

Scott R. Laker, MD, FAAPMR
Vice President

Tell members a little bit about yourself.

Your Practice

I have a Spine and Sports Medicine practice at the University of Colorado in several clinical settings in metropolitan Denver. I see clinic patients and perform fluoroscopic and ultrasound-guided spinal and peripheral joint procedures as part of a multidisciplinary Spine Center and at the UCHHealth/Steadman-Hawkins Clinic Denver. I have a particular interest in concussion and was the founding medical director of the University of Colorado's Concussion Clinic, which includes members of the departments of PM&R, Neurosurgery, and Neurology.

I split my time between clinical and leadership roles for the Department of PM&R and the University of Colorado School of Medicine. I am the Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs and Senior Medical Director of CU Medicine, our medical practice group.

Your Life Outside of Work

My wife and I have twin daughters and we spend as much time in the mountains, on the rivers and in the woods as we can. I am on a steady journey to climb all the 14,000 foot peaks in Colorado. My wife is a Physical Therapist that specialized in burn and wound care that started her own successful travel agency focused on international travel. I enjoy playing guitar, drawing and am slowly learning to play the piano.

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

I have been lucky enough to lecture on concussion, spine, and sports medicine topics across the country and internationally. I was awarded the University of Colorado's Physician of the Year in 2014 and was chosen by our residents as the Jerome Gersten Role Model of the year in 2012, 2016 and 2018. I was awarded the AAPM&R's Outstanding Council Service Award in 2011.

I am the residency program director at the University of Colorado, where I get the privilege of being part of the development of some of the brightest and most talented young physiatrists in the country. What special skills or unique attributes do you bring to the Board of Governors?

I have over 10 years of experience as the Medical Director of several multi-specialty clinic operations at the University of Colorado. This has included overseeing growth and marketing strategy, financial decisions, and operations and logistics in conjunction with more than 40 subspecialties. Within our department, I have served in a variety of roles including Finance Chair and Chief of Adult Outpatient PM&R. My experiences on the clinical and administrative sides of medicine have helped inform my work on the board and give me some insight as how to effectively approach the AAPMR's mission and vision. I began my volunteerism in the AAPM&R as a member of the Health Policy and Legislation Committee, eventually serving as Chair of that committee. Following that role, I served as the Chair of the Quality, Practice, Policy and Research Committee.

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

Physiatry is a critical but often underestimated part of the healthcare landscape. My time on the board will be spent advancing our ability to impact our patients and grow our practices. I look forward to advancing our field in a way that represents our members and their vision of the future. Hopefully, my time on the Board can be a part of creating that bright future.

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

AAPMR has been a critical part of my career and personal development. The mentorship I received and the leaders with whom I have worked has fundamentally improved how I practice and how I am able to lead in my organizations. I find deep fulfillment in representing our specialty and our patients in my roles with the AAPMR.