

# Spring 2024 Executive Committee Nominations Received

**One (1) Chair from Basic Sciences; One (1) Chair from Health Sciences; One (1) Basic Sciences Faculty Member, One (1) Health Sciences Faculty Member, Two (2) Clinical Sciences Faculty Members**

## **Chair, Basic Sciences (1)**

- [Rong Li](#), Professor and Chair, Biochemistry & Molecular Medicine (Self-Nomination)

I have gained relevant experience from my service on the Executive Committee for the past three years.

## **Chair, Health Sciences (1)**

- [Ellen Costello](#), Professor and Interim Chair, Health, Human Function & Rehabilitation Sciences (Nominated by Marisa Birkmeier)

Dr. Ellen Costello is a tenured professor with extensive service within SMHS and across the University. She served on the Faculty Senate throughout the pandemic and gave SMHS a voice within the University governing body. Additionally, she has served and currently serves on multiple SMHS committees including Appointments, Promotion, and Tenure committee and the Health Sciences Curriculum committee. She led the DPT program for several years prior to her appointment as interim chair of the Department of Health, Human Function, and Rehabilitation Sciences and led changes to shift to a more holistic admissions process to address the imbalance of racial representation within the physical therapy profession. I fully support her as a nominee for the executive committee and if elected, she will be an excellent addition to this committee.

- [Marcia Firmani](#), Associate Professor and Chair, Biomedical Laboratory Sciences (Nominated by Joyce Maring)

Dr. Firmani is an experienced and effective department chair in the Health Sciences. She has lead the development of several programs congruent with the mission of the school and university. She creates an accessible online learning environment for all students. She is clearly vested in the success of the institution and she is well respected by her colleagues.

## **Regular Faculty, Basic Sciences (1; cannot be from Anatomy & Cell Biology)**

- [Michael Bukrinsky](#), Professor, Microbiology, Immunology & Tropical Medicine (Self-Nomination)

I have worked on the Executive Committee for 3 years, serving as a Chair during the last year of my term. I would like to engage in the Committee again. This would allow me to contribute to SMHS executive decisions on research, teaching and service, and to be updated on current issues at SMHS. To promote diversity, equity, and inclusivity in teaching, I have explained difficult issues in virology and medical science at different levels consistent with students' preparedness. I also used provided students with accessible materials and resources to accommodate diverse learning needs, like literature in different languages, or role models from different cultures. I always explain how our research efforts are relevant to the medical problems of the students' home. In scholarship, I encourage and support collaborative research, including collaboration with researchers from diverse backgrounds. In my service, all committees that I have involved in promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within GWU. As DC CFAR Director of Developmental Core, I am engaged in mentoring students and colleagues from underrepresented groups, providing support and guidance to help them succeed.

- [Raja Mazumder](#), Professor, Biochemistry & Molecular Medicine (Nominated by Rong Li)

Dr. Mazumder is a tenured full professor with a robust, well-funded research program in data science and bioinformatics. He has extensive experience in graduate education. He also plays a prominent role in

leading multi-institutional consortia.

○ **Colin Young, Associate Professor, Pharmacology & Physiology (Nominated by David Mendelowitz)**

It is a pleasure to recommend Dr. Colin Young for serving as a member of the GWU SMHS Executive Committee. Dr. Young has experiences in a multitude of diverse responsibilities within the SMHS, and would bring that considerable expertise to the committee. As examples, Dr. Colin Young has significant teaching responsibilities. Dr. Young's teaching responsibilities not only include ~14 hours of material to medical students and ~17 hours to graduate students, but also includes serving as co-Program Director for a graduate program, co-course director for two graduate level courses, and mentor to two Ph.D. candidates. Dr. Colin Young's research and scholarly accomplishments are truly exemplary. His research focus can be broadly described as the underlying central nervous system (CNS) mechanisms and neural circuits that contribute to cardiovascular and metabolic diseases. I have observed Dr. Young approach important problems in his research fearlessly, and he and his group have excelled in mastering new approaches to answer the most important questions that develop in the field. Dr. Young's research is highly integrative and his expertise spans single cell (and single organelle) evaluations, CNS nuclei interrogations, neural circuit interactions, and CNS-systems physiology relationships. Since joining the GW SMHS, Dr. Young's research program has been continuously funded by extramural National Institutes of Health (NIH) support. When Colin joined GWU he arrived with funding, an NIH R00 Pathway to Independence Award (2015-2018). In February of 2018, he received an R01 award from NIH NHLBI (PI; 2018-2023) that was scored at a very impressive third percentile on the first submission. He received funding for a second R01 project in October of 2018 from NIH NIDDK (PI; 2018-2023) which was also scored highly and funded on the first submission. Dr. Colin Young's publication record has been outstanding. Dr. Young's service to the University and National and International professional organizations has been outstanding. Dr. Young has been appointed to two Editorial Boards, including one as Associate Editor. He serves on many national committees, some in leadership positions. Dr. Young's service within the GWU community includes many time-demanding and essential committees such as the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), as well as being a member of the Curriculum Committee and Co-Director for the graduate program in Pharmacology and Physiology in the GWU Institute for Biomedical Sciences, as well as serving as a member of the SMHS Executive Committee. I enthusiastically, and without hesitation, support Dr. Colin Young's application for continued service as a member of the GWU SMHS Executive Committee. I have no doubt his will be a very valuable asset to the committee.

