

Personal Statement

It has been a privilege to be a member of this dynamic scientific community over the last decade. As a pediatric pain physician, anesthesiologist and scientist, pain focused organizations have always been my professional home. In particular, USASP and previously, the American Pain Society (APS) have awarded me with valuable experiences that have inspired my dedication to pain science and the care of individuals with chronic pain. I would be honored to serve on the Board of Directors for USASP (Seat 3: Mid-career investigator; Primary designation: Pediatric Pain and Clinical Care) to further the mission and shape the growth of our organization.

As a member of USASP since its inception, I have been involved in the Pediatric Pain, Sleep and Pain, and Abdominal and Pelvic Special Interest Groups (SIGs). I have been impressed by the unique platform of USASP to unite scientists, clinicians, members of the medical community, and policy makers who advance pain science through education opportunities and outreach. I have also served in other roles in professional organizations for early career activities and scientific programming, including the Scientific Planning Committee of the APS, and the Committee for Education Day for the International Symposium for Pediatric Pain. I was also a member of the APS Early Career Advisory Group for strategic planning to champion opportunities for early career members, and served on the Committee for Trainee Symposia Series for the Sleep Research Society annual meeting. My alliances with these other organizations will contribute to the cross-fertilization of ideas to enhance innovation and creativity in my work with USASP.

In my clinical experience, I care for children with acute and chronic pain, from the perioperative period to the outpatient clinics. I directed the Inpatient Consultation Service Clinical Program, and served on the Opioid Safety Committee and the Medication Safety Committees at Seattle Children's Hospital. Working in these arenas has fueled my commitment to optimize quality of care for children with pain. As an Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine and Principal Investigator at Seattle Children's Research Institute, my own National Institute of Health funded research seeks to understand mechanisms underlying pain, sleep deficiencies and autonomic function in the pediatric population. The USASP SIGs have further provided opportunities through which I have connected with investigators (basic and clinical scientists) dedicated to the study of chronic abdominal and pelvic pain syndromes. Through the lens of time and experience, I fully appreciate the work that has been accomplished by our pain societies. I hope to participate in the growth of USASP, embrace new and current generations of members, and critically evaluate our endeavors moving ahead.

As a member of the Board of Directors, my objectives will be: 1) ensure that USASP activities reflect the values and integrity of the USASP membership, 2) provide opportunities for integration of interdisciplinary knowledge and practice, and 3) identify innovative strategies to ensure the visibility of pain science. It is also critical that the values of diversity, equity, inclusion and access are integrated across our work. I am dedicated to this society and am strongly committed to this process.