Ameet Nagpal, MD, MS, MEd, MBA

Tell members a little bit about yourself.

Your Practice

I am the Division Chief and System Medical Director of PM&R at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). My clinical practice includes the treatment of chronic pain using conservative and interventional treatment options. A great deal of my time, however, is spent in administration and overseeing our complex PM&R program, which is predominantly centered in Charleston but is expanding across our 19 hospitals throughout South Carolina.

Your Life Outside of Work

My wife is an OB/GYN here in Charleston, and we have two children, David (12) and Shayna (8). We also have a cat (Cheerios) and a dog (Nutella). Whenever I'm not at work, I spend as much time as I can with my family. I am also an avid New York sports fan (Mets, Giants and Knicks).

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

When I arrived at MUSC four years ago, PM&R was absent, despite the fact that we have a Level 1 trauma center and are a quaternary care healthcare destination. Since I started, we have hired 12 full-time physicians, expanded throughout our healthcare system, started a residency program and developed a sizable research platform in just four years.

What have you advanced in your local community outside of or in conjunction with your medical practice?

Our patients in the Lowcountry had little to no access to physiatric care before MUSC began building a robust PM&R clinical program. We had inpatient rehabilitation hospitals, but there was very little follow-up care for the majority of patients.

We have now built a strong program in Charleston and are expanding across South Carolina. As we graduate residents, it is my hope that they will stay here and continue to offer more services to patients that were not previously available.

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

I have been a volunteer with AAPM&R for 14 years and am well-versed in the organizational activities that the Academy provides for physiatrists across the country and around the world. Additionally, I have a long-standing history of building academic medical programs

in two different healthcare systems during my career, and that background will be integral to my involvement with the Academy.

What is a current or future challenge to the Academy or the specialty that you look forward to addressing as a Board Member?

Restrictions from CMS and insurance payers have continued to tighten throughout my career. These restrictions are increasingly limiting healthcare access, particularly for our most vulnerable populations. I am excited to advocate for our patients alongside the Academy and work with CMS and other payers to reduce restrictions on the physician-patient relationship.

What have we not asked you that you think members should know about you?

A fun fact about me is that I once owned 2% of a brewery and have a particular passion for craft beer.