

Jose L. Vargas, MD, FAAPMR
Member-at-Large

Tell us a little about yourself.

Your practice.

I have had a primarily inpatient rehabilitation practice focused on Acute Rehabilitation since 2004. My practice has been balanced and diverse within that aspect of PM&R, with time spent developing programs in SNFs, LTACs as well as inpatient acute rehabilitation. I also have set-up PM&R consult services in Acute Care Hospitals for both stroke programs as well as trauma. I have recently transitioned to an administrator role as Chief Medical Officer of Inpatient Rehabilitation at Select Medical Corporation.

Your life outside of work.

My life outside of work consists primarily of spending time with my wife Elizabeth and our three daughters: Mercedes, Pilar and Gabriella. We enjoy traveling as a family and spending time with our extended family, both here in the U.S. and abroad.

What accomplishments/honors are you particularly proud of that you would like to share with members?

I am proud of being the co-founder of U.S. Physiatry where I still serve as CEO. We are the largest private acute inpatient physiatry group in the country. It was a long, difficult process to get off the ground and am proud of the I work USP has done to advance inpatient rehab for the last 11 years. I am grateful to all the physicians who have made it the success it is today as it is a physician founded and centered organization.

What special skills or unique attributes do you bring to the Board of Governors?

I hope to bring the perspective of the private, entrepreneurial physiatrist who believes in working with our colleagues to advance our specialty. We are a large, inclusive and diverse specialty with many interests under our tent. It is important to hear our members voices and try and find something that works for the majority while still finding time, space and a voice for the few.

What do you most look forward to in your service on the Board?

I think that our specialty is being challenged on many fronts. We have done a very good job at the Academy in the last few years establishing our position with CMS in the inpatient space. I think that it is important to continue to advocate for our specialty in acute care, inpatient rehab, LTAC and SNF. We have a unique skill that both other specialties or allied health professionals lack and our patients are best served when a physiatrist is leading their care. I also believe that we need to continue to advocate and fight continued cuts to our reimbursement as physicians.

I am honored to have been nominated to this position and hope to represent all physiatrists during my term.