

Thank you for your time and attention to learn about each of us as you consider our candidacy for Division 19 President. Becoming your president would be a tremendous honor, representing the culmination of 23 years of service as an active-duty military psychologist.

First, a bit about me - I am currently stationed at headquarters for Navy Medicine, where I served as the Director of Mental Health for the Navy, leading policy development and program evaluation for the full continuum of mental health services for the Navy and Marine Corps, from accession to separation for all Service members. In 2021, I was asked to “fleet up” and lead all Medical Operations enterprise-wide, in charge of not only Mental Health but several other areas of policy and programs during the most challenging of times, including overseeing COVID-19 contingency response for the military and support for civilian organizations. In previous assignments, I have worked closely with multiple government agencies, within many international and military cultures, and with psychologists from different specialties. At the Marine Corps Embassy Security Group, I worked with military and State Department personnel at 180 embassies and consulates across six continents. I completed tours of duty in the Middle East, Far East, and Europe, frequently collaborating with local resources. I served as an aeromedical psychologist, and became adept at working with various psychology disciplines in human factors and performance. Finally, as an aircraft carrier psychologist, I worked proactively to build connections with individuals and their leaders from all backgrounds, ranks, and occupations, and under great stress! These assignments prepared me well for leading as Division 19 President.

I am grateful for the support the Division provided throughout my career. I joined Division 19 in the early 2000’s, chaired the Clinical Practice Committee, was elected Member at Large, and worked closely with the Executive Committee. I was asked to chair the inaugural Advocacy Summit, and served as a mentor for the Society Leadership Program. I want to serve as President to give back and pay forward the opportunities and experiences I have enjoyed.

If elected, my top priorities include increasing engagement, improving collaboration with other Divisions, and advocating for our professional identity. Our strength as a Division is that we come together in crisis; I hope to advance active involvement as we return to a more face-to-face, post-COVID world. Consistent with APA leadership, I seek to create an inclusive community for all. I want to establish opportunities for mentorship and collaboration across disciplines, which I see as key for development as psychologists, and can result in our greater impact across APA. I am also very attentive to work/life balance and issues of burn out expressed by many members. As scientist-practitioners, I will advocate that our rigorous training and experiences are highlighted in order to advance our leadership and supervisory roles as psychologists.

Thank you again for your consideration. My extensive clinical, operational, and leadership experience are a great asset for our community. I look forward to working with you!