



September 26, 2022

Please accept this Statement of Interest to be considered for the Board of Directors (Seat 1) at US-ASP.

BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS

I am Professor of Anesthesiology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience and a member of the Faculty of the Washington University Pain Center. In addition, I've been serving as the Chief for the Division of Basic Research within the Department of Anesthesiology since September 2019. Research in my laboratory is focused on understanding the mechanisms underlying opioid addiction and the intersection with pain. These are some aspects of my profile most relevant to your needs:

- **I have ample experience working with under-represented minorities (URM) trainees** both at the postdoctoral, graduate and undergraduate levels (for more detailed information see attached Statement of Contributions to Diversity). Briefly, I have been acting as a mentor for the NIDA summer training program while at Columbia University and now at Washington University. This program provides resources from URM students to conduct research at NIDA funded laboratories. In addition, since joining Washington University I have been an active mentor for the BP-ENDURE and the AMGEM programs that provide resources for URM undergraduate students to spend 10 weeks during the summer at Washington University research labs. Finally, during this past year I have been involved in an inaugural program within the Department of Anesthesiology at Washington University which will provide support, mentorship and resources for URM students from the local St Louis community to spend 1 summer doing research in our Institution.
- **I have been actively involved in mentoring the next generation of scientists.** In this regard, I'm the co-PI of a T32 grant from the National Institute on Drug abuse to train postdoctoral fellows and residents interested in pursuing an academic career.
- I serve as a scientific member of the Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee which is in charge to provide guidelines to the NIH in relation to planning research portfolio in the pain field.
- I was invited by NIH Director Collins to take part in meetings to address the opioid crisis as a panelist at the "Development of Safe, Effective, Non-Addictive Pain Treatments" meeting on June 16, 2017.
- I have served as a permanent member of the Molecular Neuropharmacology and Signaling (MNPS) study section until this past year.

- I served as a member of a National Academy of Sciences committee charged with developing a report (<http://nationalacademies.org/hmd/reports/2017/pain-management-and-the-opioid-epidemic.aspx>) for the FDA on the state of science regarding prescription opioid abuse and misuse, including prevention, management, and intervention, and to provide an update from the 2011 Institute of Medicine (IOM) report Relieving Pain in America, which includes a further characterization of the evolving role that opioid analgesics play in pain management.
- I had the opportunity to meet with Senate members at the Capitol during the 2017 Society of Neuroscience meeting to request increased funding for research on pain and opioid alternatives for pain management.
- I have served as a member of the Executive Committee for the International Narcotics Research Conference (INRC), the premier opioid society in our country. I have served extensively as a grant reviewer for NIDA-based programs and have been continuously funded by NIDA for 15 years. Thus, I am a recognized leader in the field of the neurobiology of opioid misuse and pain.
- Finally, I've been nominated to serve in the National Council for the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial research (NIDCR) starting Jan 2022.

Sincerely,



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