



CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY AND CONSENT FORM

NAME: Donald Lein, PT, PhD

CITY/TOWN OF RESIDENCE: Birmingham, Alabama

APTA MEMBERSHIP (years): Since 1986

ALABAMA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP (years): Since 1986

SECTION MEMBERSHIP: Education and Orthopaedic

EDUCATION: University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama
Health Behavior
Doctor of Philosophy
2002 - 2010

University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama
Physical Therapy
Master of Science
1986 – 1988

Cornell University
Ithaca, New York
Animal Science
Bachelor of Science
1980 – 198

PREVIOUS BOARD EXPERIENCE:

2016 - Present Alabama Physical Therapy Association - Chief Delegate and Board Member

PERTINENT EXPERIENCE:

2019 – Present Member, Advisory Board for Alabama Area Health Education Center (AHEC)

2018 – Present Director of Community Outreach and Continuing Education, Department of Physical Therapy, University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)

2017 – Present Chair, Data and Safety Monitoring Board for PECORI-funded TEAMS Study

2015 – 2018 Director of Clinical Education, Department of Physical Therapy, UAB

2015 – 2016 Chair, Academic Affairs Committee, School of Health Professions, UAB

2016 – 2017 Senate Liaison for School of Health Profession, UAB Faculty Senate

2016 – 2019 Alternate Senator, UAB Faculty Senate

2012 – 2016 Alabama Physical Therapy Association, Delegate and Alternative Delegate

PLEASE PROVIDE AN ANSWER TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS FOR YOUR POSITION (500 WORDS OR LESS):

President

1. What do you perceive as the most important interpersonal skills that are needed by the President of the AL Chapter, APTA?

Change is inevitable and the Alabama Physical Therapy Association has recently witnessed both positive and negative changes. To successfully cope with change, the president will need strong interpersonal skills that encompass trust and active listening.

Relationships are built on trust and in turn integrity. Association members need to trust that their president will act in the best interest of the association and profession. My colleagues report that I demonstrate integrity in all my relationships. To build trust, I believe that sharing my strengths and limitations with others fosters an open dialogue that encourages others to do so as well. Pooling our strengths will lead us to craft innovative solutions to problems and achieve our goals. I have served in many leadership positions across academia, service and clinic and consider my success to be due in large part to my ability to build trust.

Active listening allows you to understand the needs, opinions and rationale of individuals and groups. As an active listener, I have been able to build empathy and rapport with individuals and groups of people who have widely varying perspectives. In doing so, I have led teams to build better solutions with more buy-in and less conflict. While not necessarily agreeing with every suggestion, I can positively communicate the rationale for my actions and beliefs.

As president, these skills will allow me to guide our efforts to create strong, creative teams that will work to gain unrestricted direct access, adopt the national compact, and improve clinical reimbursement.

2. What do you perceive as the greatest challenge facing the profession in Alabama at this time and how can the Chapter help?

About 10% of people who could benefit from physical therapy (PT) received our services.¹ Many people do not know who we are and what physical therapy can do to improve movement and community participation. With other professional groups marketing their ability to meet these needs, the PT profession is facing a crisis of identity and ability to articulate why it should be the provider of choice. As a chapter, we must work to engage Alabamians and plainly state the value of our services to improve health.

In reaching out to the public, the profession has done so primarily when we sought direct access. Implementation of a structured and intentional plan of engagement with the public is instrumental if the association wishes to achieve direct access and better reimbursement. While some strategies come to mind, as president, I would want to hear the voices of all stakeholders including those of our potential patients/clients in building this plan as a grassroots effort. Ongoing communication with other health professionals and organizations will also be critical to building alliances and achieving our goals.

In short, to improve physical therapy utilization, the chapter needs to engage with all stakeholders to be successful. This engagement with internal and external stakeholders will promote the chapter and profession as essential partners to improve the health of Alabamians. With stakeholder involvement, we may facilitate and promote PT services, increase PT utilization as well as gain support for unrestricted direct access and better reimbursement.

¹<https://www.webpt.com/blog/post/7-thought-provoking-facts-about-physical-therapy-you-cant-ignore/>

CONSENT TO SERVE STATEMENT

I acknowledge the duties of the above position have been provided to me and I agree to serve in the position should I be slated and then elected. I am willing and able to attend all APTA Alabama Meetings as requested. I agree to be responsive to electronic communications as part of conducting the business of APTA Alabama.

Signed: (electronic signatures accepted) Donald H Lein Jr