

Personal Statement for Yaniv Bar-Cohen:

A lot has changed in the short time since I accepted the nomination to run for the Vice President for Administration of PACES. Those changes have given me an opportunity to re-evaluate why I would want to serve in this position for the coming years when there are clearly many challenges to face. When I had run for the three-year position of Vice President, President and Immediate Past President of the Faculty of the University of Southern California, my home university, I was not yet aware of the troubled times my university would face during my term. So as my USC term is about to end and I look at the tremendous challenges our world currently faces, I ask myself whether I want to serve in another elected position when this time, I already have the warning that troubled times are ahead.

But I am indeed still compelled to serve in the VP of Administration position, perhaps even more so now. I believe that the philosophy and style that have allowed me to work through the turbulence at USC over the last few years would serve our PACES community in the times ahead. More than anything, I believe that unity is the key for making progress. Not just a unity within one team against another but a unity where strong partnerships with all stakeholders are viewed as the key to success for everyone.

There are many challenges that we will face in medicine in general and in our EP subspecialty specifically, both in the short term of dealing with the catastrophic outcomes of COVID-19 and the longer term as the economy and medicine adjust to the consequences of the vast disruptions ahead. But as we navigate those challenges, we must continue the immense progress PACES has already made in recent years: the working and writing groups around specific issues in our field, the momentum of the Emerging Leaders group in advancing the careers of our junior members, the progress in bringing together our international community, and the partnerships we have formed with the other societies (perhaps most importantly HRS).

I believe that the experiences I have had working with PACES over the years (including work on catheter ablation guidelines as well as EP training guidelines, tackling work force issues in our field, and collaborating with industry and the FDA in moving pediatric EP medical devices forward) allow me to understand the workings and potential of PACES. Through my experience as the Director and Principal Investigator of the Consortium for Technology and Innovation in Pediatrics (an-FDA funded Pediatric Device Consortium), I have learned the importance of building strong networks across many stakeholders. And lastly, many of the issues I tackled as President of nearly 8,000 faculty members are germane to any academic community (including our PACES community): issues like diversity, equity and inclusion (the work we still have ahead is perhaps reflected in this all-male ballot), improving the engagement of and communication with our members (something Dr. Maully Shah has done spectacularly throughout her term), and ultimately working towards the excellence of our field (both in how we serve our patients and each other and bolstering the scholarship that we create). Working together, I believe that we will continue to thrive.

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