

PRESIDENT

Name: Sue Griffin

Credentials: PT, DPT, MS

Education: Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy; Master of Science in biomechanics and motor control; Doctor of Physical Therapy

Employer and Position:

1. What experiences have prepared you to lead APTA Wisconsin?

My clinical experiences over the past 37 years span outpatient, inpatient rehabilitation, skilled nursing facility, and acute care settings, and include virtually all clinical practice areas. My teaching experiences over the past 26 years include delivering content in all realms of the movement system and across the lifespan, as well as in the areas of ethics and professionalism. Together, these clinical and teaching experiences make me cognizant of the challenges and opportunities faced in the contemporary practice of physical therapy.

My service experience began with APTA Wisconsin in 1995 when I was elected as a delegate to the APTA House of Delegates. Thanks to the encouragement and mentoring provided by many colleagues, I became chair of the Public Relations committee. I served two terms as chapter secretary and two terms as chapter vice president. I have also served in various committee roles in several APTA sections/academies over the years. In 2014 I was elected and served two terms on the APTA Board of Directors as Speaker of the House of Delegates. Through these experiences, I learned how to develop strategic priorities, run efficient and effective meetings, distill key salient points from discussions, and facilitate large, diverse groups to reach their objectives.

I believe I have the organization, communication, and mentoring skills to lead APTA-WI for the next 3 years.

2. What is your vision of the future of physical therapy and what should be the role of APTA Wisconsin in advancing that vision?

My personal vision of the future of physical therapy is a subset of the vision APTA has developed of 'Transforming society by optimizing movement to improve the human experience'. I believe we would be most effective at transforming society if we had free-rein to work in areas of prevention and management of chronic diseases. This certainly includes metabolic and cardiovascular diseases such as diabetes and coronary artery disease. It also includes musculoskeletal diseases like osteoarthritis and osteoporosis, and neurological problems like cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis. We currently provide services to individuals with all those conditions, but my vision is that it would be

seamless throughout their lifetime, and would include intervention at home, school, work, community, and recreational settings. Imagine how physical therapists and physical therapist assistants could maximize quality in every realm of life for individuals with chronic problems!

A major and persistent barrier is how to get paid for doing the great things we envision. The best way to scale that barrier is to show evidence that physical therapist services provided at strategic points before and within the course of a chronic problem saves money that would otherwise be needed for medications, surgery, and lost productivity. We then have to engage persistently with external stakeholders who control the purse strings and the regulations.

The role of APTA Wisconsin in moving toward this vision is to provide education to and facilitate action from PTs, PTAs, and students in our state. We do this through the variety of clinical education offerings through conferences and in district venues. We do this by providing avenues for PTs, PTAs, and students to advocate to legislators and regulators on behalf of the individuals at risk for or with chronic problems. We do this by 'building a community that advances the profession of physical therapy to improve the health of society' (APTA Mission Statement). APTA Wisconsin has a legacy of strong community development for the profession of physical therapy, and I would like the opportunity to contribute to the continuation of that effort.