

ASCI Ballot

Election for upcoming Council vacancies

Vote item 1:

Vice President (term of office, 2022-2026)

Make 1 choice.

Keith A. Choate, MD, PhD, FAAD

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Among the greatest opportunities in academic medicine is the development and retention of physician-scientists who fundamentally shape science, medicine, and society. ASCI has a central role in nucleating, recognizing, and inspiring our community, supporting the full spectrum of workforce development, and communicating the central role of physician-scientists in improving human health. I am honored to be considered for the opportunity to serve as ASCI Vice President where I would bring perspective and experience to priorities including: 1) The development of resources to support early career physician-scientist advancement, mentorship, sponsorship, and retention. 2) Advocacy for diversity, equity, and inclusion in science, medicine, and society to improve human health, to expand the

physician-scientist workforce, and to grow diversity within the ASCI membership. 3) Communication of the vital role of physician-scientists and their paradigm-shifting discoveries in improving human health and effecting social change.

My experience at Yale as a physician-scientist, a longstanding prior MD/PhD program associate director for diversity and inclusion, a director of the Dermatology Physician-Scientist Training Program, and Associate Dean for Physician-Scientist Development equip me with broad perspective relevant to the mission of ASCI. I have had the opportunity to develop those who will become the next generation of physician-scientists, and, despite significant challenges we face, I am convinced that the future is filled with potential. It would be honor to serve the ASCI in this role.

Anna Greka, MD, PhD

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We are living in an era of rapid and revolutionary progress in biomedicine. There is growing public recognition, emphasized by the pandemic, that medical research is vital to the well-being of human society. This widely-held view is a tremendous affirmation of the ASCI's central mission, and I believe it represents a special opportunity in our 114-year history to broaden support for our work. However, this opportunity also comes with the responsibility to provide wise and bold leadership, and to ensure that all stakeholders, including academic institutions, the government and the general public actively embrace our mission "to support the scientific efforts, educational needs, and clinical aspirations of physician-scientists to improve the health of all people." With a great sense of purpose and

humility, I am honored to be considered for the position of ASCI Vice President.

To meet this moment, I hope to represent the Society's membership with three core objectives. First, I will advocate for increased and sustained support for physician-scientists from both public and private funding sources within the U.S. biomedical research enterprise. Second, I will advance ongoing efforts to protect our

early career physician-scientist pipeline, including the recruitment and retention of individuals who are under-represented in medicine and science, thus building on my work as Councilor and co-chair of the Physician-Scientist Development Committee. Finally, I will promote the ASCI's outreach to the general public, to increase fact-based awareness and advocacy for the vital role physician-scientists serve in our society's efforts to prevent, control or eradicate disease.

Vote item 2:

Secretary-Treasurer Elect (term of office, 2022-2025)

Make 1 choice.

Timothy A. Chan, MD, PhD

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I am delighted to be considered for election to the ASCI council. I am Professor of Medicine, Chair of the Center for Immunotherapy of the Cleveland Clinic Health System, Co-Director of the National Center for Regenerative Medicine, and Director of the Immune Oncology Program of the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center. As a physician scientist, I focus on the genetic determinants that drive cancer therapy efficacy, with a focus on immunotherapies. I strongly believe in the critical role physician scientists play in improving human health. The fundamental discoveries we as a group have made are the fuel that drives medical progress forward. Supporting this mission and the physician scientists that have dedicate their careers to discovery and translation is one of my top

priorities. I believe in building platforms and breaking down barriers between fields to create greater opportunities for discovery. On a personal level, I have mentored many physician scientists to independence and beyond and I am highly dedicated to supporting junior faculty development. In my role as a member of the scientific board at the NCI, I routinely promote the importance of translational sciences and bridging efforts. Strong advocacy at this point in time is critical given the challenges facing physician investigators. ASCI plays a central role in propelling and supporting physician scientists and early career investigators, and I am dedicated to promoting our mission with our colleagues and patients.

Elizabeth K. Speliotes, MD, PhD, MPH

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I am honored to be considered for ASCI Secretary-Treasurer Elect. I am a physician scientist, the Keith Henley Professor of Gastroenterology and a Tenured Professor of Internal Medicine and Computational Medicine and Bioinformatics at the University of Michigan. We carry out large scale genomic studies of obesity and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease to identify genetic variants that predispose to disease and define disease subtypes. We target candidate variants/genes to create cell and animal models of disease to define their mechanism of action and to screen for therapeutics. As a practicing gastroenterologist/hepatologist, I design and implement clinical interventions based on our findings to improve patient care. I am grateful for the training I have gotten which allows me to go

from bench to bedside to population health and back and am working to pay it forward. I am the Associate Director of our Medical Scientist Training program and a Councilor and Institutional Representative for ASCI where I help physician scientists and trainees find (1) mentorship (2) advocacy (3) career development opportunities (4) personal and professional support (5) funding (6) protected time and (7) career satisfaction. I lead multiple committees that have implemented policies that have improved URM representation in science and medicine. I serve on multiple national and international grant and journal article review panels where I can help support ASCI and physician scientists. I am excited to use my experience managing finances for consortia, my lab and department to help ASCI grow and use their finances to serve our members.

Vote item 3:

Councilor (term of office, 2022-2025)

Make up to 2 choices.

