

**2022 Elections**

# **AABIP BOARD OF DIRECTOR & SECRETARY-TREASURER NOMINEES**



## **2022 Board of Directors Nominees Statement of Interests**

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## **2022 Secretary-Treasurer Nominees Statement of Interests**

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# **ABDUL (AB) ALRAIYES, MD**

## **SECRETARY-TREASURER NOMINEE**

Rosalind Franklin University / Advocate Aurora Health



From the very beginning of my pulmonary and critical care fellowship in 2011, I became a member of the AABIP. Since then, I have faithfully attended most of the AABIP events and symposia and took part in the dramatic growth of our association. From day one, my goal has always been to increase awareness and advance the field of Advanced Diagnostic Bronchoscopy and Interventional Pulmonology by working through our organization, first as a member and then as part of the Board of Directors.

Over the last 10 years, I was privileged to witness our organization grow in numbers and the IP fellowships increase to over 40 programs with young, active, creative, and innovative physicians who are eager to learn and do more. In 2014, I was invited to become the Social Media Creator for the AABIP. That gave me the opportunity to fulfill my dream of serving the AABIP by enhancing IP education using digital media. Digital media is the perfect vehicle for educators, clinicians, and researchers to communicate and stay connected. Through its inherent quality of personal engagement, digital media has changed the way we follow current events, learn about new advancements in medicine, and communicate within our personal and professional lives. During my time as AABIP social media creator, I had the privilege to help boost our AABIP twitter and Facebook account, increasing the number of the followers from 35 to more than 3000.

In 2016, I joined the membership committee of the AABIP and working closely with my amazing friend and mentor David Hsia, we were able to revamp the AABIP newsletter and increase production to 4 issues a year. Joining the membership committee helped me to really understand the needs of our AABIP members and demonstrated the importance of seeking their input on how the AABIP can best meet their needs.

About 4 years ago, I was asked to chair the AABIP Public Relations (PR) subcommittee. In this role, I had the unique honor and privilege of collaborating with multiple AABIP committees, including the Education Committee, Media subcommittee and Certifications Committee. Working closely with other active members in the PR subcommittee, we were able to grow the AABIP social media presence by adding an AABIP Instagram account and a YouTube channel. Our committee was instrumental in the advertising for the 2018 Inaugural AABIP Annual Conference that became a resounding success. Since then, I have privileged to be part of the Program Organizing Committee of all subsequent AABIP conferences.

For my unwavering service to the AABIP, I was honored with the first ever AABIP Service Achievement Award in 2018.

I firmly believe that we can all do more to advance the field of Advanced Diagnostic Bronchoscopy and Interventional Pulmonology by strengthening the AABIP's role as the leading advocate for our specialty. One of my aims is to create an AABIP Video Atlas, which will permit our membership to share their expertise in various procedures and serve as a reference for all bronchoscopists.

If I am given the honor of being elected as the Secretary Treasurer of the AABIP, I intend to continue serving the AABIP in every way possible, while advancing the interests of the membership and the field in general. I would like to thank everyone for honoring me with this nomination and your support.

Please visit my YouTube channel to see a sample of my current educational video productions using the following:  
<https://youtube.com/user/abbador1234>

Abdul (AB) Alraiyes, MD  
Secretary-Treasurer Nominee

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## **SONALI SETHI, MD**

### **SECRETARY-TREASURER NOMINEE**

Cleveland Clinic



Having been intimately involved with Advanced Diagnostic Bronchoscopy and Interventional Pulmonary for more than 15 years of my professional career, I find the opportunity to be an Executive Board member for the AABIP both humbling and rewarding. I have always been interested and involved in organization, leadership, and education to advance the field of IP. This includes the privilege of currently serving on the AABIP Board of Directors, Chairing the Scientific Organizing Committee for both the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Hybrid AABIP conferences, serving on the Editorial Board for the JOBIP, contributing to the Knowledge Assessment Tool (AABIP-KAT) Writing Taskforce, as well as the Certification Examination Review & Validation Committee (CAQ). Additionally, over the years I have actively taken on various leadership roles in our sister societies including Chairing the Membership Committee and the Leadership Development Program Steering Committee for the ACCP. Also, I am proud to be a founding member of the Women in Interventional Pulmonology (WIIP) Society. I have learned about effective leadership from great mentors, current board members, formal educational programs, as well as working with my colleagues while serving on various committees.

