



2025 Board of Directors Nomination

Nomination submission for:

Vice President, Scientific Affairs (one position)

Nominee Identification Information

Name Nathaniel Schuster

Please list your credentials, i.e., MD, MPH, PhD, etc. MD

How Many Years Have You Been an AAPM Member? 8

How long have you held your current volunteer position? 1

What is your total experience in the field of pain medicine? 8

Employment & Practice Information

Type of Organization (select one) Academic

Organization UC San Diego Center for Pain Medicine

1. In what areas of Pain Medicine do you practice?

Pain Medicine Neurology/Neuropathic Pain

Interventional Chronic Pain Research

Spine and Pain Management

2. Indicate your specialty of origin. Neurology

3. Indicate your percentage of time practicing Pain Medicine & specialty of origin.

Pain Medicine: 100%

Specialty of Origin: 0%

4. Employment Experience: Please provide a 30- to 50-word summary of your work experience. (If you are retired, please describe the work that you did during the time you were employed.)

After completing fellowship in 2017 I started on faculty at the UC San Diego Center for Pain Medicine, Department of Anesthesiology.

AAPM Strategy



The above image is a diagram of AAPM's current strategic plan. The following three nomination questions will refer to the above image.

1. The Academy has focused on Convene, Educate Providers, Research, and Access Advocacy. The Board of Directors leads our strategic planning and formation of annual strategic objectives. Based on the above plan, your professional experiences, and experiences with the Academy, what suggestions would you make to move the Academy forward? Please keep comments to 300 - 500 words.

I was approached by Farshad Ahadian about this role. As a member of the AAPM Board of Directors, I have been active in grant writing and brainstorming about pursuing large grants that will advance pain research and educate providers, payors, policymakers, patients, and the public.

I have been actively involved in AAPM's journal, annual meetings, publications, and grant applications. Additionally, as an active member of multiple medical societies, I will continue to build bridges and encourage collaboration and synergy between AAPM and other relevant organizations.

My clinical care, ongoing research, and publications span the full spectrum of multidisciplinary care, from interventional pain procedures to pain psychology to pharmacotherapy and complementary and integrative medicine. This includes twice winning top abstract awards for research on pain psychology presented at AAPM 2020 Annual Meeting and research on cannabinoids for acute migraine presented at AAPM 2024 Annual Meeting.

2. What is your professional vision for the future of Pain Medicine?

Multidisciplinary pain care via the biopsychosocial model with novel interventional, psychological, rehabilitation, pharmacological, and CIM treatments advancing the field. Advocacy by and on behalf of clinicians to preserve the clinician-patient relationship and decrease barriers to safe, effective, patient-centric care.

3. Why would you like to serve on the AAPM Board of Directors? (30-50 word limit)

I've enjoyed this year serving on the AAPM Board of Directors and as AAPM's representative to the Multisociety Pain Workgroup for its forthcoming Sacroiliac Joint Guidelines. AAPM's mission and future success is important to me and I look forward to continuing to serve the Academy.

Qualifications to Serve on the AAPM Board of Directors

1. How has AAPM Membership brought value to your career?

My active involvement in AAPM began via its journal, Pain Medicine when I approached former AAPM president and Pain Medicine editor-in-chief Mac Gallagher about starting a Teaching Images section in the journal to provide clinically-relevant educational content for its readers and publication opportunities for trainees. He graciously accepted this idea. Through my involvement in AAPM I served on its journal's editorial board, spoke at its meetings, and published peer-reviewed articles.

2. List significant leadership commitment and involvement within the field of Pain Medicine.

Organization	Type	Leadership Position	Duration
AAPM	Board	Director-at-large	1 year
IPSI	Committee	Vice Chair, Guidelines Committee	3 years
ASRA Pain Medicine	Committee	Chair, Headache SIG	2 years
World Headache Society	Board	Vice President	3 years
American Academy of Neurology	Annual Meeting	Pain Topic Chair	3 years
IPSI	Annual Meeting	Planning Committee	3 years
Pain Medicine Journal	Editorial Board	Neuropathic Pain Section Editor	4 years
Pain Medicine Journal	Editorial Board	Teaching Images Co-Section Editor	6 years

3. After reviewing the AAPM Strategic Plan, what abilities and attributes will you bring to the Board of Directors' strategic deliberations?

I bring to AAPM discussions both experience from within AAPM as well as experiences from other medical societies to inform our strategic deliberations.

4. Describe one transformational/defining experience in your professional life you have been involved with and what you learned from the experience.

During my first year as an assistant professor at UCSD I wrote and received a grant to conduct the first placebo-controlled RCT of cannabinoids for acute migraine. This has been a transformational/defining experience for me. The lessons I learned with regards to grant writing, clinical trial design and implementation, FDA and other regulatory body interactions, and more from serving as principal investigator on this study have taught me so much about the hard work that goes into performing rigorous clinical trials and just how rewarding research can be.

5. Is there anything else you would like the AAPM Nominating Committee to know about you that has not been stated previously?

No

I hereby give permission to the AAPM Nominating Committee to contact me, print my Candidate Nomination Profil and Statement, and consider me for nomination to the AAPM Board of Directors on the official AAPM 2025-2026 Election Ballot.

By signing below, I confirm that I have read the AAPM Board of Directors expectations and duties on the 2025 Call for Board Nominations page on painmed.org.

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Smith", with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.