

Core Leadership Values for ABCT

Patricia Marten DiBartolo, *Chair, Leadership and Elections Committee*

Science, diversity, mentorship, accountability, and quality—these are the core values that undergird ABCT’s strategic plan. In these challenging and tumultuous times, as we focus on healing in our personal and professional roles, these values are more important than ever before. They undergird and enable ABCT’s strategic mission—to foster human health and well-being through scientific understanding and evidence-based principles—and are likely part of what drew you to the organization in the first place.

In this difficult moment in our collective history, let us keep in clear focus how these values can propel ourselves and the communities we serve toward renewal and recovery. How can we enact them? Our organization’s nomination and election annual process is an opportunity for each of us to strengthen our commitment to ABCT’s values and to hold our governance accountable to these same commitments. Your Leadership and Elections Committee is responsible for shepherding elections with a slate of candidates energized by our organization’s values and mission. Consistent with one of ABCT’s central strategic initiatives, we seek to diversify our notions of leadership in order to build a more just organization that can reflect those same values in our varied collective work.

As we launch our 2022 election cycle, we ask you to think about your community within ABCT and consider: Who embodies these commitments? What about you?

For the upcoming 2022 election, we seek nominations for ABCT’s next President-Elect (2022–23; President, 2023–2024; Immediate Past President, 2024–2025) and for a Representative-at-Large (RAL; 2022–2025). Each RAL serves as a liaison to one of the governing branches of the association. The representative position open for 2022 will connect and coordinate with the Academic and Professional Issues Coordinator and committees. You can nominate any full member in good standing in the organization and there is no limit to the number of nominees you can put forward for any position. Candidates with the most nominations will be the only official names on the ballot once voting commences.

Membership on the Leadership and Elections Committee, approved by ABCT’s Board of Directors, includes a chair and two members. Our Chair is Patricia DiBartolo (pdibarto@smith.edu), from Smith College, who has served on the committee since 2016. Kristen Lindgren of the University of Washington School of Medicine is a continuing member (kp19716@u.washington.edu), joined recently by Simon Rego at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (dr.rego@gmail.com). Any one of us, as well as ABCT’s Executive Director, Mary Jane Eimer (mjeimer@abct.org), would be happy to answer your questions and encourage your involvement in the organization.

If you do not have time to commit to run, we hope you will express your investment in ABCT’s future by voting in the election. One measure we track of whether we have hit our mark as a committee is the percentage of members who cast votes. Not surprisingly, our voting participation felt the hit of the pandemic last year; never complacent, we seek to increase rates of membership participation in the voting process this year. The election will again run in the fall, overlapping with the timing of our Annual Convention. Mark your calendar and do not forget to cast your vote. It matters.

For many of us, ABCT is an intellectual home, one whose mission aligns with our professional values. Exert your privileges of ABCT membership—nominate and vote—so that together, we can realize the organization’s loftiest goals: to enhance and promote human health and wellness. We look forward to hearing from you, in the voting booth and outside of it.