

My goals for the society are to (1) promote the USASP as the premiere meeting of pain researchers and clinicians, leading to transformative new treatments of pain; (2) increase inclusion, diversity, and equity among our membership; and (3) facilitate mentorship and participation of trainee members. I will also promote growing the society within a membership-based financial framework.

As a founding member of the USASP, I am deeply invested in fostering the society's inclusive culture. I currently co-chair the USASP Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Committee. As a Board member, I will strive to be a voice for all members and will promote strategies to build a framework of inclusion. Locally, I serve as a mentor in the University of Connecticut's Mentoring Aspiring Graduate students and building an Inclusive Community program, which supports students from underrepresented backgrounds.

In addition to USASP committee service, I bring over 9 years of experience serving on the Board of Directors of the International Cannabinoid Research Society (ICRS), as Secretary (2013-2015) and Treasurer (2015-present). I also serve as Co-Investigator on an ICRS R13 grant from NIDA whose goal is to increase trainee participation by establishing formal mentoring programs and offering travel support. As an USASP Board member, I would continue to channel this experience as we seek ways to support our trainees.

Basic researchers, whether studying humans or using animal models, appreciate the need for clinical translation. My own research targets the endogenous cannabinoid and opioid systems to reduce pain and inflammation, as well as treating substance use disorders. Cannabinoids are heavily marketed for many health applications, despite limited clinical data to support such claims. As Director of the University of Connecticut Center for Advancement in Managing Pain, my goal is to promote collaboration between clinicians, basic researchers from across fields, and engaged community members.

With your support, I will help shape our new society to promote the exchange of ideas among all of us working toward the common goal of reducing pain and suffering in the world.