

A Message From the APTA Alaska President – February 5, 2026

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for your trust in electing me to serve as President of APTA Alaska. It is truly an honor and a privilege that I do not take lightly. While this transition was somewhat unexpected, my predecessor, Alec Kay, has been exceptionally generous with his time and support, and I am grateful for his efforts to help orient me quickly and thoughtfully to this role.

We are living in historically challenging times. Much of the news has been difficult to witness, and moments of good news can feel rare (with the exception of the lost dog in Girdwood found under Chair 4 at Alyeska). In times such as these, I am reminded of Mr. Rogers' advice to "look for the helpers." Each of you embodies that spirit. I am especially grateful to belong to a profession grounded in service to others and guided by evidence, science, and truth—principles that feel more vital than ever.

Healthcare itself is facing significant challenges, including the reemergence of diseases once thought eradicated and the continued rise in insurance costs. In response, we remain committed—both locally and nationally—to advocating for improved reimbursement and expanded access to physical therapy. Through the APTA Alaska Physical Therapy Community Clinic, dedicated volunteers continue to make a meaningful impact for individuals facing financial barriers to care. We are also exploring opportunities to share this work more broadly, with the hope that other states may adopt similar models.

At the same time, there are exciting developments within our profession. Here in Alaska, lobbyists are working toward legislation that would allow physical therapists to order imaging, with the longer-term goal of establishing physical therapists as primary care providers. We are also navigating the rapidly evolving landscape of artificial intelligence in healthcare. In 2025, APTA National hosted a summit bringing together healthcare professionals and digital health innovators to examine the provider's role in emerging technologies, and this topic will continue to be explored in multiple sessions at CSM.

On the national level, after more than a year of member engagement, APTA has introduced the [Strategic Framework for 2030](#). This framework centers on three primary goals: advancing payment to position the profession as an outcomes-driven component of the U.S. healthcare system; empowering members to deliver a high-impact experience across career stages and practice settings; and evolving practice models and services to better serve both society and the profession.

In addition, through a multiyear collaborative effort involving member experts, legal counsel, and board leadership, the [APTA Code of Ethics](#) has been updated to reflect contemporary standards. The revised code, ratified by the House of Delegates in July 2025, clearly distinguishes guiding principles from enforceable standards and took effect on January 1, 2026.

At the chapter level, APTA–Alaska will be updating our own strategic plan over the coming year, and we welcome your input throughout this process. The Alaska Licensing Board is also actively working to modernize our Practice Act to enhance protections for physical therapists.

While I do not consider myself a natural-born leader, I am committed to learning, listening, and growing in this role. I appreciate your patience and support as we move forward together. Once again, I am deeply honored to serve as your President and look forward to the work ahead.

Warmly,

Leah Einhorn, PT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT
President, APTA Alaska