



2022 SRS Board of Directors Candidate

Director-at-Large

Suzie Bertisch, MD, MPH



Dear Sleep Research Society Members:

I write this letter to express my interest and full commitment to be elected as an At-Large Member of the Sleep Research Society Board of Directors. My interest in serving the SRS and its members stems from my over-decade-long experience as both a board-certified sleep physician and clinician investigator and my desire to reciprocate the training and earlier career opportunities that were and continue to be a formative influence in my research career. I firmly believe that my background as a physician and clinical researcher—with experience in physiologic, epidemiologic, and clinical trial methodology, and patient engagement, as well as women’s health and health equity, bring a unique and cross-disciplinary perspective that would help to craft a broad and inclusive-minded vision for the Society.

In truth, when I attended my first SRS Membership meeting in 2014, I felt like an outsider as a clinical researcher and uncertain the SRS was a professional home for me. However, I believed in the SRS’s commitment to trainees and early career investigators and overcame this uncertainty through my involvement with the Membership Committee. As the sole physician on the Committee, it was clear that we needed to expand our engagement to reach a more diverse membership—across degrees, the translational research spectrum, career level, gender, and racial and ethnic minority groups, to bring important voices (including the patient voice) and rich perspectives which would strengthen and benefit the Society and our community and move our field forward expeditiously. As a BOD member, I would urge the SRS to evolve its vision of what a sleep scientist [looks like, foster a community that embraces our intellectual and social differences, and together reshape the future of sleep science.

I do not want any sleep researcher to feel like an outsider (including nursing moms attending SRS meetings).

I will have the ability to support the SRS' goals through my leadership experience that has included Chairing the AASM/SRS Young Investigator's Research Forum (a research training program designed to aid the career development of promising early-career investigators in circadian and sleep research),

-serving on the BOD for the Society of Behavioral Sleep Medicine and leading the Implementation Science/Behavioral Sleep Medicine Core in the Program in Sleep Medicine Epidemiology at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Additionally, my experience with engagement, advocacy, and dissemination initiatives will help inform SRS planning initiatives that include intra- and cross-society planning to identify goals, key audiences and their specific needs, measurable objectives, and tailored communication strategies. By leveraging practical tools of dissemination and implementation science, I would assist the SRS in broadening the vision of sleep research and elevating strategic planning through informed methodologic development to implement initiatives and their evaluation.

In health,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzie Bertisch', written in a cursive style.

Suzie Bertisch, M.D., M.P.H.

Associate Physician, Clinical Director of Behavioral Sleep Medicine

Division of Sleep and Circadian Disorders, Brigham and Women's Hospital

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School