



2021 SRS Board of Directors Candidate

Secretary/Treasurer

Kristen Knutson, PhD



My introduction to the field of sleep and circadian research began before graduate school when I worked for Professor Fred Turek in the Department of Neurobiology & Physiology at Northwestern University. I arrived shortly after the Clock mutant mouse was discovered and the excitement over that monumental finding was contagious and likely influenced my eventual career path. I went to graduate school in biomedical anthropology to study the interaction between sociocultural factors and physiology and its effects on health. I chose to focus on sleep and circadian rhythms because they are influenced by behavior, cultural beliefs, social conditions, and, of course, biology. My research has included studies of sleep patterns and health among different populations, including studies conducted in the United States, Brazil and Haiti. In anthropology, we emphasize that there are few human universals, but sleep and circadian rhythms are universally important to health and well-being of all.

I am interested in serving as Secretary/Treasurer of the SRS because I want to continue to support the primary society that supports sleep and circadian researchers. I have been a member of the SRS since I was a trainee and participated in Trainee Day at APSS/Sleep. I also served on the SRS Research Committee (as it was called at the time) and I was an Associate Editor of our flagship journal, *Sleep*, for 4 years. In June 2018, I was elected to the SRS Board of Directors and in June 2019, I became President of the Sleep Research Society Foundation (SRSF). My term as President ends June 2021 so would not conflict. My responsibilities as SRSF President involve working closely with the SRSF team, Ms. Christine Davis and Mr. John Noel, to develop the Annual Appeal of the SRSF. After the successful Funding our Future Scientists campaign, which supports the SRSF Career Development Award, we wanted to

establish an annual fundraising effort to continue to obtain financial support from our members to fund SRSF awards, such as the SRS Mentor-Mentee Award and travel awards/scholarships to specialized meetings (Advances in Sleep and Circadian Sciences, SLEEP Meeting Post Graduate Course, and the Young Investigator's Research Forum). We have also worked to develop our corporate partnership program with the SRSF. My experience serving in these SRS positions, particularly my recent position on the Board and as SRSF President, provided experience relevant to the role of the Secretary/Treasurer, including an understanding of current priorities and initiatives.

Thank you for considering this nomination.