

APTA Wisconsin Candidate Questions

NOTE: Please use [APTA Format](#) when listing credentials.

Please list:

Name and Credentials:

Daniel Deuel, PT, DPT, MEd, MPH

Education:

Doctor of Physical Therapy, University of Wisconsin–Madison

Master of Public Health, University of Wisconsin–Madison

Master of Education, Alverno College

Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science, University of Puget Sound

Employer and Position:

University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics

Physical Therapist at Pain Management Clinic

DIRECTOR

1. Please describe the leadership skills and experiences that qualify you to serve as APTA Wisconsin Director.

I have experience working alongside gifted and committed individuals to achieve outcomes that exceed what any one person could accomplish alone. As a founding faculty member of Milwaukee Excellence Charter School, I helped build an organization that, within three years, became the highest-rated public school in Milwaukee and Wisconsin's first Title I school to rank among the top 100 schools nationally. Results of that magnitude can only be achieved when individual efforts are aligned around a shared mission. It is that experience with mission-driven, collaborative leadership that has prepared me to serve as a Director for APTA Wisconsin.

Since 2021, I have served as an APTA Wisconsin chapter committee chair, leading outreach efforts to hundreds of prospective PTs and PTAs across the state, developing a statewide resource page hosted on our chapter website, and coordinating and delivering continuing education presentations at state conferences. I have also had the opportunity to participate in multiple strategic planning sessions and Board meetings, providing valuable insight into our chapter's strengths, priorities, and opportunities for growth.

I currently serve as an APTA Leadership Scholar, where I have gained a deeper understanding of the governance of the American Physical Therapy Association and the

ways its Board of Directors, chapters, academies, committees, and other organizational bodies work together to advance the profession. This experience has strengthened my understanding of effective association leadership, and I look forward to bringing those insights to future service within APTA Wisconsin.

Lastly, my clinical practice has shaped the perspective I would bring to the Board. I began my career in outpatient, community-based practice, where I experienced firsthand the challenges that declining reimbursement and increasing administrative demands place on clinicians striving to deliver high-quality care. I now practice exclusively within a multidisciplinary pain management clinic, primarily serving individuals with persistent pain and hypermobility spectrum disorders. In this role, I have collaborated with physician colleagues to develop a clinical pathway that enables patients with suspected hypermobility spectrum disorders to access physical therapy much earlier in their care journey. Watching this pathway improve patient access while reinforcing the value of physical therapy within an interdisciplinary team has deepened my appreciation for the role our profession plays in improving health outcomes. I believe this combination of leadership experience, chapter involvement, governance education, and clinical perspective has prepared me to serve the members of APTA Wisconsin as a thoughtful and collaborative Director.

2. What do you believe are the most pressing concerns currently facing APTA Wisconsin and describe potential strategies to take on these challenges.

I believe one of the most pressing challenges facing APTA Wisconsin is ensuring the long-term sustainability of our profession. Across many practice settings, physical therapists face increasing administrative demands, declining reimbursement, and productivity expectations that make it difficult to provide the high-quality, patient-centered care that drew many of us to this profession. If left unaddressed, these pressures threaten recruitment, retention, and ultimately patient access to physical therapy services.

While reimbursement is often discussed as the central issue, I believe it is a downstream consequence of a broader challenge: our services remain undervalued by many of the individuals and organizations responsible for shaping healthcare policy and payment. Although physical therapists witness every day how our interventions preserve independence, maintain workforce participation, reduce downstream healthcare utilization, support healthy aging, and improve quality of life, these contributions are not always fully appreciated by employers, payers, policymakers, or even the public.

For that reason, I believe our advocacy efforts must extend beyond legislative visits at the State Capitol. Those efforts remain critically important, but we should also continue

to empower APTA Wisconsin members to build relationships with their own local elected officials and become trusted voices within their communities. Personal stories from clinicians and patients often carry far greater weight than statistics alone and can help demonstrate the real-world value of physical therapy.

I also believe there is a tremendous opportunity to strengthen partnerships with employers, patient advocacy organizations, and community groups. By working alongside organizations that share our interest in improving health, reducing disability, and supporting workforce participation, we can broaden the coalition advocating for policies that recognize the value of physical therapy and reduce unnecessary administrative barriers to care.

Ultimately, I believe APTA Wisconsin's greatest opportunity is to continue demonstrating—not simply asserting—the value of our profession. As more patients, employers, policymakers, and community partners understand the essential role physical therapists play in improving individual and population health, I believe meaningful progress on reimbursement, administrative burden, and professional sustainability will follow.