

## **DELEGATE**

Name: James Cumming

Credentials: PT, OCS

Education: Master's in Physical Therapy, UW-Madison, 2004

Employer and Position:

1. What skills and experiences qualify you to serve as a Chapter Delegate?

I have served as a Wisconsin Chapter Delegate since 2016 and have been actively engaged in our delegation's work related to House preparation, discussions related to candidates and motions, and in assisting the Chief Delegate with organization and planning. Also, as a longtime member of APTA Wisconsin's board of directors, I am intimately familiar with the issues facing the professionals in our state, and will work to represent these concerns at the House.

2. How do you envision the role of an APTA Wisconsin Delegate?

I thoroughly enjoy preparing for and attending the House each year, as a Delegate is privileged to participate in helping progress the profession forward. Wisconsin has been a leader in progressive legislation and Chapter activities that promotes physical therapy as a doctoring profession. I believe a Wisconsin delegate should represent this forward-thinking history when they participate in the House.

3. Are there particular issues facing the profession currently that will require leadership by APTA Wisconsin Delegates?

Among the many issues facing our profession, there are a few which are the most threatening our future roles in healthcare. One is the issue of student debt to salary ratio. Inflating tuition and loan costs and lack of proportional increase in salary is untenable. Solutions for this issue must be targeted at multiple components of the problem, but especially reimbursement.

Another pertinent issue is how our Association should navigate our current tumultuous political climate by doing what is right for our profession while simultaneously advocating for issues which affect the patients and communities we serve. This is a delicate balance, and the Wisconsin Delegation is obligated to represent Wisconsin concerns and values when deliberating these issues.

Finally, the issues of PT scope of practice are always paramount in House of Delegates deliberations. Given Wisconsin's history of legislation allowing PTs to practice at the full

extent of their training and license, we are well positioned to advocate for expansion of the PT practice environment and privileges, such as promoting the role of the Physical Therapist as a primary musculoskeletal provider.