

ASCI Ballot

Election for upcoming Council vacancies

Vote item 1:

Vice President

Make 1 choice.

Stephen Y. Chan, MD, PhD [View profile](#)

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine



The tumult in U.S. science is a clear and present danger to physician-scientists. The ASCI can take bold steps to correct this arc, and I would be honored to lead in this capacity. I am a cardiologist-scientist, and I direct a vascular medicine research institute and a clinical program of excellence in pulmonary hypertension. I also founded a humanitarian telemedicine organization serving east Africa and a biotech company developing heart and lung disease therapies. I recruited complementary faculty and staff at accelerated rates, led thriving training programs for physician-scientists, and established leadership structures across financial, translational, and scientific endeavors. I prioritize multi-

disciplinary collaboration and creativity in problem-solving and revenue generation, and our institute has raised >\$20M from new philanthropic donors over the past three years.

If elected, I would apply these experiences to assist individual members and empower our community: (1) Communicate the physician-scientist's worth: Change is needed to convince the public and potential trainees of the crucial value of our work and careers; (2) Establish new partnerships with industry and philanthropy: The ASCI should lead in brokering much-needed non-federal support for physician-scientists; (3) Conceive collaborative scientific programs that capture the imagination and unite our community: While still celebrating individual members, the ASCI should seize the opportunity to construct scientific teams of closely collaborating members to challenge dogma and showcase our collective strength. At this crucial point in our vocation's history, I stand ready to serve as Vice President to ensure the longevity of physician-scientists.

Vijay G. Sankaran, MD, PhD [View profile](#)

Harvard Medical School, Boston Children's Hospital



I am honored to have served on the ASCI Council for the past three years. This experience has allowed me to witness firsthand the tremendous value the ASCI provides to the physician-scientist community. I believe we must continue to fortify the pipeline of physician-scientists at every career stage and across a broad range of specialties.

Throughout my own career, as a physician-scientist in pediatric hematology/oncology, I have benefited immensely from the guidance and support of dedicated mentors, underscoring the importance of nurturing early-career colleagues. In addition, I am committed to ensuring that all physician-scientists receive the advocacy and resources

they need to remain at the forefront of discovery and patient care.

If elected Vice President, I will prioritize expanding mentoring networks, supporting sustainable programs to bolster emerging investigators, and advocating for the ongoing needs of established physician-scientists. By cultivating a supportive environment for all, we can advance both the next generation of clinical investigators

and the remarkable innovations that define our field. Thank you for your consideration as you vote for the next ASCI Council.

Vote item 2:

Councilor, term of office 2025-2028

Make 1 choice.

Omar Abdel-Wahab, MD [View profile](#)

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center



It is an honor to be considered for election to ASCI Council. I have personally benefitted from the career development and network opportunities provided by ASCI since receiving an ASCI Young Physician-Scientist Award in 2015 and the ASCI Seldin-Smith Award in 2017. I now look forward to an opportunity to serve and contribute to ASCI's mission of supporting the next generation of diverse physician-scientists.

I am a physician-scientist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) where I also serve as Chair of the Molecular Pharmacology Program and Co-Chair of the PhD Program in Pharmacology at Weill Cornell Medical College. In addition to my lab's research interests in understanding and targeting genetic drivers of blood cancers, a major focus of my career has been in fostering career development of physician-scientists. Recognizing the challenges in transitioning from clinical training to an independent NIH funded investigator, I have created institutional programs, funding, and curricula to develop the next-generation hematology and oncology physician-scientists.

I serve as Co-Director of the MSK Hematology/Medical Oncology Program and co-PI of several institutional T32 and K12 grants to support transition of fellows at MSK across multiple departments to independent NIH-funded investigators. I also direct the MSK Leukemia SPORE NIH P50 grant as well as the Edward P. Evans Center for MDS at MSK. Each of these endeavors provides career development funding to multiple trainees annually.

I now look forward for the opportunity to promote the physician-scientist career path at a national level through serving on the ASCI Council.

Dan H. Barouch, MD, PhD [View profile](#)

Harvard Medical School, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center



I am deeply honored to be nominated for ASCI Council. I am a physician-scientist in the field of infectious diseases and lead a translational research program aimed at understanding the pathogenesis and immunology of viral infections. I am the William Bosworth Castle Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and the Founding Director of the Center for Virology and Vaccine Research at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. The goal of my laboratory is to study the immunopathogenesis of viruses of global significance and to develop translational countermeasures including novel vaccination and treatment strategies. The most fulfilling part of my career, however, has been providing mentorship for the next generation of physician-scientists. I

am part of multiple postdoctoral T32 programs, clinical and research fellowship programs, faculty promotion committees, and national and international committees aimed at supporting the careers of junior investigators. The need for physician-scientists has never been greater, but so too are the challenges they face, including increased clinical and research demands, administrative burdens, public skepticism of science, and politicization of biomedical research. If elected, I will be a strong and tireless advocate for the ASCI mission, supporting the

careers of physician-scientists, fostering a robust and diverse community of basic and clinical researchers, and articulating the value of biomedical research to society. ASCI members will continue to make extraordinary advances and to translate these amazing discoveries into important new treatments for patients.

Vote item 3:

Councilor, term of office 2025-2028

Make 1 choice.