At the Cleveland Clinic, I am currently the Director for the Pulmonary/CCM fellow's education and procedural training in bronchoscopy and will be taking on the responsibility of the IP Fellowship Director this upcoming academic year. This has included writing and maintaining a bronchoscopy curriculum, organizing fellows boot camp and didactic lectures, incorporating simulation into bronchoscopy training, as well as determining competencies for our fellows. In addition, I have been involved in numerous educational seminars throughout the world and actively contribute to teaching in the Bronchoscopy Simulation Center for the ACCP. Learning to be a bronchoscopy educator gave me the necessary tools to plan, implement, and expand our flagship Annual Hybrid AABIP conference. My goal was to put together a diverse and inclusive educational experience for all attendees. Taking these skills to the next level, my vision for the AABIP is for advocacy, enhancing membership experience, constant innovation, and excellence in education for physicians as well as advanced practice nurses and physician assistants, RT's, and nursing staff.

Over the years, the AABIP leadership has taken steps to move beyond being an organization of highly specialized IP and Advanced Diagnostic Bronchoscopists and evolved to promote a culture of research, education, and inclusion. I have seen these initiatives grow over the years and am quite excited in the advancement. However, there is still work to be done. As we formally become a subspecialty of the ABIM and become an ACGME certified fellowship, we need to continue quality research initiatives with opportunities in both basic science and clinical research to publish high-quality data and patient-centered outcomes. We need to implement data collection and quality metrics to help guide both hospitals and physicians to incorporate new technologies. We need to continue building guidelines to optimize patient care. And finally, as an organization we need to serve as mentors and models for our colleagues and fellows. I am committed to advancing all of these initiatives.

I understand the efforts required in order to grow this organization as a servant leader through my work on the AABIP Committees I currently sit on. I can promise you my dedication and time will be unmatched in making the goals of this organization a reality. I assure you that I have the experience, time, enthusiasm, and dedication necessary to make a difference. Thank you for considering me for the Secretary/Treasurer position as your AABIP representative.

Sonali Sethi, MD  
Secretary-Treasurer Nominee

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# COLLEEN CHANNICK, MD

BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEE

UCLA



It is an honor to be nominated for the AABIP Board of Directors and it is with great enthusiasm that I wish to be considered for this position. Since I first became a member of the AABIP almost 20 years ago, it has been inspiring to see the organization grow from a fairly small number of proceduralists to a large and diverse group of physicians throughout the country. The time that I have spent involved in the activities of the AABIP has been some of the most exciting and rewarding. The chance to serve as a member of the BOD and have a significant impact on the field of interventional pulmonology would be a highlight of my career.

Throughout my career I have been strongly committed to advancing the field of IP. While serving as the Director of Interventional Pulmonology at UC San Diego Medical Center, Massachusetts General Hospital, and currently Ronald Reagan UC Los Angeles Medical Center, I have supervised the bronchoscopy and pleural procedural training of dozens of IP fellows and hundreds of medical students, residents and pulmonary fellows. At Massachusetts General I established the MGH Fellowship in Interventional Pulmonology and helped oversee the merger with the BIDMC IP fellowship.

I have been an invited lecturer for the AABIP, ATS and the ACCP and have participated in numerous educational sessions across the country. I served as a member of the ATS Education Committee as Chair of the Pulmonary Core Curriculum and actively participate in the Practical Skills Working Group from 2014-2021. From 2017-2019 and in 2022 I have been the Chair of the Bronchoscopy Postgraduate course at the American Thoracic Society International Conference and have recently joined the ACCP Bronchoscopy Domain Task Force. I am also *proud to be* one of the founders of Women in Interventional Pulmonology, an organization that is focused on inspiring and advocating for women in leadership, education, training, and professional advancement in our field.

Last year, with the help of David Hsia, the AABIP education committee, and the AIPPD, I created a fun and educational competition for interventional pulmonary fellows called *Fellows' Challenge: Keeping Up with the Evidence*. The purpose of the project is to provide the interventional pulmonary fellows a quick, easy-to-read, high-yield review of the major topics in the field of IP on a monthly basis. My participation in this project has given me a tremendous respect for the passion and devotion of the members of the AABIP. The support that the AABIP has provided has been amazing and I would greatly enjoy the opportunity to expand this project and work with other members to create more educational opportunities for both fellows as well as seasoned members of the AABIP who want to keep their knowledge base up to date.

