

APTA Wisconsin Candidate Questions

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

Please list:

Name and Credentials:

Scott Brau Jr., PT, DPT
Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS)
Tactical Strength and Conditioning Facilitator (TSAC-F)

Education:

PhD, Health Sciences: University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee (Current)
DPT: University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee (2023)
BS, Exercise Science: University of Wisconsin – Parkside (2019)

Employer and Position:

SMART Clinic of Wisconsin, Physical Therapist
University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, Teaching Assistant within DPT program

DELEGATE

- 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 hold a unique position in some ways, as I am currently operating as a Physical Therapist, PhD student, and Teaching Assistant for prospective Physical Therapists. As such, I get to engage in a variety of discussions from notably differing viewpoints surrounding the status of the Physical Therapy profession, for better or worse. I think a large portion of the delegate's role is to engage in these very discussions, taking feedback from the members and passing this information onward to the governing level. I feel a key word in this prompt is "heard". All too often is the member listened to, with their information being categorized into pre-existing actionable folders in the governing representative's already existing portfolio. This results in the representative creating a solution they *think* will address the member's concern, rather than engaging the member in a solution-driven process. This, I feel, is the strength I can bring to the APTA House of Delegates.

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

There are countless issues that negatively affect the Physical Therapy profession at the operation level on a daily basis. However, I would highlight one “administrative” issue and one “professional” issue.

Administratively, I feel the issue of reimbursement is a growing spider’s web of problems. I believe there are complexities and contention as to what the root of this issue actually is, though the sequelae of this issue warrant a solution. Due to this profession’s reimbursement deficits, I feel we as a profession are progressively undervalued, a problem which is exacerbated by the poor patient care seen in companies which try to compensate for this lack of reimbursement with sheer patient volume. While I feel this web could be built upon far more, I think the picture I have tried to paint thus far demonstrates a positive feedback loop that will continue to degrade the profession’s status.

Professionally, as a relatively new addition to the professional field I have noticed a fair amount of discordance between Physical Therapists within similar sub-professions in terms of practice guidelines and treatment approaches. While some see the stark contrast between clinical skills in many clinicians to be a colorful variety ripe for patient choice, I see this to be a significant opportunity for a loss of respect and trust for the Physical Therapy profession. Of course, while there are many sub-professions and specialties within the Physical Therapy profession, however, these differences exist here too. I do not pretend to understand the solution to this problem. It may be future DPT curriculum growth, more rigorous involvement in rehabilitation literature, or more intentional continued education criteria.

These issues are highly relevant to promoting higher levels of inter-disciplinary respect, and more efficient and effective patient care.

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 PhD student in the Health Sciences program at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, I belong to the Human Performance and Sport Physiology Laboratory. As such, our laboratory consists of a Laboratory Director (Athletic Trainer Certified), a peer graduate student (Strength and Conditioning Specialist), and myself (Physical Therapist). Our lab works closely with the Milwaukee Fire Department Training Academy and active-duty personnel to generate ideas and implementation strategies for various tasks ranging from academy strength and conditioning to active-duty recovery programming. Our team is unique, as it employs several

different professions including upper management personnel at the Milwaukee Fire Department to better understand how to help and guide the members. This has been a major milestone for the Milwaukee Fire Department, becoming one of the few organizations nationally to embrace a proactive approach to health, wellness, and performance; and has been a major honor for me to participate in their journey.