowherd

Kirsten Kolch

**Candidate for Marketing:**

Lindsey Akridge

**Candidate Statements:**

**Oscar Estrada:**

I am in the 2nd year of the DPT graduate program at UCSF/SFSU. I earned my AS degree in Physical Therapy Assistant and my BS degree in Kinesiology - Exercise Science. I am amazed by the healing power of the body and the role PTs play to help heal. I joined the ACEWM to learn how PTs fill this critical role and to do my part to support this role. My classes in Acute Care and Modalities have taught me that PTs continue to be needed for patient wound care and management, now more than ever. It is my hope that each student member of this SSIG receives support from the Academy to develop their wound management skills to confidently treat the unique needs of their future patients.

**Maria Elgendi:**

I always knew I wanted to go into healthcare but finding where I fit in took a little time. As an SPT, my interests consistently differed from the rest of my cohort. The integumentary system is endlessly fascinating to me. It was amazing to have witnessed the massive impact wound healing can have on a patient's life during my first clinical experience.

It's a little known fact that physical therapists are very effective at treating wounds. There is not really an ample amount of education in our society that highlights what we as a profession can do for this patient population. Physical therapy at its core emphasizes serving our patients and promoting equality through healthcare. Having a wound, whether big or small, can be traumatizing and there's often times stigma that comes with it. There are many patients experiencing feelings of decreased self-worth, shame, and anxiety which greatly impacts their quality of life. Unfortunately, these discussions surrounding effective wound treatment are few and far between outside of specialty circles. If granted this opportunity, I will strongly advocate for increasing public awareness of

all capabilities, that we as clinicians possess. During my time as an officer for Governors State University's PTSA (physical therapy student association) I gained experience in leadership and effective communication which has helped to equip me for this position. As a group, it is vital that we take pride in building a strong network of clinicians and pursuing the path of quality education in order to achieve the best possible outcome for this patient population.

**Amber Custodi:**

Hello my name is Amber Custodi, and I will be starting my last year in Daemen College's DPT program this fall. I am running for a Council of Officers position for the ACEWM SSIG this year with the intentions of helping the special interest group grow by giving DPT students who are passionate in this area of the profession the opportunity to gain further knowledge and network with others sharing their same interests. I would be honored and excited to work with the rest of the officers to come up with effective and creative ways to get students involved and immersed in the ACEWM community. I would greatly appreciate your vote!

**Shondah Cowherd:**

Hi, I'm Shondah Cowherd and I am a Physical Therapy Assistant student at Somerset Community College (SCC). I am pursuing my passion in helping others. I enjoy organizing events, conversing with others, furthering my education, and being involved. I look forward to working with each of you!

**Lindsey Akridge:**

Hello, my name is Lindsey Akridge. I am a DPT student at Texas Woman's University in Houston. My love for physical therapy stems from its wide variety of avenues that are represented within it, however I believe one of its greatest avenues is that of wound care. Wound care is something I am very interested in and desire for it to become better known and understood by our fellow students. A great way for this to happen is through the platform of marketing as others see what this branch of physical therapy is exactly and through increased membership as we see more students join this group! Thank you for your consideration.