

DELEGATE

Name:

Amy R. Taebel

Credentials:

PT, DPT

Board Certified Pediatric Clinical Specialist

Director of Clinical Education

Education:

- Bachelors of Science (Physical Therapy) from University of Wisconsin- La Crosse (1995)
- Transitional Doctorate of Physical Therapy from the College of St. Scholastica (2014)

Employer and Position:

- University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Doctor of Physical Therapy Program as a Clinical Assistant Professor as well as the Director of Clinical Education (DCE).
- I work very closely with hundreds of clinicians who work in a variety of settings across the Country in my role as the Director of Clinical Education.

1. What skills and experiences qualify you to serve as a Chapter Delegate?

I will be finishing my second term as a Delegate for the Wisconsin Chapter. This continues to be a very rewarding process. I believe that with four years of experience as a delegate, I will continue to give even more to this position, as I can fully embrace the role and all of its intricacies.

As a physical therapist (PT) for almost 27 years, I have a strong background in both the clinical setting (home health and pediatrics; school based and private practice) and academics. My role as the DCE at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse allows me to work very closely with hundreds of clinicians who work in a variety of clinical settings. This charges me with the responsibility to understand what our clinical settings and clinicians face on a daily basis. Within my academic career, I frequently have to be innovative with the changing times within our profession, most recently with the COVID Pandemic and the need to quickly learn extensive technology to continue educating our doctoral students. I feel these skills will allow me to generate new ideas to discuss with our Wisconsin Delegate Team, and then bring the most critical ideas to the Reference Committee to discuss new motions.

I have a proven ability to lead in a concerted manner, and I am confident in my ability to critically evaluate topics and utilize evidence to objectively form opinions so I can collaborate with others on the difficult matters that face our profession.

2. How do you envision the role of a WPTA Delegate

I feel that the role of a APTA WI delegate is to collaborate and represent the concerns and ideas of physical therapists and physical therapy assistants within the State of WI as a whole. We are able to take those concerns as a WI delegacy and move them forward to the Reference Committee and the House of Delegates to instill these values within the American Physical Therapy Association. I feel as a WI delegate it is my responsibility to be a liaison between “our people” and the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) on important topics affecting our profession.

3. Are there particular issues facing the profession currently that will require leadership by WPTA Delegates?

As we continue to learn from the COVID Pandemic, we live in a changing world and changing healthcare environment. We as physical therapist and physical therapist assistants must be ready to step ahead and be ready to make changes and adapt to our “new” normal. Technology has become an integral part in not only physical therapy and physical therapy assistant (PTA) education, but also within the clinic. We need to continue to advocate for virtual physical therapy, when appropriate, to ensure we reach all patients needing physical therapy, whether that is due to COVID, patients who live in a rural setting, or those that have difficulty leaving their home, yet do not qualify for Home Health.

As discussed in the past House of Delegates, we must continue to advocate for transparency of physical therapy education and minimize where we can the rising cost of education. We need to take action to lower student debt.

With the APTA now identifying as an anti-racist organization, we need to be creative in how we close education gaps and reach students early in their schooling so they know they have the potential to work in healthcare. This initiative will lead to a more diverse population within our healthcare system, specifically physical therapy.

COVID-19 has affected physical therapy practice and education tremendously. As a DCE, I have seen this first hand, both for the students and for all clinical settings. Therapists are burned out and leaving or changing their roles within the profession. Clinics are overwhelmed with the number of requests they are receiving from DPT Programs for clinical sites. Clinics appear to be in an overload from academic demands, and yet we still have new PT and PTA schools opening.

Other issues that I feel are integral to our continuous success as PTs and PTAs are as follows: ensuring equal pay amongst similarly trained PT and PTAs; continuing to increase our autonomous practice ability (being more representative of a military model where our profession serves as entry point practitioners with imaging referrals and limited prescribing within our scope to those who are comfortable with this); improving our fee for service not only with insurance but, also with Medicare and Medicaid; and continuing to advocate for an APTA healthcare plan.

These of course are my ideas and those learned at the HOD. As I have stated previously, I am collaborative and willing to listen to others sides on issues. I truly want to be a representative for the State of WI, not just for my values. Please consider placing your vote for me as a WI Delegate for the next term. I will do my very best to fulfill my role and responsibilities.