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ABRF Executive Board Election Statement

Bio

I have been the Director of the Physical Biochemistry Facility (PBF) in the Institute of Molecular Biophysics at Florida State University for the almost 14 years. As director of the FSU Biophysics Core Facility, I focus on bringing cutting edge research technology to the FSU research community through major equipment grants and collaboration with scientific equipment vendors and suppliers. I hold a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from West Virginia University. It was during my graduate studies that I appreciated the critical role played by shared resources in the research ecosystem. Although our research group was small, we had access to a vast network of core facilities that made it possible for us to be productive and meet our research goals. I knew I wanted a career that was at the intersection of science research, policy and business management. A career in core facility management allowed to develop and apply myself in scientific research, management and policy issues around science. My interest in core research facility management led me to study business administration at FSU where I graduated with an MBA. I focused on business administration as it pertained to management of research resources. As a result, I initiated, designed and led a team that implemented an *Equipment Management Platform* at Florida State University for which I received an Innovator Award from the Office of Research Commercialization. In 2017, the equipment sharing platform won a Florida statewide award for its efficiency and cost saving capabilities. Students, researchers and administrators can search, locate and access any equipment on campus.

My career in the core facility management has been enriched by mentoring opportunities from colleagues who have extensive experience in this field. I was fortunate to receive a Professional Development Fellowship from Florida State University that afforded me the opportunity to spend a mini-sabbatical studying core research facility operations and management at both Oregon Health and Science University and Portland State University. I also have been funded twice by the Carnegie Corporation of NY and Institute of International Education to spend time and collaborate with Universities in Africa in developing their core research facilities.

Since joining ABRF in 2011, I have served on ABRF committees and I have been a recipient of the ABRF Outstanding Scientist Travel Award. I currently serve as the co-chair of the ABRF Membership Committee where I have had to opportunity to recruit new members and engage current members. I am also a member of the ABRF Career Development Committee (CDC) where we have successfully initiated and established a mentoring program aimed at those who work in core facilities. I belong to the Southeast Association of Shared Resources (SEASR) where I am also an Executive Committee Member. ABRF regional and international chapters play a critical role in enhancing careers of core facility personnel by making it possible for members attend meetings closer to where they work. In 2016, I was honored by the Midwest Association of Core Directors (MWACD) as their Keynote speaker at their annual meeting.

Vision statement:

Maintaining the high enthusiasm and outstanding professional development available through ABRF as well as boosting membership are the main motivators for my interest in serving as an Executive Board Member. I have had the unique opportunity to welcome new ABRF members through the New Member Networking sessions and gain insights into their reasons for joining ABRF. Top on their motivation to become members of the ABRF are two key benefits: networking and professional development opportunities. The ABRF Membership and Career Development Committees have implemented programs to: (i) boost recruitment of new members, (ii) engage and retain existing members and, (iii) enhance professional development of members. These are some of the initiatives for which I would like to assure support.

In addition to supporting these initiatives, I would like to engage with other organizations to promote the role of core labs. For instance, one of the major goals of the NIH is to maximize accessibility of shared resources. To achieve this goal, I would like to support ongoing initiatives towards a searchable database of core research facilities. The NIH is also engaged in an effort to review funding mechanisms for equipment to ensure optimum utilization throughout its lifecycle. I also envision working collaboratively with major original equipment manufacturers on service contracts. It is through these collaborative partnerships that enduring solutions about optimization of research resources can be achieved.

As we continue to build a network of core facilities we will also strengthen the network of the staff managing and working within the facilities. My vision is to broaden the membership of ABRF to include students, postdocs and technicians who spend a considerable amount of their research efforts in the core facilities. We would like to make the careers in core facilities as desirable and competitive as other traditional career options through professional development and leadership training of shared resource personnel. The ability to publish new methods and practices not only strengthens our careers but it also provides a verifiable communication channel to disseminate best practices. I would like to continue to champion the efforts by the editorial board of the Journal of Biomolecular Resource Facilities (JBTF) to be a preferred publication for our members. The ABRF, through its committees and RGs, is working innovatively towards meeting and exceeding its goals. I look forward to be a catalyst in these efforts.

I am also mindful of the fact that a significant number of our membership will be retiring in the coming few years. With their retirement, the scientific community will lose invaluable knowledge in core facilities management. Through the ABRF, I envision mechanisms and programs to keep our long serving members engaged through the Ambassador programs and as expert consultants at institutions that

are building their shared research facility ecosystem. This initiative will ensure that we continue to provide benefits to our longstanding members even as we increase our efforts to recruit new members.

With the NIH's renewed efforts towards diversifying the medical workforce, ABRF can take an active role by boosting its efforts at engaging under-recruited populations into its membership. I will support strengthening the ABRF-MARC program and participation at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS).

I feel that the ABRF can strengthen the bonds and network of its various chapters and international affiliates through leadership development by encouraging chapter members to actively participate in the various ABRF committees and RGs. I serve on the Executive Committee of the South-East Association of Shared Resources (SEASR). I want to continue to strengthen the bonds between SEASR and ABRF so that the issues affecting core facility personnel are addressed at the both the local and national levels.

My vision is to cement the gains we have made in providing real benefits for ABRF members and - through continuous innovation – provide even greater benefits and grow the membership. We will achieve this goal through collaboration with a broad spectrum of stakeholders.