

2024 Elections

AABIP Board of Directors & Secretary-Treasurer NOMINEES



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2024 Board of Directors Nominees Statement of Interests

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American Association for
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SECRETARY-TREASURER NOMINEE

ABDUL (AB) ALRAIYES, MD

Rosalind Franklin University / Advocate Aurora Health



Dr. AB Alraiyes serves as the Medical Director for Interventional Pulmonology at Advocate Health in Illinois. He earned his medical degree from Aleppo University, Aleppo, Syria. He completed an Anesthesia residency at Riyadh Military Hospital, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and Internal Medicine at Case Western Reserve University–St. Vincent Medical Center, Cleveland, OH. Subsequently, he pursued fellowships in Sleep Medicine at Case Western Reserve University and Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Tulane University, New Orleans, LA. His training culminated in an Interventional Pulmonology fellowship at Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, OH.

In his esteemed professional roles, Dr. Alraiyes is a pivotal member of the Board of Directors and serves as the Chair of the Communication Committee at the American Association of Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology (AABIP).

Furthermore, Dr. Alraiyes has chaired the AABIP and CAQ Board review course and has been an integral member of the Program Organizing Committee for the AABIP Conference for the past six years.



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SECRETARY-TREASURER NOMINEE

COLLEEN CHANNICK, MD

UCLA



The advancements in IP over just a few decades are mind boggling. We now have technology at our disposal that has truly changed patients' lives!

No group has done more to foster this relentless innovation than the AABIP, which has created a specialty that, until recently, didn't exist. The members who have donated countless hours to our mission are inspiring. AABIP truly reflects the maxim of the whole being greater than the sum of its parts!

During my career in IP I have helped build and direct Interventional Pulmonary Programs at 3 institutions. Currently I am IP co-Section Chief and IP Fellowship Program Director at UCLA. These institutional leadership roles have allowed me to gain insight at the "ground" level.

Outside of my institution, I have served as Chair of the pulmonary core curriculum and bronch postgraduate courses for ATS and have participated in the bronchoscopy domain task force for Chest. In addition, I am proud to be one of the founders of Women in IP (WiIP), reflecting the growing diversity in the field. Finally, my current AABIP roles as BOD member, Chair of the AABIP Education Committee, and member of the DIU and BERC committees has given me a first-hand view of the breadth and complexity of this organization.

My two decades of participation in this mission have, I believe, placed me in an ideal position to serve as Secretary Treasurer of the AABIP. If elected I pledge to maintain the financial health of the AABIP, continue the great work of this organization, represent and support the interests of the membership, foster inclusion and diversity, and find creative solutions to future challenges. As an organization, we must continue to evolve. I would be honored to participate in this journey.



SECRETARY-TREASURER NOMINEE

ASHUTOSH SACHDEVA, MBBS, MBA

University of Maryland



I am honored by the encouragement I have received from close friends, confidants, and fellow members to consider the Secretary Treasurer position within the AABIP. The trust placed in me is a testament to our shared commitment to the organization's success. Having dedicated more than a decade to understanding the intricacies of our organization, I am well-prepared to assume the responsibilities of the Secretary Treasurer role. I recognize the importance of financial stewardship and other critical aspects associated with this position. My dedication to meticulous planning and organizational efficiency aligns with the AABIP's commitment to excellence in all dimensions. I am not only prepared to take on current responsibilities but also eager to contribute to the organization's future and be groomed into its leader.

Over the past decade, our organization has seen remarkable growth, attracting newer talent that requires mentorship and support to thrive. I am committed to fostering this talent through open communication and collaboration, enhancing clinical care and education in field of IP. I restructured IP fellows' Bootcamp, now a biannual event, and optimized cadaver lab simulation learning. From early on, I focused on having a succession plan, and with incoming leadership we are at continuous maximal thrust with this initiative. The Bootcamp also offers a platform to assess learning curves and validating assessment tools, crucial for establishing ACGME milestones and accreditation journey. My success in educational initiatives fuels my drive to help establish collaborative networks for pragmatic clinical research. Additionally, I am dedicated to contributing to the establishment of ABIM board certification for our specialty, remaining steadfast in honoring the vision established by our organization's founding members and past leadership.

My vision statement encapsulates the culmination of my journey and reflects my aspirations to lead with integrity, collaboration, and a keen focus on our shared goals.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEE

UDIT CHADDHA, MBBS

Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai



I am a passionate interventional pulmonologist in New York City, and am excited to announce my candidacy for a position on the AABIP BOD. As a dedicated advocate for AABIP's mission, I am eager to leverage my time and enthusiasm to contribute to the "meaningful" growth of our organization, that should benefit the members directly. By foremost promoting transparency, accountability and inclusivity, it will be my goal to help facilitate our organization's growth on not just a national, but on an international scale. Prioritizing research activities championed through the AABIP and expanding educational exchange through more focused and dedicated workshops and forums, will be something I will aim to strive for. Lastly, I would love to bring in a genuine spirit of approachability, that will foster friendly and open communication that is integral to our collective success.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEE

ARA CHRISSIAN, MD

Loma Linda University



Hello AABIP members!

