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As a registered nurse and post-operative bariatric surgery patient with a deep commitment to metabolic and bariatric surgery, I am both honored and excited to seek the position of Integrated Health Section Executive Council Member-at-Large for the American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery. This role represents an opportunity for me to further my passion for improving patient outcomes through collaboration and advocacy. As someone who has personally benefited from bariatric surgery and works closely with patients in similar situations, I understand the critical importance of the multidisciplinary approach to treatment that we, as integrated health professionals, provide.

Throughout my career in this field, I have had the privilege of actively contributing to advancing bariatric care at the state, institutional, and national levels. I have worked tirelessly to foster interdisciplinary collaboration, enhance patient education, and advocate for comprehensive obesity treatment that includes bariatric surgery as well as obesity medicine. I firmly believe that the future of metabolic and bariatric care lies in the strong collaboration between different healthcare disciplines. Whether it's nurses, dietitians, behavioral health specialists, or other allied health professionals, each of us plays an integral role in ensuring that patients receive the best possible care before, during, and after surgery.

One of the core aspects of my professional journey has been my dedication to improving patient education. Educating patients about the various aspects of bariatric surgery, including pre-operative preparation, post-operative care, and long-term lifestyle changes, is vital to ensuring their success. Throughout my practice, I have consistently worked to empower patients with knowledge, making them active participants in their care and helping them build the skills necessary for lasting change. I have also focused on increasing awareness and access to obesity treatment options, ensuring that patients understand the full range of interventions available to them.

If elected, my vision is to strengthen the professional engagement and membership of integrated health professionals within ASMBS. I will promote initiatives that emphasize integrated health (IH) education, professional development, and patient-centered strategies. By creating a platform where professionals from all disciplines can come together, share knowledge, and support one another, we can create a stronger, more cohesive community that ultimately benefits our patients. I will advocate for increased training opportunities and continued education for IH professionals, helping them stay up-to-date with the latest research, best practices, and innovative treatment methods in metabolic and bariatric surgery.

In addition to fostering collaboration among dietitians, behavioral health specialists, nurses, and allied health professionals, I am committed to amplifying the voices of IH professionals within the broader ASMBS community. Integrated health professionals are essential to the success of bariatric patients, and it is critical that their expertise is fully recognized and valued within the organization. By creating an environment that promotes professional growth and development for all healthcare providers involved in bariatric care, we can ensure that our patients receive the highest quality of care.

I am excited about the opportunity to serve the ASMBS community and contribute to its continued growth and success. I look forward to collaborating with fellow professionals to drive meaningful progress in our field, advocating for the continued improvement of bariatric care, and ensuring that the contributions of integrated health professionals are always at the forefront of our collective efforts.