

Dear Dr. Royalty and Dr. Tabaie,

It is with deep respect for the mission of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons (ACOS) and a profound sense of professional responsibility that I submit this letter of intent to be considered as the nominee for Governor representing the Cardiothoracic and Vascular (CTV) Surgery Discipline to the ACOS Board of Governors.

I have been honored to maintain longstanding and active membership within ACOS, dedicating my service to advancing the osteopathic surgical profession through leadership, mentorship, and governance. My involvement has included meaningful contributions across several key committees, including the Bylaws Committee, Social Media Committee, Membership Committee, and Ceremonial Committee. These roles have provided invaluable insight into the operational and strategic framework of the College, while strengthening my commitment to fostering growth, engagement, and excellence within our organization.

By way of background, I am an adult cardiac surgeon with Texas Health Heart and Lung Surgical Specialists in Fort Worth, Texas, with specialization in thoracic transplantation and mechanical circulatory support. I am a graduate of Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Vallejo, California, where I was honored by my peers with the Random Acts of Kindness Award during my first year of training. I completed my osteopathic general surgery residency at New York University Langone Hospital Brooklyn–Lutheran Medical Center, where I was recognized with the Sampath Kumar Award for Excellence in Surgery for my clinical research productivity and commitment to mentoring osteopathic trainees.

I subsequently completed cardiothoracic surgery fellowship training at the University of Minnesota, where I became the first female and first osteopathic recipient of the prestigious Lillehei Surgical Society Richard C. Lillehei and Earl Bakken Prize, presented at the Society of Thoracic Surgeons Annual Meeting in San Diego in 2015. I further completed advanced fellowship training in cardiopulmonary transplantation and mechanical circulatory support at Duke University.

Throughout my academic and clinical career, I have remained dedicated to advancing surgical education, innovation, and osteopathic representation within cardiothoracic surgery. I previously served as Clinical Associate Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Surgical Director of ECMO at the University of Iowa, where under my leadership the ECMO program achieved Platinum Level Designation from the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization in 2022. I was also the first female cardiothoracic surgeon to practice in the state of Iowa and the first osteopathic cardiothoracic surgeon appointed to the University of Iowa faculty. I later served as Associate Professor at Baptist Health Sciences University and Surgical Director of Cardiac Transplant, Mechanical Circulatory Support, and ECMO in Memphis, Tennessee.

My professional affiliations include the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation, where I serve as an annual meeting moderator and reviewer; the Society of Thoracic Surgeons; the American Osteopathic Association; and multiple regional and national thoracic surgical societies. I also serve on the Board of Directors as Secretary for Women in Transplantation and Mechanical Circulatory Support.

Within ACOS, my commitment has been both sustained and progressive. I am the Immediate

Past Chair of the CTV Discipline and have served on the ACOS Board of Governors, as well as on the CTV Discipline Executive Committee since 2019. I have presented scholarly work annually at the ACOS Annual Clinical Assembly since 2012. As Discipline Chair, I established the inaugural CTV Discipline ACA Resident Scholarship in 2024, and I currently serve as a Principal Investigator for the Osteopathic Research Initiative for Growth and Innovation in Surgery (ORIGINS) Program, supporting osteopathic medical students in achieving national presentations and publications.

My approach to leadership is grounded in service, transparency, and the intentional cultivation of future leaders. I believe that effective governance requires not only stewardship of present responsibilities but also a strategic and forward-thinking vision to ensure sustainability. I am deeply passionate about organizational governance that strengthens infrastructure, supports member engagement at every level of training, and promotes equitable opportunities for osteopathic surgeons within highly specialized fields such as cardiothoracic surgery. I strive to lead with integrity, humility, and purpose, fostering collaboration while building a lasting legacy that ensures future generations of osteopathic surgeons will continue to benefit from the strength, influence, and unity of the ACOS and its disciplines.

It would be a profound honor to continue my service to the College in the capacity of Governor for the CTV Discipline. I humbly request your consideration for nomination to this role and remain fully committed to advancing the mission, values, and enduring excellence of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued leadership. My CV is attached for your review.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Beth Larson, DO, MS, FACOS, FACS