I'm Ara Chrissian, Director of Bronchoscopy and Interventional Pulmonology at Loma Linda University Health in Loma Linda, CA. I am certain you will elect another talented and visionary BOD for this cycle. Here are some of what I can humbly bring to the AABIP mission:

1. **Dedication to the AABIP.** As part of the Education Committee since being elected the fellow representative in 2016, its co-chair since 2022, and a member of the Diversity, Inclusion and Unity Committee, I've worked with and learned from our talented membership, while establishing, cultivating and supervising a multitude of projects that directly and actively impact a wide swath of our community.
2. **Respect for IP origins.** I learned 'IP' 15 years ago the 'old-fashioned' way... during pulm-crit fellowship. Then decided on a dedicated IP fellowship 5 years into my career—BOTH times studying under trailblazers in the field. Then, from EBUS to rigid bronchoscopy to pleural service to robotic bronchoscopy all in a decade, the path of developing an IP service at a tertiary academic institution from the ground-up presented unique challenges, trying obstacles, and valuable learning experiences that link me to the field's tenacious, not-so-distant origins.
3. **Perspective.** Over my medical career, I've trained in different regions, experiencing various practice settings and culture styles, which I leverage in various ways. I value my mutually beneficial working and learning relationship with colleagues, regardless of level. I work closely with and routinely mentor various allied health professionals and fellows, recognizing each of their essential roles in the team dynamic.

Let's continue to unify our community by broadening its reach to our pediatric, allied health, and international colleagues, and solidify the AABIP as the clinical, educational, and scholarly standard for bronchoscopy and interventional pulmonology.

Thank you!

Ara



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEE

LABIB DEBIANE, MD, MS

Henry Ford Health System

I joined AABIP as a full member 10 years ago and AABIP has become my second home ever since. During this time, I served on numerous AABIP committees, including scientific program organizing committees (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023), IP board exam question writing committee, Media Committee, Research Committee, Certification Committee, and Board Eligibility Application Review Committee. I am proud to say that I have been part of AABIP's growth to what it has become today, a leading organization in the education and training of advanced bronchoscopists and interventional pulmonologists. More recently, I have been privileged to assume leadership roles within AABIP and I've been serving as chair of the Board Eligibility Application Review Committee (BEARC) and co-chair of the Certification Committee since 2022. Our committee reviews and vets applications for the IP board exam certification, the IP board maintenance of certification, and the CAQ exam certification. We assist with test center accommodations and address any challenges our community encounters.

Today, I find myself naturally drawn to apply for the "AABIP Board of Directors" position. If elected, I strive to continue to provide the same high level of organizational support to the AABIP committees and taskforces, continue to support our AABIP members and colleagues with their needs and be their humble voice on the board. I will work with high integrity and serve well the AABIP membership, include diversity and inclusion in my decision-making and collaborate effectively with my BOD colleagues to drive forward the success of our AABIP organization. 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 AABIP. I hope you will sincerely consider my candidacy for this position.



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ZACHARY DEPEW, MD

Creighton University

My name is Zachary DePew, and I am the division chief and medical director for Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine at Creighton University and CHI Health in Omaha, NE. When I assumed the role we were a division of 8 fellows and 5 faculty covering two hospitals. Over the past 8 years we have grown to a division of over 60 providers covering 6 hospitals. With the rapid growth in a short period of time I learned to forge meaningful relationships with stakeholders at all levels of the organization. I have had the opportunity to hone my skills and style of running effective meetings and maintaining progress on critical tasks.

During my time at Creighton University I established the Interventional Pulmonary service which now serves as a regular rotation for pulmonary fellows year-round. It is on this service that our fellows receive the vast majority of their bronchoscopy training. I brought rigid bronchoscopy and pleuroscopy to Creighton, and subsequently added other services as they became available, most recently including bronchoscopic lung volume reduction and robotic navigational bronchoscopy. In addition to my service to Creighton in these respects, I have served multiple societies in the development and delivery of medical education simulation courses focusing on areas of interventional pulmonology, including bronchoscopy and pleural interventions.

As I understand it, the mission of the AABIP includes advancing advocacy, research, education, innovation, equity, and creating community within the field of advanced diagnostic and interventional pulmonology. I would plan to support and advance this mission by serving wherever my skills and perspectives are felt to be most efficacious. I would plan to fulfill this commitment through prioritization and dedication of time towards service to the AABIP.



