

October 1, 2022

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Associate Professor of Anesthesiology
Wake Forest University School of Medicine

Re: USASP Director seat application

Dear USASP Nominations Committee:

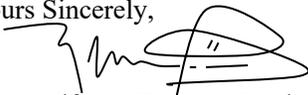
This letter represents my self-nomination for a seat on the US Association for the Study of Pain's Board of Directors. I am an Associate Professor of Anesthesiology at Wake Forest University School of Medicine and an active member of the USASP. I am a physician and Ph.D. by training focused on basic and translational science. I am a nationally and internationally recognized researcher in pain research. I have been heavily engaged in the development and growth of the USASP since its inception. I am a member of the Committee on Committees, Nominations Committee, and the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Access (IDEA) Committee. Furthermore, I am the current co-Chair of the IDEA committee.

My leadership and service experience expanded to other organizations, such as the previous American Pain Society (2013-2019; Web Content Work Group, Website Committee, Membership Committee, Nominating Committee – elected position), for which I served as the co-Chair of the Basic Science SIG (2017-2019). Similarly, I am a member of the following committees at Wake Forest University: CIPN Working Group, Undergraduate Medical Education Curriculum Committee, Focus Area Leaders for the Neurosciences Research Building, Department of Anesthesiology's Justice, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee, Director of the Neuroscience Research Center Search Committee.

My research program includes the study of neuroimmune interactions in the context of nerve damage (toxic, trauma, surgery, metabolic), the endocannabinoid system's role in pain modulation, and how the cannabis market composition affects pain patients' attitudes and perceptions toward marijuana. I have been the contact PI of multiple NIH grants, which gives me experience leading teams with diverse backgrounds (cultural, gender, ethnic, geographical, etc.) and different career stages. I am familiar with metrics to define progress and business meeting interactions to achieve goals effectively.

My past and current leadership engagements reflect my enthusiasm and commitment to serving my local and national professional community. I would like to use my experience to help increase inclusion, diversity, equity, and access to our multicultural membership and promote engagement through advocacy and policy regulation to enhance research funding and improve the quality of life of pain patients. In addition, I feel compelled to be an active component in constructing this pain science platform as a form of gratitude for all I have received from this community (Future Leaders in Pain Research Award and Rita Allen Foundation Pain Scholar Award).

Yours Sincerely,



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