From my role on the editorial board of the Journal of Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology, to my work in AABIP sponsored courses and my involvement with the AABIP education committee, I have always found it a privilege to participate in the missions of this organization.

I am strongly committed to advancing the field of IP and I believe that I have the expertise and passion to be a productive member of the AABIP Board of Directors. I believe that I can make significant contributions that could impact the future of bronchoscopy and pleural procedural education. The evolution of our field has truly been remarkable, thanks in large part to the activities of this organization. Thank you for your consideration.



# **GEORGE CHENG, MD**

**BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEE**

UC San Diego



I seek your support for election to the AABIP Board of Directors. Currently, I serve as the Director of Interventional Pulmonology, Bronchoscopy and Pleural Disease at the University of California San Diego. Like many of my peers, AABIP has been an integral part of my career development. Through the organization, I have made lifelong friends, expanded my horizon, travelled to places where I would otherwise not have gone. As an active member of AABIP, I have participated in the following efforts:

1. Edited Journal club and Fellow's Toolkit
2. Contributed to iPASS and Podcast
3. Co-Hosted AABIP webinar
4. Chaired AABIP CHEST Sessions

Over the years, AABIP has provided countless education, research, and professional development opportunities to its members. If elected as a BOD member, I aim to implement the following:

1. A Patient advocacy program to develop resources explaining IP procedures to our patients and to assist our patients in their daily care.
2. A quarterly Interventional Pulmonology Fellow Virtual Meetup to cultivate a sense of community and to address skillsets that are not taught during fellowship such as leadership, program building, and financial planning.
3. A robust donation and fund-raising mechanism in order to enable more programs for AABIP members at all levels of career development.

With AABIP, I found my community. I look forward to contribute to the organization that have given me so much. Thank you for your consideration and support!



# JOSEPH CICENIA, MD

BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEE

Cleveland Clinic



After being involved with the practice of bronchoscopy for over two decades, I have seen it evolve from a small niche field to a diverse and comprehensive practice that serves as the diagnostic and therapeutic entry point for many disease states. The AABIP has kept pace to usher along this advancement, with efforts aimed at promoting the cornerstones of progress: advocacy, research, training, quality assurance, and field recognition. As such, the diversification and evolution of bronchoscopy has accelerated significantly over recent years. Likely the result of an infusion of new technology with improved reimbursement, we see now more than ever before, bronchoscopy moving into community practices, with critical services no longer needing to be provided at academic centers like it once was in the past. As a result of this massive diversification, the AABIP has an obligation to meet these new needs of its field and membership, both in community practice and academia equally. These needs would include reimbursement, practice support, education, and quality measurement. What once were two separate states, we must now work harder than ever to bridge the academic and community practices, with each providing foundational support for the other. At this critical time for our field, I feel the need to be part of this evolution in a substantial way, and is why I have decided to run for the AABIP Board membership.

I have been involved with bronchoscopy for over 20 years, first in New York City, and for the last 12 years at the Cleveland Clinic. Over the years I've had the opportunity to work on many projects with the AABIP and other organizations which have focused on research, education, training, and development. I have sat on several AABIP committees, including the Board Recertification Committee, and I serve as the Advanced Diagnostic Session Co-Chair for this year's AABIP Scientific Conference. Outside of the AABIP, I have played a part in training new operators in advanced diagnostic procedures in many diverse settings all over the world. I have actively participated in research to advance the science of our field, with many publications, reviews and book chapters over the past two decades. These are important experiences that demonstrate my diligence and organization, and show a longstanding dedication to the field.

I truly believe the primary objectives of the AABIP should align with the needs of all its members across diverse practice settings and specialties. No longer should bronchoscopists work in silos defined by community or academic practices, those fellowship trained or those self-trained. We must bridge these gaps and provide equal and effective representation to all. The keystones of progress: advocacy, education and training, practice support, and quality assurance; these need to be imparted across all practice settings and roles. I believe I am the ideal candidate to help foster this based on my experiences. I am self-trained, yet I work in a practice with IP trained partners. Though I work in an academic setting, over the years I have helped community based bronchoscopists with educational efforts and practice support. As such, I have obtained an innate understanding of these roles and settings that can help bridge our gaps and bring us together as one community. I feel uniquely qualified to be on the Board, to represent all bronchoscopists equally everywhere. I look forward to an opportunity like this, and I would be honored to serve in this role. I truly believe the AABIP can help shepherd a new age of bronchoscopy, and I am eager to play a pivotal role in this.