Orlando M. Gutierrez, MD, MMSc [View profile](#)

University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine



It is with strong conviction that I submit my name for consideration for an American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI) councilor position. The ASCI supports and celebrates the best and brightest investigators committed to improving the health and wellbeing of individuals across the lifespan. Pursuant to this mission, my vision for the ASCI councilor position is to strengthen the society's support for early-career investigators, enhance diversity and inclusion initiatives, and foster collaboration among clinicians and basic scientists. My dedication to mentorship and passion for advancing clinical research aligns perfectly with these goals and is informed by many years of

mentorship of translational researchers including some who have been recent inductees into ASCI. My track record in translational research and leadership of complex research teams, including as the PI of a CTSA hub at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, has provided me the skills needed to support team science initiatives undergirding scholarly achievement and training the next generation of scientific leaders. In addition, I would bring a strong passion for supporting investigators committed to developing innovative solutions for reducing disparities in chronic disease. I am fortunate to practice in the Deep South of the United States in that it provides me with a unique perspective of the most entrenched health disparities in this country, and the critical importance of mobilizing investigators committed to achieving health equity. For all these reasons, I am confident that I can contribute significantly to broadening the ASCI's mission, diversity and perspectives of clinical research.

Jennifer S. Yu, MD, PhD [View profile](#)

Cleveland Clinic



Physician-scientists are essential for bridging basic and clinical research, but face challenges in balancing clinical practice, research demands, funding issues, and maintaining work-life balance. As the first physician-scientist in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Cleveland Clinic and co-leader of the Developmental Therapeutics Program at the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center, I have navigated these challenges head-on and share my experience with junior physician-scientists so that they too can find success in their career journeys.

My research focuses on glioblastoma cell state regulation and mechanisms of therapeutic resistance. Our work has led to innovative clinical trials that could transform clinical care. While my research has been very fulfilling, I've found immense joy in training and mentoring others. I co-lead a U54 cross-training core that provides mini-sabbaticals for junior physician-scientists, serve on our MSTP Steering Committee, advocated for expansion of physician-scientist faculty at our cancer center, organized career development workshops, and developed mentorship programs at both my institution and multiple professional societies where I hold leadership roles.

My commitment to ASCI is evident through my work on the Physician-Scientist Engagement Committee, adjudicating the Marian Ropes and Louis Sullivan Awards, hosting the ASCI Perspectives series, moderating the

Scientific Sessions, and serving on the Advisory Committee for the Physician-Scientist Support Foundation Fellowship. These experiences have deepened my commitment to supporting physician-scientists and advancing innovative science and clinical trials. As a Councilor, I will work to strengthen ASCI's mission and deepen support for and mentorship within our vibrant physician-scientist community.

Vote item 4:

Councilor, term of office 2025-2028

Make 1 choice.

Tamia A. Harris-Tryon, MD, PhD [View profile](#)

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

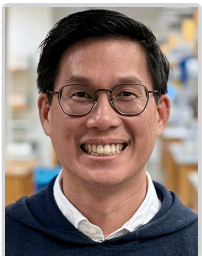


Through rigorous patient centered research, physician-scientists have made extraordinary contributions in scientific discovery and therapeutics that have transformed medicine and society. It has been a privilege to participate in basic science at the bench for the last several decades and to pass on the joy of discovery science to my mentees. As a member of ASCI Council, I will work to sustain and strengthen the national landscape for physician-scientists and ensure that we can continue to articulate: 1) our value to society and 2) the investments required to sustain our workforce.

I am an Associate Professor of Dermatology and Immunology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. The focus of my lab is the skin microbiome, and my research bridges the fields of immunology, microbiology, and metabolism. Our work has advanced our understanding of the regulation of the hormones, lipids, and proteins generated by the skin epithelium and determined mechanistically how these small molecules and proteins impact microbial organisms. These findings have uncovered novel pathways involved in infectious and inflammatory skin conditions and new targets for the development of novel therapeutics. In addition to my leadership roles in the lab and in multidisciplinary collaborations, I sit on pharmaceutical advisory boards, chair committees, lead student groups for training physician-scientists in the MSTP program, and direct scientific sessions both at UT Southwestern and nationally. As an ASCI Councilor I will focus on strengthening frameworks that expand discovery and therapeutic science and create mentorship landscapes for future generations of leaders and thinkers.

Thomas Hin-Chai Leung, MD, PhD [View profile](#)

University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine



I am honored to be considered for ASCI Council. I am an Associate Professor at the University of Pennsylvania and a practicing physician-scientist, who completed my PhD with Nobel Laureate David Baltimore. My lab consists of biologists, clinicians, and computational scientists working together to study how skin and other organs respond to injury and inflammation, with the ultimate goal of improving patient outcomes. Mentorship has played a critical role in my career, and I have adopted a “pay-it forward” approach through active mentorship of students, medical residents, and junior faculty.

Over the past 9 years, I built and grew our dermatology physician-scientist research track at Penn to be one of the largest and most successful in the country. We graduated 3 trainees into tenure-track assistant professor positions in the past 5 years. We are laser focused at optimizing research opportunities during clinical training to decrease time to independence. Physician-scientists face a challenging funding environment, decreased reimbursement to health care systems which limits resources, and increased work demands. In spite of these challenging headwinds, I am excited to be a physician-scientist, because there has never been a better opportunity to translate findings from the bench to the bedside. I want to support the next generation of

physician-scientists on a larger scale. I seek to work with ASCI and the Council to strengthen their programs supporting individuals at multiple career stages in the physician-scientist career path and to enhance ASCI's visibility within the scientific community.

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