

PRESIDENT-ELECT NOMINEE



Marlena Fox, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP

Dr. Marlena Fox is a graduate of the Medical University of South Carolina (2002-2006) and completed both her PGY-1 and PGY-2 Critical Care Residency at Shands at the University of Florida (2006-2008). After completing residency, she joined the team at Orlando Health Orlando Regional Medical Center (ORMC) as a clinical pharmacy specialist with the Critical Care Medicine service and has served in this position for 14 years. Dr. Fox is also the director of the PGY-2 Critical Care Pharmacy Residency Program at ORMC. She has been a member of SCCM since 2007 and has served on the SCCM Florida Chapter Board of Directors from 2020 to 2023. She also has been Chair of the Marketing/ Fundraising Committee and Chair of the Annual Symposium Planning Committee. She has enjoyed being an active member of the Florida Chapter and as President- Elect would like to continue to focus on growth and diversity of our membership and active engagement throughout the state.

PRESIDENT-ELECT NOMINEE



Steven Schwartz, MD

My name is Steve Schwartz and I am running for President Elect of the Florida Chapter. As a practicing Intensivist for over 23 years I bring a vast amount of experience to the table. I come from very strong systems in the State of Maryland as well as close to four years in Florida. As a proven leader I have trained residents, fellows, nurse practitioners and physician assistants. I have had the opportunity to function in both large teaching hospitals as well as small community hospitals. My platform will be building a bridge between both and developing an ICU without borders where we all can learn from each other in all aspects of Critical Care Medicine.

TREASURER NOMINEE



Melissa Levesque, PharmD

My name is Melissa Levesque, a clinical pharmacist at Tampa General Hospital, and I am interested in continuing in the role of Treasurer for the Society of Critical Care Medicine, Florida Chapter. As one of the founding members of the SCCM Florida Chapter in 2017 I had the privilege to serve as our first Treasurer until 2019. Additionally, I am currently serving as the interim Treasurer, a role I volunteered for when the position was unexpectedly open in July 2022. In addition to the Treasurer role, I continue to contribute to the Marketing/Fundraising and Symposium Planning committees that promote awareness and engagement with the chapter across the state. Beyond my involvement with SCCM, I have also been a member of the Neurocritical Care Society since 2007 where I participated in several multi-center research projects and have been published in both the Neurocritical Care Journal and the society's quarterly newsletter.

After receiving my Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Florida College of Pharmacy in 2003, I went on to complete an ASHP-accredited pharmacy practice residency at Memorial Health University Medical Center in Savannah, GA. Since then, I have been a clinical pharmacist at Tampa General Hospital as a member of the Neuroscience healthcare teams. My practice area includes direct provision of pharmaceutical care services for patients in the Neuroscience intensive care unit and daily rounds with the Neurocritical care interdisciplinary team. I also enjoy volunteering my time as a preceptor with the pharmacy residency training program at TGH, where I focus on both PGY-1 and PGY-2 residents throughout the year. In addition, I am an active member of our residency advisory council and sit the teaching subcommittee.

My previous and current experience as Treasurer for the Florida Chapter along with my interprofessional collaboration through Neurocritical Care Society make me an excellent candidate for this position. I am detail oriented, organized, and have maintained accurate records while holding the Treasurer position. I have basic Microsoft Excel skills and am versed in the financial responsibilities of a nonprofit organization, including maintaining a financial report and IRS filings. In addition, I have advanced our chapter's ability to utilize digital based payment software and have worked with our Marketing/Fundraising committee to incorporate the sale of merchandise via our website. I hope you will consider me to continue to serve as your Treasurer. Thank you so much for your time.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEE



Krishna Aparanji, MD, CPE, FCCM

I am writing this statement in support of my nomination for a position on the board of directors for the Society of Critical Care Medicine's Florida chapter. I serve as medical director for the medical and surgical ICU (Intensive Care Units) in Winter Garden, FL, and as FCCS (Fundamental Critical Care Support) Medical Director for Advent Health System. After my fellowship in Critical Care Medicine, I worked for ten years in critical Care in Illinois and engaged myself in the SCCM's missions, such as FCCS, Thrive collaborative, and Midwest Chapter activities. I am board certified in Internal Medicine, Critical Care, Geriatrics, and neuro Critical Care, and I work in various ICUs within the Advent Health system.

