

I am honored to again be considered for Vice President of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery.

At its core, the mission of the ASMBS remains clear and enduring: an uncompromising commitment to quality surgical care, persistent advocacy for patient access, excellence in resident and fellowship education, rigorous scientific inquiry, collaboration across disciplines, stewardship of a comprehensive continuum of obesity care, and service to the communities we serve. These principles have guided our society for decades, and they must continue to guide us forward.

As a leader within this organization, my priority would be to ensure that our collective efforts remain focused, coordinated, and impactful. Just as important is responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to us. The financial health of the ASMBS underwrites our advocacy, educational programming, research initiatives, and quality infrastructure. Those investments must be deliberate, transparent, and aligned with a clear return of value to the membership, whether through improved access to care, stronger reimbursement advocacy, meaningful educational offerings, or tangible support for clinical practice and professional growth.

We now practice at a pivotal moment. Anti-obesity medications, endoscopic therapies, and digital health platforms have rapidly reshaped the treatment landscape. These tools offer meaningful benefit to patients, but their widespread adoption, often outside of multidisciplinary frameworks, also underscores a growing challenge. Metabolic and bariatric surgeons must remain central to obesity care, not peripheral to it. The ASMBS is uniquely positioned to lead across surgical, endoscopic, and medical domains by grounding care in physiology, outcomes science, and long-term patient benefit.

Through my work as an ASMBS delegate to the American Medical Association, I have seen meaningful progress. Obesity is increasingly recognized as a chronic disease, and metabolic surgery is gaining broader acceptance among primary care physicians, specialists, and policymakers. Yet momentum is fragile. Without sustained advocacy, improved coverage policies, and clear messaging, access to surgical care will continue to lag behind need. We cannot allow that to happen.

To succeed, the ASMBS must operate with unity, clarity, and efficiency. Our volunteer surgeons are stretched thin. Organizational alignment, disciplined messaging, and purposeful action are essential. When we speak with one voice and deploy our financial and human capital wisely, our size, expertise, and credibility translate into measurable influence at the national, state, and local levels.

Having served on the Board of Directors for more than six years, I understand both the opportunities before us and the operational realities of leading this society. If elected, I will remain accessible, accountable, and responsive to the membership. I will advocate strongly for surgeons and our integrated health partners, and I will work to ensure that every dollar entrusted

to the ASMBS advances our mission and delivers meaningful return to those who invest their time, trust, and dues in this organization.

I would be honored to continue serving the membership as an officer of the ASMBS.