# LABIB DEBIANE, MD

## BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEE

Henry Ford Health System



Dear AABIP:

Since I joined the American Association of Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology (AABIP) organization in 2014 as a pulmonary and critical care fellow trainee, AABIP has played a fundamental role in my education and in shaping my academic career. AABIP has provided me with a constant aspiration to evolve and mature as an interventional pulmonologist by instilling in me the values of education, research, and excellence in patient care. Having attended all the AABIP meetings since 2014 (both the combined AABIP-CHEST and independent AABIP meetings), I have seen AABIP grow as a leader in education and training of bronchoscopists and interventional pulmonologists. I am proud to say that I have been part of that growth through my heavy involvement at many different levels:

- Invited speaker
- Session Chair/co-Chair
- Invited instructor at multiple AABIP Fellow Bootcamps
- Invited hands-on instructor at the AABIP Pleural Disease Management Update 2019 Postgraduate Course
- Member of the Board Eligibility Application Review Committee (BEARC)
- Member of the IP Board Exam Writing Committee
- Member of the CAQ Exam Writing Committee
- Member of the AABIP Media Committee
- Member of the Pleural Disease Task Force
- Member of the Scientific Program Committee for the 2021 AABIP 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference
- Member of the Scientific Program Committee for the 2020 AABIP 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference
- Member of the Scientific Program Committee for the 2019 AABIP 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference
- Member of the Scientific Program Committee for the 2018 AABIP Inaugural Conference
- Co-Chair of the Pleural Disease Track Subcommittee for the 2021 AABIP Meeting
- Co-Chair of the Pleural Disease Track Subcommittee for the 2022 AABIP Meeting

Moreover, and within my own institution, I have been selected to serve on Henry Ford's Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Planning Committee as well as TRUST Partner Peer Support Program. These unique experiences were enriching and allowed me to hone my leadership skills by consolidating a more inclusive approach to my day-to-day organization and planning.

Today, I find myself naturally drawn to apply for the **AABIP Board of Directors position** as I am genuinely committed to continue to advance the field of Interventional Pulmonology through education and training. I believe that I will bring value to the position through my hard-working personality, strong organizational skills, mature leadership skills, experience in diversity and inclusion strategic planning, and above all my solid belief in the mission of the AABIP. I hope that you will sincerely consider my candidacy for this position.



# **LAURA FRYE, MD**

**BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEE**

University of Utah



Re: AABIP BOD Nominations

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in response to the call for nominations for the AABIP board of directors. I have recently transitioned into a new faculty role at the University of Utah with my clinical time divided between my Interventional Pulmonary and Lung Transplant practices. My appointment includes protected time for medical education and initiatives at the national level which advance the fields of IP and lung transplant. As such, I have no significant concerns related to the potential time commitment to effectively serve on the board if selected.

My current clinical/research interests are in lung cancer diagnostics, procedure-related quality improvement initiatives and palliative procedures in airway obstruction, both benign and malignant. Given my combined trainings in lung transplantation and IP, I have a unique niche in the world of cardiothoracic transplant. My advanced trainings have also provided me with insights into two non-ACGME fellowships and the resources available to fellows and practicing physicians within these two distinct realms. I'm familiar with the obstacles fellows face when making the decision to pursue advanced training beyond traditional pulmonary and critical care and in the fellow to faculty transition in a small (but growing) field. As the number of interventional pulmonary fellowships continues to grow and the number of physicians practicing IP and advanced diagnostic bronchoscopists increases, it will be important to distinguish the role of the AABIP to our members and delineate the unique benefits of membership from those provided to trainees and clinicians in practice by other organizations such as the AIPPD, SAB, and CHEST. The organization currently provides great educational content via podcasts, the journal, and annual meeting, promotes scholarly projects, and provides additional legitimacy to our training via fellowship accreditation and board examinations. The volume of offerings has increased dramatically since my initial exposure as an IP applicant and is growing yearly. The board has the ability to shape the direction of the organization and ultimately our field and I would enjoy the opportunity to be a part of this and I believe my work ethic and unique clinical skillset makes me well poised for the role.