Serving as FCCS director in 20 courses and then as a consultant in 2 international courses helped central Illinois facilities to maintain Leapfrog standards from staffing standards in the ICUs and improve the quality of training in critical Care in international sites. We even incorporated the FCCS course into the Midwest Chapter as an annual event that benefits multiple providers from various disciplines and creates future leaders.

The Thrive Collaborative is another notable example of how a network of multiple organizations can come together and share different strategies that help various other organizations learn and develop their programs locally for critical care leaders that eventually translates into high-quality post-ICU Care. My site was one of the first few sites for Thrive collaborative in the United States. We were able to publish and present our data at the SCCM. Because of my contribution, I was named one of the founding fathers of CAIRO (critical and acute illness recovery organization). This initiative, which started as a small site and eventually became an example for others to learn from, inspired and motivated me to be more engaged with SCCM and lead such multidisciplinary activities.

Being involved from the inception of the Midwest chapter of his SCCM (serving as vice chair and chair of the communications committee), I have appreciated sharing knowledge and disseminating innovative ideas and practices through the collaboration of critical care teams through research and education, leading to the nurturing of future leaders in Critical Care.

Having been involved in various above-mentioned SCCM initiatives, I would like to continue to guide and support various activities that foster networking, excellence in critical Care, and creating future leaders.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEE

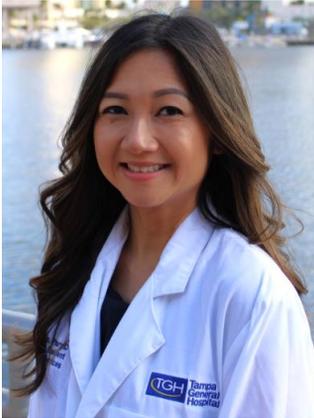


K. Leslie Avery MD, JD, MBA

I have been a pediatric intensivist for the last 16 years at four different institutions, including two large academic medical centers and one large for-profit health care system. I completed medical school at Yale University and residency and fellowship training at the Children's Hospital of Oakland and University of California at San Francisco. I have served as a PICU medical director for the last 13 years, and Division Chief for the last nine years in my present role at UF Health Shands Children's Hospital. Throughout my career, I have been an active participant in multi-center research and institutional education of trainees at all levels.

As a board member for the Florida Chapter of the SCCM, I would be pleased to promote committee member growth, networking opportunities for research and education, and inter-institutional collaboration for research and quality projects

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEE



Uyen Diep, PharmD, BCCCP

Hello, my name is Uyen Diep, and I received my Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Florida in 2014. I completed my PGY1 and PGY2 critical care pharmacy residency at Tampa General Hospital (TGH). I continued my career after residency at TGH covering different critical care areas including trauma, neuroscience, cardiothoracic, medical/surgical, and COVID19. Currently, I am the critical care clinical pharmacist for the Medical ICU at TGH. I am involved in multiple committees including code blue response, clinical optimization, and nutrition support group. In addition, I am a preceptor for the PGY1 and PGY2 critical care pharmacy residents. Nationally, I am involved with the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) CPP research and scholarship committee and membership committee. Some charges I have been involved with include virtual new member orientation, improving social media engagement (focus on Twitter), and providing pre-peer review research services. I have been involved with the SCCM Florida chapter and previously served on the Board of Directors and was the membership chair. As membership chair, we created the membership newsletter, welcome pamphlet, and creative ways to highlight advancements in critical care achieved by our members. Witnessing the growth of this chapter has been a rewarding experience. The membership engagement and innovative collaborative opportunities in the chapter motivate me to join the board of directors for this upcoming term. I am excited to contribute to the innovative visions for the future of the chapter, provide new ideas (utilizing social media), and supporting ongoing initiatives within each region of Florida.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEE



Arnaldo Lopez-Ruiz, MD

My name is Arnaldo Lopez Ruiz, I am a physician working in the Department of Critical Care at Advent Health in Orlando FL. I am a core faculty of the Critical Care Medicine (CCM) fellowship program at Advent Health and I serve as director for critical care research in the fellowship program. I am currently board certify by ABIM in Internal Medicine, Nephrology, Critical Care Medicine and Neurocritical Care. I have a deep interest and several peer review clinical and translational research publications/abstracts in the field of Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) in the context of advanced cirrhosis, shock, or acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). I am applying for the open position in the Board of Directors for the Florida Chapter of SCCM. My goals in this position will be: a) to motivate medical students, IM residents and CCM fellows to participate in the FL Chapter meeting as well as in the other regular academics activities organized by the FL Chapter, b) to recruit and create a group of critical care physicians interested in critical care research in the state of Florida and c) to actively collaborate and support the academic activities of the FL Chapter during these 3 years of the position.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEE



