

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 will actively gather input from Chapter members by continuing my participation in various networking events, including state and national conferences, APTA-WI Legislative Day, and APTA-WI town hall sessions. I will also maintain my roles as a member of the Southeast District of the APTA-WI Chapter and the APTA-WI Professional Development Committee. Using feedback gathered during these engagements, I am prepared to contribute to House discussions to ensure that the unique concerns of our members are accurately represented and thoughtfully considered throughout the decision-making and voting processes in the House.

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

While it's hard to ignore the significant and ongoing challenges related to payment, 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 that is based on clinical reasoning, patient values, and individual presentation is often what makes our care both unique within the healthcare system and impactful for our patients.

However, variation in practice that leads to prolonged recovery, increased risk or harm, or, most critically, persists despite strong evidence showing a lack of effectiveness contributes to negative perceptions of our profession. The continued use of low-value interventions undermines our efforts to demonstrate the overall value of physical therapy, particularly as it relates to our advocacy efforts for improved reimbursement.

Identifying strategies to reduce unwarranted variation and supporting physical therapists in delivering high-quality, evidence-based care will remain a top priority for me and will guide my contributions 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 two years, I have had the opportunity to collaborate with our diverse group of delegates to ensure that the voices of Wisconsin physical therapists are heard. This session, the House is considering over 40 motions for discussion on the floor. As a team, the Wisconsin delegation identified subject matter experts to review, analyze, and summarize the motion concepts.

Within the delegation, we have shared our expertise and advised one another on how each motion could impact physical therapists practicing in our state. I personally served as a subject matter expert on five motions. In this role, I presented each motion to the delegation, led discussions on their potential regional and national implications, and participated in virtual town hall sessions to inform Chapter members, answer questions, and facilitate further dialogue.

By collaborating closely with other members of our state delegation, I have contributed to efficient discussions and the coordinated communication of motion language to our members successfully navigating an unprecedented volume of motions during the 2025 House session.