

I have been blessed to be involved in the field of bariatric surgery since 1996 when I walked into the Medical College of Virginia as a brand-new physician. Since that time, I trained in a large inner city academic hospital and a small academic community fellowship. I have experienced military medicine, academic practice, large group practice (employed) and now solo private practice. I opened my current practice in 2010. I feel I have a distinct voice as I am true private practice. Despite living in a world where I must worry about the business of medicine as well as the practice of medicine, I have chosen to continue to feed my soul by remaining very active in our society. My involvement in committees, our journal, meetings and ultimately the Board of Directors has been a source of personal fulfillment and continuing education for me. I feel my background leads me to be uniquely qualified to move on to the senior leadership role.

As senior leadership in ASMBS, I believe that we should have 2 primary aims as a society - Aim 1 is our dedication to our patients promoting excellent care, cutting edge technology and continued research. This has always been a main focus of our society and should continue without hesitation. Our mission is focused on this goal. Aim 2 - Support to our members - I would like to see if we can form a support system with possibilities including forming a forum similar to the AMA where our members can get affordable insurance for themselves, their families and their employees without subsidy by ASMBS. I would support a staffed service where insurance benefits can be checked by practices in one place where plans are updated regularly. This would be a paid service by our members. Our members are struggling with the changes in our field and are scared - I listen daily to the concerns of the many surgeons (private practice, community practice and academic surgery) who are looking for ways to stay in practice. There are many talented surgeons who are concerned about the future of our field and are not feeling supported at this time. I would aim to continue to evolve the support that we are providing for our members to allow them to be satisfied in their careers, defray burnout and promote the healthy continuation of the field of bariatric surgery.