

DELEGATE

Name: Lee J. Coleman

Credentials: PT, DPT, Board Certified Orthopedic Specialist

Education: Doctor of Physical Therapy from Concordia University Wisconsin

Employer and Position:

Integra Physical Therapy and Personal Training (Physical Therapist)

Concordia University Wisconsin (Assistant Professor)

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

I have worked as a physical therapist since 2011, providing direct patient care in various settings including outpatient orthopedics, home health, occupational health, and skilled nursing facilities. Additionally, I served as the director of outpatient services for a Medicare-certified rehabilitation agency that offered physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy services across different areas such as pediatrics, orthopedics, skilled nursing, and occupational health.

I have actively participated in the APTA-WI, holding a volunteer role as the program coordinator for the APTA-WI southeast district board since 2014. I have also taken on responsibilities as a local planning chair for a spring conference, coordinated the development of the APTA-WI PT Pain and Substance Use Disorder solutions toolkit, and served as a volunteer member of the professional development committee. These involvements have allowed me to contribute to the growth and development of the profession.

In addition to my clinical work and involvement with the APTA-WI, I am also involved in physical therapy education. I teach entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy content that includes reviewing and applying the Physical Therapy Practice Act and Administrative Code and discusses the role and importance of the WPT-PAC. Furthermore, I incorporate up-to-date research into my entry-level courses, specifically focusing on orthopedics and evidence-based practice.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are also important to me, and I actively serve on my departmental DEI committee. It is my goal to contribute to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for all individuals within the profession.

To stay current with the latest advancements and research in the field, I regularly attend state and national conferences. These opportunities enable me to expand my knowledge, network with other professionals, and enhance the care I provide to my patients.

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

As an APTA Wisconsin Delegate, I am committed to advocating for the highest standards of practice and for fair and just laws and policies in our state. I believe that physical therapy plays a vital role in promoting the health and wellness of individuals in our communities, and I am dedicated to ensuring that our profession continues to utilize evidence-based practices and ethical principles.

As a delegate, I will actively engage in legislative and policy discussions with patients, students, and peers within my professional network, and I will expand my reach to expose local and state legislators to our practices and potential concerns. I will work collaboratively with other healthcare professionals, lawmakers, and stakeholders to shape laws and regulations that promote access to quality care, patient safety, and equitable treatment.

In this role, I recognize the importance of staying informed about current healthcare trends, research advancements, and emerging issues that impact physical therapy. By remaining up-to-date, I can effectively contribute to the development of policies that align with the evolving needs of patients, healthcare providers, and our communities.

Furthermore, I am committed to promoting inclusivity and eliminating disparities within the healthcare system. I will advocate for policies that address healthcare access gaps, ensure culturally sensitive care, and strive for equal opportunities for all individuals.

Ultimately, as a physical therapist delegate in Wisconsin, my primary objective will be to advance the best interests of our profession and the well-being of the patients we serve. Through active participation, collaboration, and advocacy, I aim to contribute to a physical therapy profession that is grounded in best practices, fairness, and justice, and can make a positive impact on the healthcare system in our state.

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

We face ongoing challenges in our profession, such as reduced reimbursement for physical therapy services, potential restrictions of our practice act, the encroachment of non-licensed personnel providing physical therapy services, and the escalating cost of educating and training new physical therapists. However, we also have an exceptional chance to broaden the influence of physical therapy in the healthcare community through value-based care models and wellness initiatives. I am dedicated to being a powerful advocate for the physical therapy profession, striving to promote the acknowledgment of our value, expertise, and the significance of our services in improving the health and quality of life for individuals across the state.