

I am Nini Peterson, a clinical and health psychologist, with the Bariatric and Metabolic Institute at Cleveland Clinic. I am humbled and honored to be nominated for the ASMBS Integrated Health Executive Council's (IHEC) Secretary position.

I earned a Masters in Exercise & Sport Sciences and my PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Florida. I completed my residency year was Rush University Medical Center (Chicago) and a 2-year postdoctoral fellowship in behavioral medicine at University of Virginia's Health System. My training and work experience have provided me with a solid theoretical foundation for behavior change and application of theory to interventions for patients seeking surgical and non-surgical obesity treatment. I've worked in a private practice setting but have mainly been employed in hospital systems. With the twists and turns of life, this Floridian ended up at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, which was one of the best personal and professional decisions I have made.

I first joined the Virginia State Chapter in 2011 as a postdoc where I gave their IH keynote on Psychology and the Scale: Factors Affecting Post-Bariatric Surgery Weight Regain. I joined ASMBS when I began practicing full-time as a psychologist in 2013. I have attended every annual ASMBS conference since 2013. I've been a member of the Support Group Committee since 2017 and am the current Chair. I also joined the Diversity & Inclusion Committee last year. I was honored to be elected by membership to the IHEC in 2021 and am finishing the third year of my term. I've also been granted the FASMBS-IH (fellow designation) in the inaugural class.

ASMBS is my professional home, and you are my professional family. Integrated Health clinicians are instrumental to any MBS practice; we don't operate but we do everything else before, during, and after to make sure our patients are educated, prepared, and optimized for success. I love collaborating with, consulting with, and learning from my interdisciplinary colleagues. I have a few lofty goals that focus on continuing to elevate Integrated Health within and outside of ASMBS. First, I'd love to see more cross-collaboration in training among our IH disciplines; we can learn from each other without overstepping our roles. I see this happening through more virtual CE opportunities throughout the year. Second, I'd like to see continued partnerships with other organizations like ANA, AND, APA, and our state chapters to get our message out there. Finally, I'd like to see our student membership grow; we should start educating our students in health professions while they are still in training. And if you didn't feel busy enough at work, as a professional society we also must tackle weight stigma, access to care, and the idea of chronic care model of treatment with surgery and medications, by educating the public, other health care providers, and our patients.

I hope your membership in ASMBS will help you in your professional goals, networking, and friendships, as it has for me. I would be honored to continue to serve my ASMBS colleagues by being elected as the next IHEC-Secretary. Thank you for your consideration.