

I am a clinical psychologist and the Director of Metabolic and Bariatric Psychology within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health at Stony Brook University. I have worked within the area of metabolic and bariatric surgery (MBS) for the past 14 years and am extensively involved in multidisciplinary training and mentorship for both clinical and research activities related to MBS. At my institution I oversee the research, clinical training activities related to MBS behavior health and provide behavioral health care to patients of the Stony Brook Medicine Bariatric and Metabolic Weight Loss Center as part of our multidisciplinary team. My research focuses on psychosocial factors associated with obesity and outcomes of MBS, with an emphasis on weight related stigma, and patient engagement and involves collaborations with MBS researchers at national and international levels. Additionally, I have been a member of ASMBS since 2013, I am a past chair of the NY State Chapter of the ASMBS IH Executive Committee and the Senior Past Chair of the ASMBS IH Multidisciplinary Care Committee and am frequently invited to speak at the ASMBS annual meeting. Joining the ASMBS Executive Council will allow me to continue to impact the multidisciplinary care of patients with obesity at the national level. My vision is for the ASMBS to further improve access to evidence-based multidisciplinary care for patients with obesity, train the next generation of multidisciplinary MBS Integrated Health researchers and clinicians, and better address weight-based stigma. I will also continue to support an atmosphere of collaboration where multidisciplinary clinicians and researchers can gather to share knowledge and best practices. If elected to the IH Executive Committee I will work toward this vision by facilitating and advocating for projects in the following areas: Mentorship; Addressing Weight Stigma; and Patient Engagement. I will continue to guide the IH Mentorship program. Through this program we can help to ensure that our patients will encounter more clinicians that can provide evidence-based care in a way that also considers their individual needs and culture. I will also promote research, clinical work, dissemination of information and programming related to strategies to address weight stigma, and advocate for programs that identify and address barriers to patient engagement both before and after surgery. I am honored to be nominated to be on the ASMBS IH Executive Council and I strongly believe my experience as a mentor, clinician, and researcher, and with fostering cross disciplinary collaborations make me well suited for the Member At Large position.