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Dear Search Committee Members:

I am excited to apply for the USAPS Board of Directors member position (Seat 1; Basic Science). This is a unique opportunity for me to use my expertise and leadership skills to make significant contributions to the national and international visibility of our Society's pain research, education and service responsibilities. I have been a member of USASP since 2020, and I am a member of the basic science-preclinical SIG.

After my postdoctoral fellowship in 1994, I joined the pharmaceutical industry and spent 15 years in the private sector, both in big pharma and in a venture-backed biotech. During this period, I held many leadership positions, escalating from project leader to senior Vice President of Research and Development. In these leadership roles, I worked with leadership across the company and with individuals of very different backgrounds. I was responsible for strategic development, personnel advancement, project management, department building, large budget oversight, and hiring underrepresented minorities. I joined Academia in 2005, where I am now the William Beaumont Professor and Chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Physiology at Saint Louis University (SLU), Special Assistant to the Vice President for Research and Innovation and Director of the Henry and Amelia Nasrallah Center for Neuroscience. Under my three-year leadership, the Center for Neuroscience has grown to include over 90 members in 27 departments across the University and has become a platform for accelerated research funding and expanded educational and outreach opportunities. I lead by example and have strongly encouraged diversity, equity and inclusion, freedom of thought and a conviction to build a sense of community amongst all. As Chair of the Department one of my first priorities was to set up our internal diversity, equity and inclusion committee, which includes representation from faculty, staff and students.

I believe that we still have many challenges and pressing issues that needs focusing and building upon over the next few years: **1)** Identify strategy to increase successful multidisciplinary basic and clinical research that will translate novel approaches for the management of pain. **2)** Increase advocacy and outreach efforts to establish USASP as a major stakeholder in NIH, foundations, patient advocacy groups and the private sector. **3)** Establish a successful mentorship program for students and junior faculty. **4)** Establish a road-map with the goal of securing philanthropic contributions to establish financial support for students. **5)** Secure a broadly inclusive environment that embraces diversity and encourages participation and leadership of its constituents (i.e. women, scholars with disabilities, LGBTQ, and people of color).

Over the years I have gathered extensive leadership skills and demonstrated my ability to work effectively and collaboratively with people of different backgrounds and expertise. Having the opportunity to serve as a member of the Board of Directors is very exciting to me, as I plan to use my leadership skills and broad experience to work with USAPS to serve our community, addressing the pressing needs that I have outlined above and help fulfill its mission on a broad level.

Sincerely,

Daniela Salvemini, PhD