I am actively involved in the educational endeavors including content creation for the American College of Chest Physicians with content design for annual meetings, live learning opportunities at the national headquarters, and in the last two years working with the covid-19 taskforce with topics related to bronchoscopy and with the transplant network to update broad membership on changes in organ allocation and transplantation in the era of COVID. This requires not only expertise in a clinical field and strong skills in medical education but requires significant attention to detail and a task-oriented work ethic. My dedication to providing access to high quality education materials which are relevant to our changing field was a large driving force behind the pivot which allowed CHSET to be one of the earlier societies returning to live learning in 2021. While my role within the AABIP is smaller, I have been actively involved as a member of the certification committee and have also assisted with the skills component of the new certificate of advanced qualification. If given the opportunity, I would bring my organization skills, efficiency, and leadership experience as the vice chair of the bronchoscopy domain task force of CHEST to the AABIP to continue to move forward the mission of the association.

I appreciate your time and welcome the opportunity to discuss my potential contributions in the role further. My CV is available for your review.

Laura Frye, MD  
Board of Director Nominee

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## **D. KYLE HOGARTH, MD**

**BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEE**

University of Chicago



My professional goal has always been to further expand the reach of Bronchoscopy to more doctors and communities while improving the quality of the training for new and old physicians. I am honored to be nominated for a position on the Board of Directors to help continue the AABIP's transformation into an Association that meets the needs of all physicians performing bronchoscopy procedures.

I was fortunate enough to arrive at the University of Chicago when it had almost no presence in the field of bronchoscopy. If timing is everything, then I'm the luckiest man alive. Through the support of my institution, we've been able to grow our program through key partnerships with industry, our colleagues in thoracic surgery, and many of you reading this right now. The success of our field depends on the growth of new and better technologies that continue to revolutionize how we practice medicine and specifically how we practice advanced bronchoscopy. It also depends on disseminating that technology and the skills to operationalize it to beyond just a few select centers: no one innovates for only 30 centers.

Through my career I have taught many courses here and abroad for universities, societies, associations, local CME courses, and for industry. The common theme for these educational endeavors has been the eager excitement of the participants to gain the skills that we are all fortunate to possess. Bronchoscopy is better the more it is democratized and brought forth so that all patients have the benefit of skilled operators using state of the art techniques.

Positions of leadership should require a significant commitment from those that are elected. I know the Board requires a large amount of effort and work: as it should. Bronchoscopy is a rapidly growing field and needs development and guidance. The AABIP has played a strong role in leading us forward and I hope to be a part of that guidance by bringing my experience and expertise to help further develop and expand our field and profession.



## **DANAI KHEMASUWAN, MD, MBA**

**BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEE**

Virginia Commonwealth University



Throughout my career path, I have always wanted to learn new sets of skills to continue to improve and contribute to the success of not only myself but also the hospital or organization that I serve. AABIP is the organization that I have always desired to devote my time and experience to work with.

I am currently an assistant professor at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Health. At VCU Health, I volunteer to take on several leadership roles including faculty senate, physician compliance/audit committee, and invasive procedure committee. At the division level, not only do I serve as a leader in clinical documentation and billing, but also volunteer to be a clinician champion to lead the EHR transition in my division. Having earned a Master of business administration from Temple University in 2011, I can integrate my clinical acumen and administrative skills to look at challenges in different perspectives.

Apart from my work responsibility at VCU Health, I have committed to involve and dedicate myself in several educational activities including abstract presentation in both poster and oral forms, being a moderator in several sessions at the annual AABIP meeting. In addition, I am honored to be invited to be a speaker at CAQ/IP session for two consecutive years which I anticipate to continue to do so in the forthcoming years.

I am very much aligned with the goals and missions of the AABIP. I have made numerous networking with colleagues at AABIP throughout the years. I am certain that the combination of my medical, administrative, MBA managerial skills and experience along with my determined passion to bring success to AABIP will make me an excellent candidate to the Board of AABIP. I look forward to having the opportunity to serve AABIP along with IP community and putting my skills towards a good cause.



