



## 2025 Board of Directors Nomination

Nomination submission for:

President-Elect (one position)

### Nominee Identification Information

Name Sayed Emal Wahezi

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? 15

### Employment & Practice Information

Type of Organization (select one) Academic

Organization Montefiore Multidisciplinary Pain Program

1. In what areas of Pain Medicine do you practice? Pain Medicine PM&R Interventional Chronic Pain Research Spine and Pain Management

2. Indicate your specialty of origin. Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

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

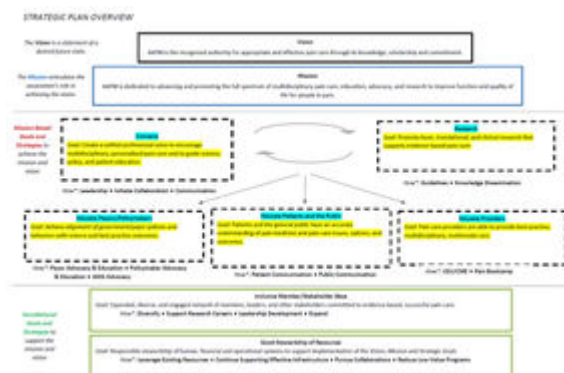
Pain Medicine: 90

Specialty of Origin: 10

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.)

Professor and Program Director, Pain Medicine Fellowship

## 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 believe that the only way to achieve sustained growth in our field is to unify the groups that directly, or indirectly, treat patients in chronic pain.

I believe that the first step in this unification is to access leadership in the ACGME and demonstrate that our current pain educational system requires fortification. Suggestions for this improvement may be to increase the fellowship timeline or begin the formation of pain medicine residencies. Our current evidence-based suggest that increasing fellowship length may decrease enrollment of quality applicants, so residency may be best. A stand-alone specialty can capture the attention of medical researchers, providers, and will likely improve political viability of pain medicine.. Within inception of better educational foundation, this will lead to better science, improved visibility within the medical community, and stronger pain Society based influence when dealing with the AMA for guideline declarations and payment policies. I understand that this is not a short-term process, but I have never been a short-term thinker. The current state of her union is fractured, and is navigated by groups but do not necessarily consider the long-term interest of pain medicine. On the other hand, a specialty based society, will have the ability to direct it iinto the future rather than having others steer it.

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

Pain Medicine to become its own specialty

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

To provide direction and leadership towards organizing a union of the multivariate subspecialists who practice Pain medicine

## Qualifications to Serve on the AAPM Board of Directors

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

Understanding different philosophies and pairing with like minded passionate leaders.

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

| Organization | Type    | Leadership Position | Duration |
|--------------|---------|---------------------|----------|
| APPD         | Society | Pain                | 1        |

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

Leadership  
Insight from trainee and PMR perspective  
Insight from PD perspective

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

I presented an idea to my Chair, which would have transformed Pain medicine and PMR. This was an idea that was approved by the ABPMR, our DIO, and PMR program director. However, when I presented the idea to my Chair was angered, offended, and vilified me in front of colleagues for the idea and plan. I understood then that when the pursuits of one threaten the legacy of another there may be harsh consequences. I learned to understand that ideas can only be executed with careful consideration of the egos that have to support it.

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

Happiness coexists with purpose.  
My purpose is to be a father, husband, a professional leader, and an innovator.

I do have 3 issued patents in the Neuromodulation space which I have created in an effort to merge the various subspecialties in Pain medicine.

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](http://painmed.org).

**Signature**

