

My work within metabolic/bariatric surgery and obesity care through programmatic growth and education has given me insight into the ASMBS and our strengths. I feel that regular members are not privy to what happens within the organization for many reasons. They may feel out-of-touch with leadership or programming. By being an inclusive society, we harness interest in ASMBS and help all members find their place. We need to explore how to connect with members who have left the group or feel detached. Let's continue to build on identifying our members concerns and building resources for them. We should also build strong relationships with patient groups and include them in our education programs to optimize outcomes and advocacy. I would like to strengthen bridges between patient-led organizations with similar missions and was so thrilled to see the Obesity Summit come to fruition. Obesity treatment cannot be silo'd and must be done together with multidisciplinary groups that are devoted to our patient population. A final area that brings members together is wellness. Death by 1000 papercuts is painful and many members feel this in their daily practice, whether it's another insurance denial, or preauthorization. Can our society promote health and wellness in our members as strongly as we promote that in our patients? Can we find solutions to the busy work and administrative burdens that everyone feels? This is not always thought of as the work of a surgical society, but if we can find a way to help members find joy in what they do while decreasing the painful tasks that diminish this joy, we will bring great value to membership. I feel ASMBS can pinpoint areas that are discouraging or challenging and assist in finding solutions for our membership.