

DELEGATE

Name: **Sam Zehnder**

Credentials: **PT, DPT, CSCS, CISSN**

Education: **Concordia University – Wisconsin DPT ('18-'22); Concordia University – Wisconsin Orthopedic Residency ('22)**

Employer and Position: **Advocate Aurora – Physical Therapist**

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

Since my connection with the physical therapy profession began as a first-year DPT student, I have sought opportunities to be involved in leadership roles at the local, state, and national levels. I served as an executive on the student board at Concordia, was involved with the Student Networking committee for APTA Wisconsin, and also served as the APTA Student Assembly PT-PAC Liaison. For the APTA Wisconsin Spring 2023 Conference, I served as part of a small committee to plan the schedule and presenters; I was also privileged to present to our members myself. Currently, I serve as an Alternate Delegate for the Wisconsin Chapter and have been meeting with other Delegates in the state to optimize policy and procedure within the APTA nationally. As I have functioned within these different roles, I have gained tremendous insight into various facets of the APTA and how it operates to serve its members and the general population. I believe these experiences qualify me to serve as an APTA Wisconsin Chapter Delegate as I have demonstrated a record of service to the profession.

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

I envision the role of an APTA Wisconsin Delegate similar to a representative of the federal government. The role of the Delegate is to represent the constituents of their respective chapter in proposing and advocating for changes with the function of the physical therapy profession: changes that will improve the ability of our profession to meet its goal of service to others. This would include any change to allow the physical therapy profession to be more accessible for students, professionals, and the general community; any change to improve the standard of care that physical therapy professionals provide; and any change to better coordinate our physical therapy services with other healthcare providers to operate more ideally within the healthcare team.

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

While there are many issues facing the profession which require APTA Wisconsin Delegate leadership to help navigate, I believe the following are some of the most pressing:

- i. Pursuing unrestricted Direct Access in all 50 states**
- ii. Increasing student participation and involvement in professional organizations to maintain our viability**
- iii. Protecting the “Physical Therapy” and similar terms across all 50 state legislatures to defend our professional identity**
- iv. Expanding imaging and other testing rights for physical therapists to be explicitly mentioned in state practice acts**
- v. Increasing community awareness and connection with physical therapy services by developing an APTA mission to partner with schools and businesses of particular industries**

With consistent feedback from Wisconsin members, APTA Wisconsin Delegates will be able to develop policy and procedure through the House of Delegates intended to resolve the aforementioned issues.