Mehul Patel, MD

Hello, while being a Florida native, I completed most of my medical training in Rochester, New York. I have a strong interest in quality improvement within healthcare and am currently director of critical care quality improvement at Adventhealth Orlando. As a board member, I hope to expand our reach in Florida while keeping connectivity amongst the growing group at the forefront. I hope to also share my knowledge regarding critical care quality outcomes with the members of the chapter, as we all strive to improve upon the care we deliver.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEE



Radhames Ramos De Oleo, MD, MPH, MBA, FACP

Born in the Dominican Republic where I went to medical school. I trained in Internal Medicine at Woodhull Medical Center (Brooklyn, NY) and after this residency I worked as a Hospitalist/Faculty at Nassau University Medical Center (East Meadow, NY) where I helped develop and update the evaluation format for their Internal Medicine Residency Program to comply with the new Milestones format; at the same time I served at different committees: Flow, Pharmacy and Therapeutics, as well as the Chair of the Code Committee, while a full time hospitalist I completed a dual Masters in Public Health and Business Administration at Benedictine University (Lisle, IL). Interested in other areas of medicine, I completed a Fellowship in Nephrology at New York Medical College-Metropolitan (New York, NY) and Critical Care at Maimonides Medical Center (Brooklyn, NY), then moved to Florida.

I was volunteer faculty for UCF School of Medicine for their Internal Medicine Program at Ocala Regional Medical Center, there I was involved in teaching residents of 4 different specialists during rounds, lectures, and developing content for their ICU rotations. During the COVID pandemic I was involved in developing strategies to help ICU staff to diminish contamination during patient care as well as working closely with leadership, for which I was awarded the Physician of the Quarter during the last Quarter of 2020. Currently I work as full time Intensivist and Faculty at Orlando Regional Medical Center in the role of Assistant Professor for FSU-COM.

I have worked very closely with the Florida Chapter of SCCM. I served as Chair of Education for the 2021-2022 period and was faculty for the MCCR (Board Review) in Orlando, FL. I am a member of several societies: ASN, ACP (Fellow Member), and of course, SCCM.

I really want to continue helping the Florida chapter of SCCM by serving on the Board of Directors, I think I can bring experience, enthusiasm and a clear record of service. Thank you for the consideration.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEE



Anthony “Tony” Sochet, MD, MSc

Dr. Anthony Sochet was on the Board of Directors for the SCCM Florida Chapter from 2019-2020 before being elected and serving as the President from 2020-2023. Since 2016, Dr. Sochet is an Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine at John Hopkins University working at Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital in St. Petersburg, FL. He graduated from the University of Florida (Gainesville) in 2006, obtained his doctorate of Medicine from The Florida State University (Tallahassee) in 2010, completed pediatric residency at the University of South Florida (Tampa) in 2013, completed a fellowship in pediatric critical care medicine at Children’s National Medicine Center (Washington, DC) in 2016, and obtained a masters in Clinical and Translational Sciences from The George Washington University (Washington, DC) in 2016. His career is that of a clinician scientist and educator including funded research projects and supporting / leading multicenter trials in pediatric critical care medicine.

During his time in the leadership of the SCCM FL Chapter, Dr. Sochet started and continues to manage the Bi-monthly Scholarship in Progress Webinar, organized the National Pediatric Critical Care Medicine Board Review Course (St. Petersburg, FL) to be hosted by the Chapter and assisted with the Adult Review Course (Orlando, FL), and assisted with annual business events, regional conferences, and other engagements for the chapter. He has enjoyed actively participating in several of the subcommittees. His experience in the chapter leadership will serve well on the Board of Directors as the chapter continues to expand and grow. His goals would be to develop research networks through the chapter, continue to support regional networking events, and expand upon the annual symposium. He would like to see the chapter improve membership engagement from physician members (a large majority of the membership) without losing its multidisciplinary leadership and membership (the most engaged members) in the spirit of team science.