



2021 SRS Board of Directors Candidate

Director-at-Large

Kelly Baron, PhD, MPH, DBSM



I have been an SRS member since I entered the field of sleep as a postdoc (>14 years) and have seen first-hand the benefits of this organization for emerging researchers in Sleep and Circadian Rhythms. Like most trainees, my first experience of SRS was at Trainee Day when attending my first Sleep conference. I was floored by the opportunity to interact the professors that I was studying in such a personal context. In many ways, the generosity of SRS members in fostering my intellectual development and networking, something that drew me further into the field.

Since the beginning of my career, my involvement in SRS committees has been a constant. I've had the privilege of serving as a member, vice chair and chair of the SRS Training and Education Committee. As chair, I worked symbiotically with SRS employees to meet deadlines and put together trainee activities. I engaged committee and subcommittee members to develop an outstanding panel each year and even respond to changing our programming in the pandemic. I've also participated in a group for the strategic planning and I am currently on the COI committee.

In addition to experience in SRS as an organization, I bring to this position: my background as a translational scientist, who collaborates with behavioral and biomedical scientist, my experience as a mid-career female scientist (K to R transition in 2018, Associate Professor and application for Tenure in process), and geographic diversity (University of Utah). These experiences will enrich the board potentially with new/different perspectives in addressing some of the core issues of SRS members, such as addressing issues in sex/gender equity and transition to independence for early career researchers.

In summary, I look forward to continuing my involvement in SRS. Participating as a BOD member would be an honor that I would be pleased to fulfill. I would bring my passion, enthusiasm and work ethic to the position. This experience could also lead to running for an officer's role in the future. Thank you for considering my application for a director at large.