# **ROBERT LENTZ, MD**

**BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEE**

Vanderbilt University



I was pleased and flattered to receive a nomination for an AABIP Board of Directors position. This letter constitutes my statement of interest for this position.

I have been an AABIP member since early 2016 when I was a senior pulmonary/critical care fellow at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC). I completed my IP fellowship 2016-2017 as the inaugural VUMC IP fellow, then joined my mentors Otis Rickman and Fabien Maldonado as the third faculty interventional pulmonologist in VUMC's busy clinical IP program in July 2017, where I remain as an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Thoracic Surgery. In addition to my academic IP practice at VUMC, I also teach and practice advanced bronchoscopy at the Nashville Veteran's Affairs hospital.

This nominating cycle marks the first in which I have met the "five years from formal training" criterion. In this relatively short time, I have gained broad experience and exposure to many facets of the IP community and to the work/mission of the AABIP, in large part due to outstanding mentorship by the individuals mentioned above. Regarding the mission of education: as the inaugural IP fellow at my institution, I helped design the fellowship program and have been associate Program Director of the program for three years. In July 2022 I will assume the role of Program Director. I continue to teach advanced and therapeutic bronchoscopy daily to IP and general pulmonary fellows as well as a host of external rotators including thoracic surgery and anesthesia trainees. Regarding the mission of research, I have been fortunate to have been academically productive, including development and successful execution of several investigator-initiated multicenter randomized trials. I am an Editorial Board member at JOBIP. I am now taking on new roles as mentor to up-and-coming future advanced bronchoscopists and interventional pulmonologists. Regarding public outreach and dissemination of best practices, I have been a past speaker at the biannual research symposium and have participated in numerous AABIP podcasts. I also currently sit on the Infection Disease Society of America's expert panel for the management of Histoplasmosis as its only pulmonologist representative (principally related to a clinical niche in the management of the post-Histoplasma syndromes of mediastinal granuloma and fibrosing mediastinitis), which has provided valuable experience in the process of expert consensus and clinical guideline development and dissemination.

I believe this range of experiences and exposures makes me a strong candidate for a Board of Directors position. Our subspecialty, and therefore its flagship professional organization, will face numerous challenges over the next 5-10 years. Among them:

- Technological development will continue to accelerate, bringing new devices and techniques into our armamentarium, and with them questions about efficacy, training, and cost-effectiveness.
- Funding pathways for more translational and basic science research need further development.
- As we accumulate a greater volume of higher quality data, mechanisms to systematically assess, generate, and distribute best-practices will need bolstering.
- Our fellowship programs will continue to evolve and mature, and we must continue to endeavor to attract fellow candidates of the highest quality.



## **ROBERT LENTZ, MD**

**BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEE**

Vanderbilt University



Given my background, I believe I would offer a productive perspective on these matters, among others. I am particularly interested in the increasingly pressing issue of how we as a community thoughtfully evaluate and adopt novel technology/devices. For better or worse, for the foreseeable future, the vast majority of new devices intended for our use will be cleared by the FDA's 510(k) pathway, and therefore come to market without robust evidence of their utility or comparative data to legacy technologies/devices. Case in point: the most robust data in support of robotic bronchoscopy platforms, now three (Ion) and four (Monarch) years from FDA clearance, consists of several observational studies, most single-center and modest in size, with no in-human comparisons (randomized or otherwise) to legacy navigational platforms. Despite this evidence gap, robotic platforms have been widely adopted.

In this regulatory environment, it is incumbent on us, the principal users of these devices, to develop the infrastructure necessary to generate high quality data regarding new device performance, risks, and cost-efficacy if we are to optimally and responsibly care for our patients. I believe the AABIP can play a leading role in generating roadmaps for responsible evidence-based adoption of new technologies. This effort could have many facets, including fostering the development of multicenter networks intent on rapid throughput studies of new devices, exploration of pragmatic study designs to more efficiently generate comparisons to legacy devices, and mentorship for AABIP members participating in this effort.

I appreciate the opportunity to apply for this position and for your time and consideration.



# **HIREN MEHTA, MD**

**BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEE**

University of Florida



To whom it may concern,

I appreciate the opportunity to express my interest in the AABIP board of directors' position starting from year 2022.

Please accept my thank you for your continued leadership in the field of interventional pulmonology and your commitment to a strong educational presence both at national meetings and through online forums. I believe it is essential for our discipline to maintain strong academic rigor.

