

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. As an APTA Wisconsin Chapter representative at the APTA House of Delegates, how would you ensure that the voices and concerns of Chapter members are heard and considered in decision-making processes?**

I continue to find value in participating in a variety of networking opportunities, including local continuing education events, state and national conferences, APTA-WI Legislative Day, and APTA-WI town hall sessions that engage members in professional dialogue. In 2026, I led an informational session at the APTA-WI Spring Conference. I have also maintained my roles as a member of the Southeast District of APTA-WI and the APTA-WI Professional Development Committee, both of which provide opportunities to engage in discussions regarding upcoming motions and concerns affecting members' workplaces and professional practice. Drawing on feedback gathered through these engagements, I am prepared to contribute to House discussions and help ensure that the unique perspectives and concerns of our members are accurately represented and thoughtfully considered throughout the decision-making and voting processes.

- 2. In your opinion, what are some of the most pressing issues facing the physical therapy profession today?**

While we continue to face ongoing challenges related to payment and recognition of our value at the national level, I believe the most pressing issue facing the physical therapy profession is unwarranted variation in clinical practice. This is a difficult topic to define, as warranted variation in care, based on clinical reasoning, patient values, and individual presentation, is often what makes our services as physical therapists both unique within the healthcare system and impactful for our patients.

However, variation in practice that leads to prolonged recovery, increased risk of harm, or, most critically, persists despite strong evidence demonstrating a lack of effectiveness contributes to negative perceptions of our profession and may impact payment policies as much as, or more than, federal regulations. The continued use of low-value interventions undermines our efforts to demonstrate the overall value of physical therapy, particularly in support of advocacy efforts aimed at improving reimbursement.

Identifying strategies to reduce unwarranted variation and supporting physical therapists in delivering high-quality, evidence-based care will remain top priorities for me and will guide my contributions to our profession and to discussions within the House of Delegates.

3. Collaboration is key in representing a diverse constituency at the APTA House of Delegates. Can you describe a successful collaborative effort you have been a part of in the past and how you contributed to its success?

As a member of the House of Delegates for the past three years, I have had the privilege and opportunity to collaborate with a diverse group of delegates to ensure that the voices of Wisconsin physical therapists are heard and considered. I have played an active role in the delegation's monthly discussions and created meeting summaries for our 2025 meetings (prior to the advent of AI-generated meeting summaries!). I have developed strong relationships with fellow delegates that allow me to communicate effectively during meetings, networking events, and throughout active House sessions as needed.

During the 2025 House session, more than 40 motions were considered for discussion on the floor, and an additional 32 motions will be introduced in 2026. As a team, the Wisconsin delegation has again divided the work of becoming subject matter experts on individual motions to review, analyze, and summarize their concepts and potential implications. I have been able to advise both our members and fellow delegates on how motions could affect physical therapists practicing in our state and have welcomed members to contact me with questions or concerns regarding motions under consideration this cycle.

By collaborating with the delegation, I have contributed to efficient discussions and coordinated communication regarding motion language and its implications for our members, helping the delegation successfully navigate another House cycle. I would be honored to continue serving in this role and contributing to future House sessions.