Cynthia Melinda Boyd, MD, MPH

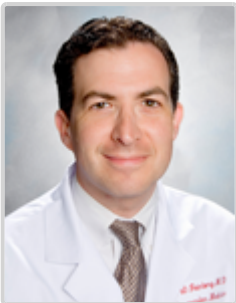
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I am honored to be considered for election to ASCI Council and am committed to serve ASCI in this role if elected. I am a geriatrician physician scientist with a focus on improving the health of people living with multiple chronic conditions (multimorbidity). My research focuses on shaping our approach to caring for older adults with multimorbidity and has helped define evidence-based and patient-centered care for this growing population. As my research touches on every organ system and most disease processes, it is clear to me that inter-disciplinary research is needed to transform the care of older adults and to describe what we know about aging and how it intersects with disease processes. I have been grateful to have had outstanding mentors, and view mentoring as the key to future discoveries, with a diverse and collaborative pool of clinician scientists. My current mentorship includes a K24 award from the National Institute on Aging to support a platform of research for my mentees. My current leadership roles at Johns Hopkins include serving as Director of the Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology, and Co-Director of an NIA funded T32 focused on health services and outcomes research for aging populations. I am the incoming chair for the Research Committee of the American Geriatrics Society. With my commitment to inter-disciplinary research, track record of leadership of mentoring and career development platforms, and my belief in the need for a robust and diverse group of physician scientists, I am eager and committed to serve the ASCI as Councilor.

Mark W. Feinberg, MD

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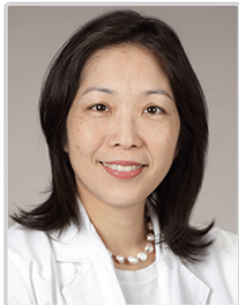


I am a cardiologist and vascular biologist at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) and an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. As Director, Program in Cardiovascular RNA Biology Research my lab investigates how non-coding RNAs (microRNAs and lncRNAs) contribute to the mechanisms underlying macrovascular and microvascular disease states. I have held various leadership roles in cardiovascular research including service on international and national peer review study sections, Editorial Boards, and currently serve as Co-Chair of the BWH Cardiovascular, Diabetes, and Metabolic Disorders Center, and Associate Program Director of our BWH Cardiovascular Fellowship Training Program. Over the years, I have mentored dozens of physician-scientists and am passionate for engaging the next generation in discovery research.

It would be an honor and privilege to serve as an ASCI Councilor. Never has there been a more important time to address the challenges we face as physician-scientists in biomedical research and for those that aspire to this career path. Disruption from our 2-year pandemic has only magnified these issues related to funding and support, particularly effecting the career development of our early-stage investigators, medical students, and even undergraduates, who have had limited opportunities to appreciate the impact of this career. As a Councilor, I will work to: (1) build research and educational support through the Young Physician-Scientist Award and Emerging Generation Programs; (2) develop novel and innovative mentoring programs that promote diversity, inclusion, and equity; and (3) advocate at public or institutional forums for the impact of physician-scientists in all aspects of disease-related research.

Heidi H. Kong, MD, MHSc

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I am honored to be considered for ASCI Council. I am a physician-scientist, Senior Investigator (tenured), and Section Chief in the Dermatology Branch, Intramural Research Program of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, NIH. My translational research program investigates microbial contributions to host immunity and human disorders using metagenomics and microbial genomics. Team science is a cornerstone of my research program and interdisciplinary collaborations have been critical to our efforts, from investigating the global rise in antimicrobial resistant organisms to the integrated analysis of host immune-microbiome interactions in diverse skin diseases, with the ultimate goal of improving patient care. The COVID pandemic and the clarion calls for

structural changes to promote equity have underscored the importance of supporting early-career and under-represented physician-scientists. I have been fortunate to have had mentorship and support throughout my career. In turn, I mentor and support trainees and physician-scientists to find opportunities for career development and advancement both within my institution and through professional societies. As a member of the ASCI Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity Committee, the NIH Equity Committee, and the NIH Women Scientists Advisors, I am deeply committed to the ongoing efforts to enhance diversity, promote equity, and support and retain early-stage physician-scientists. I intend to continue this advocacy. ASCI plays a pivotal role in advancing and supporting the community of physician-scientists. It would be a privilege to serve ASCI and our broader scientific and medical communities as a Councilor.

Vijay G. Sankaran, MD, PhD

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Twenty years ago, I applied to MD-PhD programs still uncertain on what my eventual path would be. At that time, I could have never imagined the fulfilling career I have been fortunate to have as a physician-scientist in the field of pediatric hematology and oncology. I have been able to pursue challenging and rewarding clinical work, while also conducting enjoyable laboratory research that I hope can benefit many of our patients. In large part, this has been the result of guidance that I received from many important mentors who have supported me on this path. However, I realize that for many individuals, particularly those from traditionally underrepresented groups, there are enormous challenges to pursuing a career as a physician-scientist. This, at least in part, underlies the rapid decline in physician-

scientists over the past decades. It is estimated that only 1.5% of physicians currently pursue research, with some fields such as pediatrics having an even lower percentage, illuminating the endangered nature of the physician-scientist. While there is no one solution to this problem, I strongly believe that by advocating for the future of clinical investigation, we can ensure that there is a diverse and inclusive group of physician-scientists today and in the future. By joining the ASCI Council, I believe that I can contribute to the efforts to develop and promote measures that will ensure continued growth in the pipeline of physician-scientists and enable the ASCI to continue to flourish.
