

Karen Diane Groller, PhD, RN-BC, CMSRN

IHSEC Member-at-Large Nominee

I currently serve as a member-at-large on the Integrate Health Section Executive Council (IHSEC). As I want to continue serving ASMBS members for another term, I will share with you a bit about myself and my willingness to serve our ASMBS membership.

My commitment to ASMBS and obesity care began in 2015 during the tenure of my doctoral studies when I presented at the annual meeting on patient education practices in metabolic and bariatric surgery. I immediately fell in love with the mission and vision of ASMBS. Over the years, I have served ASMBS through active involvement on the *Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases (SOARD)* editorial review board, Certified Bariatric Nurses (CBN) Certification Committee, Clinical Issues Committee, and as a co-director and director for various nursing and integrated health focused symposiums since the 37th Annual Meeting. My involvement through these service roles has enabled me to learn more about how to best support patients experiencing MBS and meet amazing individuals who I am proud to say are my colleagues and friends. My engagement with ASMBS has also solidified my passion to provide care to these patients and conduct research in this clinical specialty to support that care.

I work full-time as an Associate Professor of Nursing and Public & Health at Moravian University. As a doctorally-prepared nurse, with over 25 years of clinical experience and active certifications in Cardiac/Vascular and Medical-Surgical nursing, I am well-published and recognized as a nurse researcher, educator, and expert in obesity management and education. My research and continued work on patient education practices in metabolic and bariatric surgery and multimodal writing supports development of responsible producers and critical consumers of digital health information which leads to effectively educate our patients and supporting their health needs.

I seek to strengthen bonds between clinical practice, higher education, and across integrated health as improving such collaborations may minimize current gaps and promote quality, person-centered and value-based care, for patients seeking metabolic and bariatric surgery or other forms of obesity treatment. This focus aligns with ASMBS' vision to "elevate global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its associated illnesses worldwide". Education and advocacy are ways we can reduce barriers and support overall health. If elected, I will support initiatives that continue to reduce weight-related stigmas, encourage research to obtain evidence that improves patient care, and engage in advocacy efforts for patients with obesity and the healthcare professionals that serve this population on a daily basis.

I am honored to be nominated again to serve ASMBS on the IHSEC in a member-at-large position. My current time on the IHSEC and past professional experiences have prepared me to continue in this leadership role and represent nursing and other integrated health disciplines without losing momentum. Thank you for your vote of support! I look forward to working with all of you.