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LAURA FRYE, MD

University of Utah



I am currently an associate professor at the University of Utah with my clinical time divided between my Interventional Pulmonary and Lung Transplant practices. My current clinical/research interests are in 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 disease. 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. My passion for education and procedural outcomes has guided much of my involvement in the AABIP to date. I am currently a member of the board examination eligibility and review committee and the certification committee and have assisted with the skills assessments which are a part of the certificate of advanced qualification. I have also assisted with the application to the ABIM. I strongly feel that these endeavors elevate our field and have been delighted to be a part of these committees in recent years. Using my policy background, I am currently a member of the advocacy committee and a member of the ATS/CHEST clinical practice committee, advocating for improved reimbursement for IP procedures and new codes as our field advances. 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 used my skills as a simulationist at the AABIP annual meeting in 2023 where we launched our inaugural simulation sessions. I am continuing these efforts as the co-chair of simulation and the scientific program committee for 2024.



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VAN HOLDEN, MD

University of Maryland



The AABIP stands as a supportive and close-knit community that offers numerous valuable educational opportunities and resources to its members. I have personally benefited from these offerings and am eager to contribute further to pay it forward. I have served on the Public Relations Committee, Journal Club Subcommittee, and Membership Committee. In my role, I had developed several inaugural programs, such as the AABIP Twitter chat, monthly bulletin (AABIP in the Moment), and Mentorship Program. These achievements were made possible through the guidance of AABIP leaders, fostering my deep appreciation for those who volunteer their time, enthusiasm, and expertise to advance the organization and to mentor early career members. A collective effort is essential to move the field forward, and I believe we each have a part in it.

My passion for education drives me to serve as a servant leader, working diligently to innovate and enhance educational offerings. I have organized multi-institutional boot camps for regional PCCM fellows and national courses, such as the IP Fellows' Boot Camp and Bronchoscopy 101 and Advanced Bronchoscopy for the ATS Resident Boot Camp. I understand the scope and extent of the work, collaboration, and leadership needed to run successful courses. I aspire to give back to the organization through dedicated service, providing valuable educational opportunities and expanding outreach to early career members and trainees.

My goal as a BOD member is to provide mentorship to early career physicians and trainees to increase engagement within the organization and enhance interdisciplinary collaboration with health professionals. I have the time, passion, and commitment to dedicate to the AABIP, and it would be a great honor to be considered for the BOD.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEE

RYAN KERN, MD

Mayo Clinic



It is a sincere honor to be nominated for the AABIP Board of Directors. My journey as an interventional pulmonologist began with the completion of IP fellowship at Mayo Clinic in 2015, with a clinical practice exclusively devoted to IP. For the past four years I have served as the IP Fellowship Program Director and will assume the role of Director of Interventional Pulmonology this summer. I represent the AABIP as a member of the Joint AABIP/AIPPD Accreditation Committee and am excited for the opportunity to bring my experience and passion for IP to the AABIP board.

In 2015, we launched an interventional pulmonary inpatient consult service. At the time the abbreviation “IP” had minimal recognition to referring services, and we were concerned there would be minimal utilization of our services. In the past year, the inpatient IP consult team did over 1,500 thoracenteses, 450 chest tubes, and 5,000 visits with numbers still rising. Simultaneously the demand for complex bronchoscopic services has grown by over 30%. “Consult IP” is now a familiar expression to any medical or surgical trainee. IP has arrived, the technology is evolving rapidly, and we are able to help more patients today than ever.

Remarkable progress has been made in our field, yet nationwide disparities persist in securing essential resources such as procedural space, time, IP technicians, anesthesia, and equipment. I propose that the AABIP establishes comprehensive standards for IP suites, akin to cardiac cath labs, to enhance quality and support programs for resource advocacy. With ACGME accreditation and ongoing efforts towards ABIM board certification, national recognition and growth will continue. As a Board of Directors member, I aim to help expand access to quality IP fellowship training and establish robust procedural standards that will benefit programs and patients. I am grateful for your consideration.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEE

DANAI KHEMASUWAN, MD, MBA

Virginia Commonwealth University

I am honored to be considered for nomination to the Board of Directors of the AABIP. My engagement as the member of the AABIP over nearly a decade, including regular attendance at the annual conferences and active participation in the association's significant growth, reflects my commitment to this esteemed organization.

As the Director of the Interventional Pulmonary Fellowship Program at VCU, I champion advanced fellowship training and medical education, particularly in the realm of pulmonary procedures, and ensure comprehensive training for our fellows. My experience in various leadership roles within professional societies equips me to support the AABIP in areas such as meeting planning and the development of educational content. My contributions to the AABIP are diverse, including serving as an invited Chair/Co-Chair for sessions at the Annual Conference, being a member of the Scientific Program and Simulation Session for AABIP conference 2024, participating in the AABIP Certification Committee. Furthermore, I serve on the Finance Committee of the World Association for Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology (WABIP). Looking ahead, I envision the AABIP continuing to prioritize the interests of its members above all. To this end, I propose the following initiatives to enhance value for our members:

1. Developing a secure online platform for data sharing among members to evaluate the impact of procedural changes on patient outcomes.
2. Working with the education committee to create support tools for fellowship training programs in preparation for Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accreditation.

