



## **2020 SRS Board of Directors Candidate**

**David Raizen, MD, PhD**



My wish to serve on the Sleep Research Society (SRS) as of Director-at-Large stems from my passion for excellence in scientific research, for nurturing the next generation of sleep scientists, and for increasing sleep science literacy among physicians, scientists, and lay people. I am a physician scientist trained in neurology with a deep interest in understanding behavior in health and disease. My current chief clinical interest is in understanding biological mechanisms of fatigue, a common patient symptom in many diseases. In the laboratory, we study the basic mechanism of sleep and fatigue. I developed the organism *Caenorhabditis elegans* as a model for sleep research. We recently have focused our efforts on understanding the reduced motivated behavior observed in sickness. Understanding sickness behavior will enhance understanding of the patient fatigue symptom. I have organized symposia at international meetings focused on fatigue, and I am currently leading a team of local researchers to develop a program of research focused on understanding sickness behavior. In addition to these scientific and clinical activities, I also direct two local courses. One is a large didactic upperclassman course titled “Chronobiology and Sleep” and the second is a discussion based graduate student course titled “The Neurobiology of Sleep and arousal”. Therefore, I have the scientific background, the sleep clinical expertise, and a track record as an educator and leader to contribute to the missions of the SRS.