

Peter Aziz



April 1, 2022

Dear PACES membership,

I write this letter to solicit your advocacy as a candidate for PACES Vice President of Research. I have been an active member of PACES since my training days and I believe deeply in its mission. The research support provided by PACES has been particularly important in my career and I am committed to having a more integral role in the development of this critical arm of PACES as we position ourselves for success as an international organization.

Most importantly, the position of PACES VP of Research requires a member intimately engaged in PACES volunteerism. With positions on the Finance Committee, Writing Committee and Research Committee, I have gained an understanding of the mission and organizational operations of the Society. In 2019, I was elected to Chair of the GRAD (Guideline Review and Development Committee) and have served in this capacity since. Participation in this committee has brought me in a close working environment with our PACES Executive Committee members. We have been in charge of reviewing and endorsing documents on behalf of the PACES organization. Since my participation as Chair on this committee, we have reviewed over 10 documents ranging from guideline statements, consensus documents and educational material. This committee has been integral in exposing the research piece of PACES membership to an international stage. This experience has provided first-hand insight into the role PACES plays in developing research for our members and the importance of liaising with other organizations to elevate our brand and achieve our organizational mission. I look forward to continued participation in PACES as we emerge from our mostly virtual platform and out of pandemic restrictions.

Reflecting on the research arm of PACES and the trajectory that has brought our organization to where we are today, it is evident that alignment with the community and with academic societies is critical to our success in the future. Great leaders in research have raised the academic reputation of

PACES. I applaud the founding of the pre-PACES research meeting and have watched first-hand how this subset of PACES has grown over years. I know I speak for the membership at large when I marvel at the support Heart Rhythm Society has provided our organization. To be lauded as the journal of PACES reflects our deep footprint in the academic landscape. While we all are indebted to leaders past and present for these tremendous achievements, we are well positioned now to take these tremendous successes in our history to the next level.

Through participation and engagement, PACES members have advocated for our mission. Heart Rhythm Society has welcomed committee volunteerism and many of our members populate the board rooms and zoom meetings that drive Heart Rhythm's plight. I too have found participation in Heart Rhythm to be particularly useful. It is our "vote" in the academic scene and it is imperative that leadership in PACES, through research and otherwise, continue to push membership and representation. HRS now expects that we participate. It will be my mission as PACES VP of Research, and a member of the Executive Committee, to ensure that our engagement is effective and productive. It is time to engage PACES membership at all levels in the HRS landscape.

Of course, many other avenues exist for engagement. Though HRS is the "prize" in many ways, we should not forget the importance of community based organizations as well. SADS, for example, has been the bridge connecting our patients and communities to the experts in pediatrics that manage inherited arrhythmia disorders. Having served on SADS committees for over ten years, I expect these relationships, and our impact on population health, to improve during my term as VP, if afforded the opportunity.

PACES has always been an incredible asset in my career. The research infrastructure has allowed collaboration that would have been otherwise unimaginable. We are constricted as pediatric providers by small patient volume and, therefore, limited research impact. PACES has effectively removed those barriers by bringing us together. Most importantly, PACES has allowed all of us to develop personal relationships out of the common thread of perfecting the management of pediatric and adult congenital patients suffering from arrhythmia disorders. An opportunity to create and solidify these connections, both academic and personal, is what motivates me personally to run for PACES leadership. I sincerely hope that you advocate for my candidacy and I deeply appreciate your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me personally about molding our shared vision for PACES.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P. Aziz', is positioned above the typed name.

Peter F. Aziz, MD, FHRS

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