Kornelia Kulig, PT, PhD, FAPTA, has continually contributed to and promoted the science of rehabilitation in the area of orthopedic physical therapy on both the national and world stages.

Kulig is professor and clinical scholar, University of Southern California. In addition, she holds a joint appointment at the university's Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Keck School of Medicine, and is codirector of the Musculoskeletal Biomechanics Research Laboratory, Division of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy. She earned a PhD in biomechanics and MS in physical therapy and education from the Academy of Physical Education Wroclaw, Poland; she holds a BS in physical therapy from Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan.

Kulig’s role in the advancement of the profession has encompassed the domains of research, education, and practice. One significant contribution has been her commitment to providing the science underpinning clinical practice. As a researcher, she is considered one of the profession's foremost experts in clinical biomechanics. Her research reflects sustained development over time and encompasses a wide range of scientific approaches, including mechanistic biomechanical analyses and clinical interventions. Her scholarly writings are multidisciplinary and translational, covering research that has shaped clinical practice and influenced a new generation of young investigators in this area. In addition, Kulig is committed to the principles of evidence-based practice and the advancement of the scientific basis underlying physical therapy. Her ability to merge aspects of research, teaching, and clinical practice is a model for current and future academicians, clinicians, and students. This commitment to finding the evidence behind the practice of orthopedic physical therapy forms the basis of her ability to present the elements of practice with objectivity and scientific merit.

Kulig is a member of the Michels Forum Committee of APTA's Section on Research. Past APTA honors include the 18th John H.P. Maley Lectureship; Catherine Worthingham Fellow; the Physical Therapist Research Award from the California Chapter; and the Dorothy E. Baethke-Eleanor J. Carlin Award for Excellence in Academic Teaching.

For her contributions to the literature and overall field of physical therapy in the neuromechanics accompanying musculoskeletal injury, APTA is pleased to present Kornelia Kulig with the Helen J. Hislop Award for Outstanding Contributions to Professional Literature.

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