

September 30, 2022



I am interested in serving on the USASP Board of Directors or as an Officer. I have been impressed with the quality of programming provided through USASP to help develop young investigators, and I also strongly support the patient-facing materials available from the USASP that help educate patients regarding self-management of chronic pain. I believe that I can support USASP as a Board member or Officer, and I am committed to expanding diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI) and access through this role.

Currently, I serve as the Associate Vice Chair of Research for the Department of Anesthesiology. A goal of our organization, and of the USASP, is to encourage research. To do this, I believe we need to inspire individuals from diverse backgrounds to pursue research that is equally diverse. We need to create resources and inspiration to sustain the pipeline of diverse academic medicine practitioners and researchers. Through a position on the Board, I would help the USASP achieve our goal of increasing diverse, high-quality research that will eventually be translated into clinical care with wide-reaching positive impacts for individuals suffering from pain.

As a woman physician-researcher of Asian descent, I am especially encouraging of other women minorities. However, I am sensitive to the needs of individuals from all diverse backgrounds including under-represented minorities, the LGBTQ community, and individuals with special needs. I have served as a mentor on Committee on Professional Diversity grants for 2 awardees (Dr. Melat Gebre and Dr. Mercy Udoji) from the American Society of Anesthesiology Mentoring Grants. These projects encourage promotion of mentees from diverse backgrounds and address research on healthcare disparities within our field. I additionally mentored an undergraduate student through a DEI summer research scholarship, and she continues to volunteer on my research projects to this day. I have also served as a reviewer for the DEI Program Scientific Review Panel for the Veterans Affairs Office of Research and Development. This November, I will be speaking on "Making your clinic workflow and spaces welcoming to all abilities and backgrounds" at the American Society of Regional Anesthesia annual meeting. I have a sustained track record of supporting DEI, and will continue to support the promotion of individuals from diverse backgrounds through my position on the USASP Board.

I believe I am well-suited to the position, as I have extensive experience dealing with personnel, budgets, and administration. My first job out of fellowship was to establish a Pain Division at the Atlanta Veterans Affairs Healthcare System (VAHCS). I became the Founding Chief for the Atlanta VAHCS Pain Division and grew our reach to 3 sites with 6 clinical staff. I established the infrastructure and acquired appropriate medical equipment including C-arms. I was the first to perform a spinal cord stimulator implant, among other advanced pain management procedures, at the Atlanta VAHCS. I then mentored my former fellow into the Chief position and stepped down to focus on research. In my research trajectory, I have now served as Principal Investigator (PI) on 3 federally funded research awards (VA and NIH), including a "Healthcare Innovation Seed Grant," and site PI on a Department of Defense (DOD)-funded study. I also served as the Associate Program Director for the Emory Multidisciplinary Pain Fellowship for 7 years. I am now the Director of Operations for the Center of Visual and Neurocognitive Research (CVNR) at the Atlanta VA in addition to my role as Associate Vice Chair of Research for the Department of Anesthesiology at Emory University. I have managed not only clinical staff, but also research staff, and navigated different personalities and work styles. I am certain my background in leadership, teaching, and mentoring, will help me to fulfill the goals of the USASP as a Board member.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna Woodbury".

Anna Woodbury, MD, MSCR, C.Ac

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