

**Statement Here:** I am honored to be considered for the position of Board of Directors (BOD) Director at Large. I have always been passionate about our patients and our society. I believe the best way to make a positive impact and advocate for our members and patients is to be actively involved. As a member of the BOD, I would have an avenue to provide a meaningful impact on those goals.

Being on the BOD for the past 3 years has been an exciting and illuminating experience. I am so grateful for the opportunity to represent and advocate for our members. It has been extremely fulfilling and rewarding to work with such esteemed colleagues. It has been fun and educational to actively problem solve and create value and quality through initiatives created and directed by the BOD. This has reinforced my desire to continue to be involved in leadership and bring positive changes to our society and patients.

As a member of the Program Committee since 2012, and eventually Chair of the Program Committee, I learned how important it is to be an experienced leader to meaningfully participate and lead the society in an appropriate direction.

Having the opportunity to be on the Nominating Committee has also been priceless. The learning and coaching provided by my mentors has been invaluable in the development of my professional identity.

My vision for the future of the society is twofold; to educate the public as well as our colleagues about the fundamentals of treating the chronic disease of obesity but more importantly adapting to the ever-changing paradigm in its treatment. This will hopefully increase the number of patients having lifesaving Bariatric surgery.

As a solo private practice surgeon, I hope to assist in finding ways of supporting our private practice surgeons, as the future appears to be becoming more challenging for those outside of a hospital umbrella. I also would work hard to find ways to support and protect the autonomy and power of surgeons in employment and academic practices. I feel it is important to ensure recognition of their contributions to maintain bargaining power.

I will strive to initiate ways to increase new membership and involvement by our current members through better communication and education of the benefits of our society.

I believe I have gained extensive knowledge and experience being on the BOD and will continue to apply this gift to serve the members and our patients to the best of my abilities. Though it takes hard work and requires a significant time commitment, I found great meaning in the contributions I have been able to provide through the service of our ASMBS society.

I am ready and willing to commit the time and energy needed to accomplish these goals. Whether through the BOD or any other opportunities, I will continue to support

our society to help promote, educate, and influence our community and the public to participate in this noble cause to help save and change lives for the better.