

Steve Kmucha, MD

Candidate for BOG Chair-elect



I want to thank the leadership of the BOG for their trust and support in nominating me for the position of BOG Chair-Elect. I have served in the BOG for nearly 20 years, currently as the vice-chair of the Legislative Affairs committee and previously as chair of GOSE, and as the regional representative for BOG region IX and as a governor. I am the current president of the California Otolaryngology Society and am very active in the California Medical Association. I am in private practice with 4 other MDs and one PA in the San Francisco area.

Consistent with the Academy's strategic plan, I continue to advocate for: 1) greater involvement from BOG societies with improved bidirectional communication between societies and our Academy, 2) greater private practice representation in Academy affairs, 3) greater engagement and cross communication between medical students, residents and fellows, 4) an expansion of residency slots to increase the otolaryngology workforce, 5) an expansion of resident exposure to private practice, 6) improving transitions for otolaryngology residents and fellows moving into practice, 7) assistance for colleagues who transition between practices and practice types, 8) practice management education to assist in the identification, hiring and retention of office staff and practice partners, and 9) greater exposure of primary care residents to otolaryngology to allow them to better understand what otolaryngologists can provide for their patients.

Medical practice is changing rapidly. Many practices have still not rebounded after COVID or have been forced into new operational structures; the pandemic saw a significant increase in physician retirements. There are ongoing downward pressures on reimbursement and increasing documentation requirements with growing expectations of more equitable and compassionate care when, where and how the patient chooses. There are many challenges to the practice of high-quality otolaryngology care; it would be an honor to have the opportunity to share my diverse knowledge, experience, and passion for the benefit of our specialty and our Academy during this period of rapid change.

With much appreciation:

Steven T Kmucha MD JD FACS