

Klaus Kjaer, MD, MBA
Candidate for SOAP 2nd Vice President, 2019

Dear SOAP Members,

Having served as SOAP Treasurer and a member of the Board of Directors for two years, I have had the opportunity to learn first-hand about the challenges and opportunities facing SOAP: How do we continue getting better at sharing our knowledge and impacting clinical practice, expand our reach beyond academic medical centers, maintain visibility among subspecialty societies, bring up the next generation of talent, focus our funding of projects, and manage our growth operationally and financially? A key driver of SOAP's success has been a laser focus on its mission to improve health outcomes for mothers and babies. As Treasurer, it was my job to ensure the ongoing availability of funds to support that mission. During my tenure, SOAP's operating income increased significantly and SOAP's net assets experienced growth independently of the stock market. As 2nd Vice President, I would bring to the Board of Directors a deep understanding of SOAP's organizational challenges and opportunities, first-hand experience with matching SOAP's finances to its mission, and a careful, deliberate, and collaborative style.

My long-term commitment to SOAP and to obstetric anesthesia practice, my post-graduate training in finance (MBA from Columbia Business School), and the administrative positions I have held (Chief Quality and Patient Safety Officer for Weill Cornell Medicine, and, for 12 years, Co-Director of Obstetric Anesthesia) have made me a good fit for a leadership role in SOAP.

Specifically:

- I have been a contributing member of SOAP since finishing my Obstetric Anesthesia Fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital in 2000. At the SOAP Annual Meeting, I have presented posters on a variety of topics, moderated oral presentations, served as judge for Best Paper, and participated as faculty for Professional Development Workshops and Breakfast With the Experts. I have written SOAP Newsletter articles on whether to bill for epidural blood patch ancillary charges and whether our fellowship programs should participate in the match. I have also served on the SOAP Fellowship Committee and the Annual Meeting Program Committee.
- I have made consistent local contributions over the years as an obstetric anesthesiologist at my own institution, New York Presbyterian Weill Cornell, where I served as Co-Director of Obstetric Anesthesia for 12 years and Obstetric Anesthesia Fellowship Director for 5 years. My particular interest at Weill Cornell has been to promote high-reliability processes and high-performance teamwork. For my efforts to increase the involvement of obstetric anesthesiologists in hospital leadership, I received the hospital's Physician of the Year Award in 2014.
- I understand large organizations with multiple constituencies and competing claims on their resources. In 2010, I received an MBA from Columbia Business School, focusing on general management and finance. Since 2015, I have served as Chief Quality and Patient Safety Officer for Weill Cornell Medicine, a multi-specialty academic faculty practice with 1,200 physicians. I have learned to think critically about how we can impact patient outcomes and where we can best put our resources to achieve our mission. I believe these will be some of the most important challenges facing SOAP as we start expand our expertise beyond crisis management to leadership on population health issues, as with the National Partnership for Maternal Safety (NPMS) and the Safe Motherhood Initiative (SMI).

It has been a pleasure to work with the Board of Directors in furthering SOAP's mission, and I hope you will allow me to do so for another five years, starting as 2nd Vice President. Thank you for your consideration.



Klaus Kjaer, MD, MBA