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Candidate for BOG Chair-elect



What is the greatest challenge our specialty is currently facing and how would you advocate for action through member engagement?

Otolaryngologist-Head and Neck Surgeons have been practicing in some of the most challenging times in recent history, the COVID pandemic notwithstanding. Increasing regulatory hindrances, decreasing reimbursements, adversarial payor policies, difficulties hiring and retaining staff, physician shortages, and scope of practice creep from other ancillary fields have led to a loss of career satisfaction, burnout, and more work with less pay. Our greatest current challenge is the accelerating shift of private practitioners leaving for employed positions with hospital systems or corporate entities, with only 25% remaining in private practice as of this year. This drastic decrease in private practice physicians compounds the problem of a loss of autonomy and innovation and is detrimental to patient care and our specialty.

The Board of Governors is a unique entity within the Academy that bridges members, societies, and leadership to develop solutions to regain autonomy and community. My goals would be to bolster and regrow private practice, and to support otolaryngologists around the nation, regardless of practice setting. In my prior roles as chair of the BOG Governance and Society Engagement committee, vice-chair of the BOG Socioeconomic and Grassroots committee, and chair of the Academy's Media and Public Relations committee, along with my work on the Practice Management Education committee, I have gained experience to accomplish this. Working within ENT Connect and via virtual and in-person sessions, I would like to better solidify avenues to ask for help, offer and receive support, and solve big problems together.

What initiatives would you recommend strengthening the relationship and engagement opportunities between AAO-HNS state, local, and specialty BOG societies?

Continuing efforts to build bridges would be my priority. Our success is optimized when we all work together. We must grow the proverbial tent to include local and state societies, subspecialty societies, students and trainees, and ancillary groups such as ASCENT, but we need to do so in a way that is not overwhelming or excessively time-consuming for our members. The BOG should also continue to support the efforts of the Private Practice Study Group as well as the various sections, and we need to keep offering educational and networking opportunities, such as our Spring Leadership Meeting.