I, Hiren Mehta am a practicing pulmonary, critical care and Interventional Pulmonology physician at University of Florida (UF) hospitals. I have been in this position for 11 years and have a special interest in all aspects on thoracic oncology and interventional pulmonology including advanced diagnostics/staging, pleural diseases and therapeutic bronchoscopies.

Since being at UF, I have been very productive academically in the field. We have several ongoing trials and published important work in the field of IP about Intratumoral chemotherapy. I am active member of American association of Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology and have been active in AABIP's annual meetings. I have moderated several sessions at AABIP's annual meetings. For the last few years, I have been involved in AABIP's board review course including chairing the course in 2021.

In addition to participating in ABIP's activities, my commitment in the field and leadership skills are evident from my role with American college of chest physicians (ACCP) and American thoracic society (ATS). I actively serve for ACCP's postgraduate courses and hands on sessions. I have been co-directing the fellows' course at ACCP's annual meeting. During the past 3 years, I have been faculty at several of ACCP's comprehensive bronchoscopy courses as well as pleural courses. Additionally, I have been active member of AACP's bronchoscopy domain task force and ATS's web committee for thoracic oncology.

All the above exposure and involvement have given me insights into the amount of work and organization it takes to put together and conduct successful and well rated meeting and the involvement of the committee members and teamwork that is required for such well-organized educational events.

I'm not only a dedicated leader but I have a passion for education as evidence by various teaching awards as highlighted in my CV including distinguished CHEST educator award for 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Based on my experience, commitment, teaching skills and aspirations, I believe that I am qualified to be the member of AABIP's board of directors and work with the leadership of AABIP to serve its members and the community overall to the best of my abilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Hiren Mehta, MD  
Board of Director Nominee

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## **RUSSELL MILLER, MD**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEE**

Naval Medical Center San Diego



I would like to express my strong interest in serving on the Board of Directors for the AABIP. During my time as a member, I have seen the organization grow exponentially in both size and influence. This growth has been a direct result of the organizational leadership's vision and relentless commitment to ambitious endeavors such as the IP Board Certification and the AABIP Annual Conference.

*Past Service:* I was fortunate to serve the AABIP on multiple projects and Committees in the past including:

- Member of the AABIP Education Committee
- Co-organizer and Moderator of the AABIP Webinar Series
- Co-editor of the first IP board exam question bank which has been developed into the iPASS app
- Development of the IP Graduating Fellow Toolkit
- Chair of the AABIP's first societal guidelines (AABIP Evidence-informed Guidelines and Expert Panel Report for the Management of Indwelling Pleural Catheters, *JOBIP* 2020;27(4):229).

*Future Vision:* I fully believe the organization exists to benefit the general membership, and not as a means of career advancement for the leadership. Specific areas which I believe would add value to the membership, which I would champion, include the following:

1. Development of a procedural data collection program/app, allowing members to anonymously compare metrics with others and track the effects of process changes on outcomes.
2. Development of an IP technician training curriculum and certification process.
3. Promote more opportunities for junior members of the AABIP to participate in committees and present in national forums.

It would be an extraordinary honor to serve on the Board of Directors for an organization that has had such positive impact on my career. If selected, I promise to continue as a dedicated servant-leader to the membership as I work to build on the success of my predecessors. I am ready, able, and excited for the opportunity to give back to the AABIP.



# LAKSHMI MUDAMBI, MD

BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEE

VA Portland Health Care System



I am deeply honored to be nominated for a position on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology. I thank the Board and general body for considering my application.

I have been working as an Interventional Pulmonologist at the Portland VA in Oregon and serve as faculty at Oregon Health & Science University since I graduated from fellowship in 2016. I gain tremendous personal and professional satisfaction with the routine clinical practice of Interventional Pulmonology in my sphere of influence at the VA. Yet, I share the vision of AABIP in that the practice of Interventional Pulmonology is most valuable when it can enhance the care of many. This goal has motivated me to partake in and contribute to the work of AABIP in any capacity needed to advance its mission.

