We Are the Future of Endocrinology

Sina Jasim, MD, MPH • AACE Fellow-in-Training Board of Directors Representative

It is my honor and privilege to be named the 2016-2017 Fellow-in-Training Representative to the AACE Board of Directors. I am thankful to those who voted for me, and I enjoyed meeting many of you at the recent AACE Annual Meeting in Orlando. I’d like to thank AACE’s Past Presidents and the current President, Dr. Camacho, and the many others who made the Fellows-in-Training Luncheon a wonderful experience filled with education, and brilliant musical talents.

Since I joined fellowship, I became a member of AACE and started to actively participate in the regional meetings, including AACE Midwest local chapter activities. It wasn’t until I attended Endocrine University® at Mayo Clinic that I learned how AACE is involved in clinical education for endocrinologists and is at the cutting edge with regard to knowledge in the field. It was a privilege to meet and work with Dr. Hossein Gharib and Dr. Daniel Hurley, who encouraged and supported my passion to play a more active role in AACE, and my fellowship program director, who supported my application.

I’d like to congratulate my predecessor, Dr. Heather Huribal, on a great job and wish the best of luck to the graduating fellows, and extend a warm welcome to the incoming first-year fellows. Keep up with the hard work, enjoy your time in fellowship and embrace your ongoing training with passion and insight for a bright future.

Just to fill you in, a little about my background.

I completed my residency in Saint Louis University, where I also studied Public Health/ Epidemiology. I joined the world-renowned Mayo Clinic for my fellowship training, which has undoubtedly enriched my experience. I’m beginning my third-year in fellowship and looking forward to another great year.

I am currently involved in clinical trials within the field of endocrine cancer at Mayo Clinic during my research year. I am interested in clinical research and learned a great deal about conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses while working with the evidence-based medicine department. It is a humbling experience and great to feel that we, as fellows-in-training, can contribute to the science. It has been wonderful to participate in great national meetings like Endocrine Society, the American Thyroid Association and the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists. I believe endocrinology trainees have a great role to impact the field and move it forward.

I have traveled and relocated many times in my life. I’m familiar with healthcare in Iraq, practiced within different healthcare systems in the U.S., and briefly practiced medicine in Bwindi, Uganda, as part of volunteer work during fellowship, where I tried to make an impact by teaching the staff about diabetes outpatient and inpatient management. I helped enhance hospital protocol for managing emergencies like diabetes ketoacidosis with limited resources. Over the years, I have developed a broader perspective of clinical care on multinational and multicultural levels.

Endocrinology is a broad and fascinating field. With multiple avenues to pursue, the sky is truly the limit. This is the time to take opportunities to learn and acquire the necessary skills to enhance personal and academic development. I think this can certainly start at the training program level, but broader involvement and investing in professional societies like AACE can shape and crystallize those skills.

I would like to be a strong advocate for endocrinology and its future – us. I am interested in educational programs that take into consideration the changing health care climate and ensure services to underprivileged. Research, education, and patient care is the holy triangle of our field and I encourage all of you to advocate for appropriate reforms that keep the patient the center of attention.

We have to share and discuss the strengths and challenges we face in multiple aspects of our life, including life-work balance, professional advancement, leadership roles, and perhaps financial factors. I see a role of addressing this and my goal is to keep the discussion going to create a better environment to enhance professional success, attract more trainees and provide strong mentorship for career advancement in assuming leadership roles for all trainees.

AACE is investing in endocrinology trainees’ education and success. Many resources are available to us during fellowship and I encourage you to join AACE. It does not cost you to join and the benefits are tremendous. Some available resources include board review courses, journals access, self-assessment programs, AACE mentorship programs, travel grants, and the Endocrine University® course at Mayo Clinic.

We are the future of endocrinology, and getting involved with professional societies such as AACE at this stage in our careers will provide all the support needed to navigate through the varied legislative and political issues that influence our practice. Getting involved with AACE helps to build networking opportunities.

My immediate goal is to reach out to all fellows-in-training. My goal during the year is to support and encourage more endocrine trainees to participate in local AACE chapter meetings and join AACE. My professional vision is to think of the bigger picture to support the field.

I am excited to be in this new position as Fellow-in-Training Representative to the AACE Board of Directors this year. I am sure I will learn a great deal. I want to be your voice, and I am relying on you, my co-fellows, to keep me abreast so that our voice can be heard. Reach
out to me with ideas, suggestions, concerns and changes/innovations you would like to see in your training or within AACE. The opportunities are limitless.

Please do not hesitate to e-mail me or send me a message through our shared group on Facebook. I am looking forward to meeting many of you at the next Endocrine University® at Mayo Clinic.

I’m looking forward to a great year working with all of you.

Contact me!

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