

Katherine T. Martucci, PhD
USASP Board of Directors, Seat 2 Nomination
Personal Statement

As the director of the Human Affect and Pain Neuroscience Laboratory at Duke University Medical Center, my research program is focused on central nervous system changes in patients with chronic pain, particularly at the intersection of affect, behavior, and opioid use. I am currently a tenure-track assistant professor in the Department of Anesthesiology, and a faculty member of Duke's Center for Translational Pain Medicine. Through my research program, as well as through my involvement in national and international pain societies, I am committed to the advancement and promotion of the academic mission of pain research in the US.

I have been a member of the US Association for the Study of Pain (USASP) since it was first formed in 2021, and since then I have served as an active member of the USASP Nominations Committee. Formerly, I served on committees for the American Pain Society (APS) -- I served for approximately 4 years as both an active member of the APS Early Career Advisory Group (ECAG) committee, and as an active member and ECAG liaison for the APS Membership Committee. Additionally, as a member of the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) since 2007, I served on the 2020 Global Year Task Force for the Prevention of Pain, and on the IASP Digital Strategy and Content Working Group to provide feedback on the new IASP website design with other members of the committee.

As a board member of the USASP, I will gladly bring my experiences from serving on prior pain-society committees and task forces and from my perspective of human basic science research. I am extremely committed to enhancing the potential of the USASP to support both the advancement of pain researchers and collaborators in their careers, and to continue to build this new society based on its incredible fundamental values -- many of which stem from the best parts of the prior APS. My goals as a board member will be to further build the USASP infrastructure to support Early Career Researchers, to help optimize the benefits to USASP members and attendees for networking, grant funding opportunities, and ways to engage effectively as we together advocate for pain research and treatment.

Regarding the USASP's important and strong commitment to equity and diversity, I am a member of the Diversity Inclusion and Antiracism (DIA) USASP Special Interest Group. Also locally at Duke University, I continually seek experiences to support this mission by participating in multiple diversity and inclusion "round-table" sessions and workshops offered at Duke. I am wholly committed to ensuring that the USASP maintains inclusive and equitable access for under-represented individuals from diverse backgrounds and life experiences.