**Regular Faculty, Clinical Sciences (2)**

○ **Andrew Choi, Associate Professor, Medicine & Radiology (Self Nomination and nominated by William Borden, Robert Zeman, Anton Sidawy, and Maranda Ward)**

**Dr. Choi:** I currently serve as an elected member of the SMHS Executive Committee and would be honored to receive your vote to continue. I'm now completing my 18th year at GW including 9 on faculty, degrees from CCAS and SEAS and MD from SMHS dating back to 1999. We all continue to contribute to the best GW SMHS has to offer our community. At Executive Committee, I and we have worked to promote diversity, equity and inclusion within SMHS committee and chair search appointments, enhance medical center culture, prioritize the development and promotion of younger faculty and forge new collaborations across Medical, Health and Translational Sciences. There remain challenges in the clinical-academic interface, wellness, and navigating post pandemic changes. By adding age (younger), ethnic (Asians are underrepresented in SMHS leadership) and Radiology diversity, I have a desire to link my positive experiences to advance our shared GW goals in close collaboration with the faculty, Executive Committee, Senators and Deans. As Associate Professor of Medicine and Radiology, Co-Director of Multimodality Cardiac Imaging, I am also clinician in general cardiology with many of you in the trenches, lead complex lipid management, am mentor and teacher to diverse SMHS students and trainees (over 50% women, most

of whom have gone on to excellent academic training), collaborator and research scholar (over 200 abstracts and publications; faculty electee to AOA), national expert in artificial intelligence imaging, and leadership experience within GW (a GW rep to the AAMC Council of Faculty and Academic Societies, past member of Committee for Learning Environment, Dean Bass' Philanthropy Big Ideas Workshop, SMHS Diversity and Inclusion Council) and at the national societies (SCCT National Board, ACC).

**Dr. Borden:** Dr. Andrew Choi has had a long-standing commitment to GW, and is an exceptional physician, researcher and educator. He has been actively involved in supporting GW and the SMHS. He has been serving on the Executive Committee in a temporary basis, and has been an active contributor the discussions of the committee. Dr. Choi has done fantastic work and has a bright future as a leader within GW.

**Dr. Zeman:** Dr. Choi has served well on the Executive Committee, completing Dr. Jackson's term. He is well qualified to be elected in his own right. He is a rising star clinician scholar and educator and aligns well with the future of the organization.

**Dr. Sidawy:** I nominate Andrew Choi to continue service on the SMHS Executive Committee. He is a qualified leader and clinician-scholar who actively supports important goals for clinical, cultural, and diversity growth across SMHS, MFA and the University. He serves as a key clinical collaborator with our cardiac surgery program.

**Dr. Ward:** I would like to nominate Dr. Andrew Choi to the Executive Committee and I fully support his goals to create new leadership opportunities that advance diversity, equity and inclusivity, especially for younger physicians through this committee. It is through my personal experience as the SMHS Director of Equity in the Department of Clinical Research and Leadership and our recent direct collaborations in DEI leadership that I fully support Andrew. Over 50% of his student, resident and fellow mentees have been women, he participates in the selection and training of diverse residency and fellowship classes, he has led DEI education for the American College of Cardiology Mid-Atlantic serving over 2,500 cardiology professionals across the DC-MD-VA region, while previously serving on the SMHS Diversity and Inclusion Council at the invitation of Dean Haywood. He has also published on the differences in CAD between men and women as well as between Black and white patients. As such, he is a qualified candidate to serve as a representative to the Executive Committee.

