

DIRECTOR

Name: Evan O. Nelson, PT, DPT, PhD

Education:

Doctor of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Doctor of Physical Therapy, Duke University

Employer and Position: Assistant Professor (CHS), Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin-Madison

1. What experiences would you bring to the position of Director that makes you a strong candidate?

I've been an active member of APTA Wisconsin since moving to Wisconsin in 2007. As a Board-Certified Specialist in Orthopedic Physical Therapy, I've practiced in multiple outpatient orthopedic and sports settings throughout my career. Most of my career has been at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where I blend teaching, practice, and clinical research. As a practicing physical therapist, I understand the current practice landscape, and experienced the evolution in practice over the past 15 years. I pursued translational research training to conduct patient-oriented research that has a meaningful impact on clinical practice. My research focuses on patient-reported outcome measures (PROs) and includes experience developing the University of Wisconsin Running Injury & Recovery Index (UWRI). Compared to other patient-reported measures, the UWRI more accurately measures a runner's perceived running ability and response to physical therapy care after a running-related injury. My research training prepares me to create theoretically sound strategies to implement new approaches or assessments, and evaluate the effectiveness of real-world practice innovations. My teaching experience included classroom and clinical education in entry-level DPT education, residency training, and continuing medication education settings. My work resulted in multiple publications and presentations on running-specific patient-reported outcome measures, implementing imaging referrals in physical therapy care, educational innovations, and the use of patient-reported outcome measures to evaluate physical therapy care. My APTA Wisconsin experience includes serving on the nominating committee, research committee, academic liaison committee, autonomous practice committee, and delegate. I'm also active in the Academy of Orthopedic Physical Therapy, Imaging Special Interest Group, and American Academy of Sports Physical Therapy.

2. What current or future Chapter activities would you like to advance as a member of the Board of Directors and how do you plan on achieving this?

APTA Wisconsin activities to transform society, the profession, and the association are guided by the strategic plan. My experience prepares me to make positive contributions to multiple strategic plan objectives. I have a deep understanding of how the validity, reliability, and responsiveness of patient-reported outcome measures inform clinical use and interpretation. I can contribute unique expertise to current Chapter activities aiming to produce better models demonstrating the quality of physical therapy care. My research, teaching, and implementation efforts specific to imaging referrals from physical therapists provides a unique contribution to the Chapter objective aiming to promote the provision of physical therapist services. I would like to broaden the continuing education activities and expand the methods the Chapter uses to deliver continuing education. Importantly, I would positively contribute to sustaining the Chapter's exceptional reputation that includes committed, prepared, and hard-working leaders.