Serving on the AABIP Board of Directors would be a profound honor. If elected, I commit to being a dedicated advocate, focusing on the continuous enhancement of our association. I am enthusiastic about the prospect of giving back to the AABIP and look forward to the possibility of serving its members and advancing our collective goals.



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CHRISTOPHER MANLEY, MD

Fox Chase Cancer Center



I have been a proud member of the AABIP since 2014 and have served on multiple committees within the organization. I began as a member of the Program Planning Committee for the inaugural AABIP conference and have continued to support our national meeting as a member of the Scientific Program Committee. More recently, I have served as the co-Chair and Chair of the AABIP Education Program at Chest, the Lung Nodule Guideline Committee, and Advocacy Committee.

The AABIP is a critical advocacy group, governing body, and educational resource for interventional pulmonologists. Therefore, I believe members of the AABIP leadership should embody a rich and diverse experience in both clinical practice and academic pursuits.

I am the Director of Interventional Pulmonology and Clinical Director of the Thoracic Cancer Service Line at Fox Chase Cancer Center, a busy academic institution within a competitive urban marketplace. I have a good understanding of what it takes to build and maintain a viable service line. I have successfully established a strong referral base from a grass-roots ground up approach with bespoke offerings based on the needs of referring providers and their patients.

I have been the primary investigator in both investigator-initiated and industry-sponsored multicenter clinical research trials. Also, I am a member of our institutional Research Review Committee as well as our Research Compliance Oversight Committee and am Medical Director of Research Development Alliances. I believe this experience has given me insight in many aspects of clinical research such as study design, budgeting, contracting, and regulatory oversight.

I feel that my clinical and research experience would be a valuable addition to the AABIP Board of Directors and hope my service will help forward the mission of our organization.

Thank you for your consideration.

Christopher Manley, MD
Board of Director Nominee

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RUSSELL MILLER, MD

Naval Medical Center San Diego



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

I am fortunate to have been involved in multiple AABIP projects and committees in the past. These include serving as a member of the AABIP educational committee, co-organizer of the AABIP webinar series, co-editor of the first IP board exam question bank (AABIP-KAT), and the IP graduating fellow toolkit. I have also served as chairman of the AABIP's first societal guidelines (AABIP Evidence-informed Guidelines and Expert Panel Report for the Management of Indwelling Pleural Catheters).

I firmly believe the organization exists to benefit the membership, and not as a means of career advancement for the leadership. Specific areas which I believe would add value to the membership, and which I would champion, include the following: 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. Development of an interventional pulmonology technician training curriculum and certification process. Increasing opportunities for more junior members of the AABIP to participate in committees and present in national forums.

It would be an honor to serve on the BOD for an organization that has had such a positive impact on my career. If selected, I promise to be a dedicated servant 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 AABIP.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEE

ELLEN VOLKER, MD, MSPH

National Jewish Health

Hello, I am Ellen Volker, the Director of Interventional Pulmonology at National Jewish Health in Denver. I have had the privilege of contributing to the AABIP/AIPPD organizations in several ways over the years. I have served as a manuscript reviewer of JOBIP since 2015. I started my work for the AABIP annual conference in 2019 as co-chair of the Advanced Diagnostic Bronchoscopy subcommittee, followed by co-chair of the Scientific Program Committee for the 2022 Annual Conference, and most notably, as the chair of the Scientific Program Committee for the 2023 Annual Conference. In addition to building the traditional agenda, several new highlights to the conference program were introduced including hands-on simulation sessions, abstract lightening rounds, and rapid e-poster presentations.

With respect to education, I have served as Associate Director, then Director of the UCH/NJH IP fellowship. I also have served as co-director of the AIPPD robotic bronchoscopy course since 2022 which includes the development and continued update of the didactic and hands-on course experience for IP fellows.

As Director of Interventional Pulmonology at NJH, I am dedicated to programmatic growth and ensuring the delivery of expeditious, guideline-driven care to all patients with lung nodules and IP needs. I implemented guidelines for patient referral triage and bronchoscopy. I expanded our services to a partner hospital who cares for the uninsured, which also allowed for the establishment of a telehealth program for patients in rural Colorado with IP needs. I also helped to establish the LCS program and provide physician oversight to two Intermountain Health lung cancer screening and incidental nodule programs. I have also revived the NJH IP research program.

I would consider serving on the AABIP Board of Directors a great honor that would further allow me to contribute to our community and the continued advancement of our exciting discipline.