- **Tenagne Haile-Mariam, Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine (Nominated by Janice Blanchard)**  
Dr. Tenagne Haile Mariam has been a dedicated member of the GW faculty for over 25 years. Prior to this, she was trainee at GW. She has a long-time commitment to the University and in particular is committed to diversity equity and inclusion. She is one of the best teachers in the Department. She is very invested in the future of the university.
- **Lynt Johnson, Professor, Surgery (Self-Nomination)**  
I am deeply interested in serving on the executive committee of George Washington University School of Medicine, leveraging my extensive experience and qualifications to advance the institution's mission and vision. With a honors academic background in Chemistry from Duke University, followed by an M.D. from Harvard Medical School, and an MBA from Auburn University Graduate School of Business, I bring a unique blend of medical expertise and administrative acumen to the table. Throughout my career, I have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusivity in both medical practice and academia. From my early academic appointments at Harvard Medical School to my current role as a Professor of Surgery at George Washington University School of Medicine, I have actively

advocated for underrepresented groups and fostered an inclusive environment where all voices are heard and valued. My efforts extend beyond the confines of the university, as evidenced by my involvement in numerous national and regional committees dedicated to advancing healthcare equity and access. Whether serving as a board member for organizations such as the Transplant Recipients International Organization or chairing sessions on minority health issues at prestigious conferences, I have consistently championed initiatives aimed at addressing disparities in healthcare delivery and outcomes. Furthermore, my leadership roles in hospital and administrative settings have provided me with invaluable experience in strategic planning, resource allocation, and team management. As the Executive Director of the Liver and Pancreas Institute for Quality at George Washington University Hospital, I have spearheaded initiatives to enhance patient care and streamline clinical operations, all while upholding the principles of diversity and inclusivity. In summary, my diverse background, combined with a proven track record of leadership and advocacy, uniquely qualifies me to contribute meaningfully to the executive committee of George Washington University School of Medicine. I am eager to collaborate with colleagues to further the institution's commitment to excellence, innovation, and social responsibility in medical education and research.

- **Sabyasachi Sen, Professor, Medicine (Self-Nomination)**

I have been a faculty at GW since Sept 2013. I am actively involved in clinical science, teaching to medical students and involved in basic and data science research in Biochemistry (my secondary appointment). I represent a clinician and basic scientist and I also represented the VA, which appears to be under-represented in the senate.

- **Khashayar Vaziri, Professor, Surgery (Nominated by Anton Sidawy)**

Dr. K. Vaziri is a senior surgical faculty and Director of our Surgery Residency program. He holds the academic rank of Professor of Surgery. He is most active clinically and runs the General Surgery research group. So he meets all three traditional pillars of academic life. In addition, working with a group of our faculty, he designed and implemented an intricate rubric to increase the diversity in our residents group. Since then we have been recruiting 1-2 diverse residents out of five categorical residents per year, a welcome change from only few years ago.

### **Regular Faculty, Health Sciences (1; cannot be from Clinical Research & Leadership)**

- **Marisa Birkmeier, Associate Professor, Health, Human Function & Rehabilitation Sciences (Self-Nomination)**

I have had the honor to serve on the Executive Committee for the past three years and am currently serving as the Chair. I am nominating myself to serve a second term on the Executive Committee. I have learned immensely from my colleagues from across SMHS through SMHS committee reports, Executive Committee discussions, and updates from Faculty Senators and Dean Bass. As the director in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program in the Department of Health, Human Function, and Rehabilitation Sciences (HHFR), I bring an important voice to a school-wide committee that represents all health sciences programs. My qualifications include: strong organizational skills, nimble and focused communication skills, clear understanding of the SMHS strategic plan, and professional collegiality. I have also promoted diversity, equity, and inclusivity in my work through utilization of SMHS resources on anti-racist teaching strategies and guidance from our HHFR Equity Director. I applied what I learned in my teaching by adapted patient cases to have inclusive language and inclusion of a land acknowledgement for each course in Blackboard. Additionally, I am guiding my faculty in our program level strategic plan which has a focus of incorporating more intentional threads associated with justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

## Spring 2024 Representatives to the University Faculty Senate

### *Two (2) non-tenure track faculty members, from a clinical department*

- **[Jeffrey Akman](#), (NTT), Professor and Chair, Psychiatry & Behavioral Health (Nominated by Yolanda Haywood)**  
Dr. Akman, MD, is nominated based on his long-serving tenure at the George Washington University, as a faculty member since 1984, his service as dean of the SMHS, and his current role as chair of the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Health. Dr. Akman is a proven leader who is in tune with the needs and values of SMHS faculty and will be an important and strong voice in the Faculty Senate should he be elected.
- **[Marie Borum](#), (NTT), Professor, Medicine and of Prevention & Community Health (Nominated by Yolanda Haywood)**  
Dr. Borum is professor of medicine and division director of gastroenterology. Her recent service on the faculty senate is characterized by her commitment to the importance of this role and her understanding of the need for a strong SMHS presence in this assembly. Dr. Borum has an outstanding record of clinical care, teaching, and scholarship all of which are punctuated by her interest in health equity.