I have tried to focus my efforts in AABIP and for our field in three different domains. Firstly, the growth and future of our field depends on mentoring and educating students of this discipline. I have immensely benefited from the attention and guidance of my mentors. So, in addition to enhancing the curriculum for trainees at my institution, I have committed my efforts to the “student”. I have taught diverse learners at the AABIP Fellow boot camp, ATS resident bootcamp, the AABIP Board review course and other workshops and conferences. Through this process, I have learned much about teaching and working together with different groups of people. Secondly, I set an intention to work with AABIP on the annual conference. In my opinion, the AABIP annual conference provides a cohesive and singular platform for the dissemination of evidence, discussion of ideas and creation of a collaborative educational experience for the membership and all interested in our field. I believe that the success of this conference is fundamental to the progress of IP and to build closer relationships with each other. Since its inception, I have consistently served on the Scientific Committee as a subcommittee chair, developing content, speaking and moderating at the conference. When the pandemic forced us to adapt the conference to a hybrid format, I worked with a small team of like-minded members to perform an analysis of virtual platforms and present the results to the current Board of Directors. Finally, I continue to contribute academically through collaborative studies, writing reviews and book chapters, creation of a local biorepository and serving as an ad hoc reviewer for several journals.

On reflecting upon what I would offer to the board and membership, I would put the needs of AABIP first and concentrate on hearing the voices and opinions of the general body. If elected, I would work tirelessly on the demands of the hour during my tenure to build towards our vision for the future. I would like to emphasize that I consider it a great privilege to be an active member of AABIP. I have been given many opportunities, seen the fruit of collaborative efforts and reaped the reward of contributing to the progress of IP. As our community grows, I see my role as a servant leader so that each member has the same opportunities and our field prospers with new ideas and energy.



American Association for  
Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology

# **NICHOLAS PASTIS, MD, FCCP**

**BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEE**

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center



To whom it may concern:

It is truly an honor and privilege to be nominated for the Board of Directors of the American Association for Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology (AABIP). We stand at an important crossroads where Interventional Pulmonology has the opportunity to solidify itself as a subspecialty of the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) and as an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) certified fellowship. If elected, I will assist the AABIP leadership in making a strong case to these organizations for our unique benefit to patients, medical centers (especially cancer centers), and trainees. In addition, I will work with the AABIP to grow its membership as trainees graduate and as opportunities arise to provide educational material tailored toward potential members with different backgrounds and interests.

As I have progressed in my academic medical career, two themes have emerged, medical education (particularly simulation training for pulmonary procedures) and device evaluation. I feel that my career goals are aligned with missions of the AABIP and I feel prepared to contribute to its already robust educational offerings including the Annual Conference. I am fortunate to have served in other societal leadership positions and these positions have prepared me to assist with initiatives like meeting planning and course content development. I also have remained active with the AABIP through teaching at the Fellow Boot Camp, speaking on Podcasts and at the Annual Conference, working on the Editorial Board for the Journal of Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology (JOBIP), and participating on the Board Examination and Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) Committees. If elected to the Board of Directors (BOD), I hope to promote further educational endeavors for the AABIP and to place a high premium on quality and innovative research initiatives. I also hope to contribute to the AABIPs growing body of guidelines for bronchoscopy and interventional pulmonology.

Thank you for considering me for the BOD. If elected to this position, I will work collaboratively and continue my commitment to the educational and research related pursuits of the AABIP.

Nicholas Pastis, MD, FCCP  
Board of Director Nominee

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# **ELLEN VOLKER, MD**

**BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEE**

National Jewish Health



Dear AABIP,

Please accept this letter as my statement of interest to serve on the Board of Directors.

Since graduating IP fellowship, I have worked to become more involved with AABIP. In addition to serving as faculty and speaker for conferences and board reviews, I have had the privilege to serve on the AABIP Conference Scientific Program Committee. I also was co-chair for the Advanced Diagnostic Bronchoscopy Subcommittee in 2020 and 2021. I currently serve as co-chair for the 2022 Annual Conference. I have also become involved in AIPPD, as well as continued to review articles for the Journal of Advanced Bronchoscopy and Interventional Pulmonology.

I would very much appreciate the opportunity to become even more engaged with the AABIP community as a member of the Board of Directors. As a member of the BOD, I would like to advocate for the breadth of our membership, regardless of training level, location, type of practice or background. I am also willing to dedicate the necessary time per week to the organization.

I would be honored to be considered for a position on the AABIP Board of Directors.