

July 11th, 2023

Subject: Motivation Letter - Application for ISBF Board Seat

Dear Members of the ISBF Executive Board,



Here, I most enthusiastically present my application for the ISBF Board seat, as per the invitation for nominations. As a dedicated and active member of ISBF awards committee, I am deeply interested in serving on the Board to contribute to the organization. Please allow me to elaborate on my motivation and qualifications for this esteemed position.

With a profound academic journey that includes a Stanford PhD in electrical engineering and subsequent career in medical schools and hospitals, my focus has been on translational technologies and achieving clinical impact. I have experienced the transformative power of bridging innovative research in academia to viable investments and successful market ventures. Through founding and leading successful companies, I have witnessed the tremendous impact that can extend beyond the academic sphere when research is effectively translated. I possess extensive hands-on experience and a profound interest in technology transfer and the translation of research to policy. It is my aim to bring these translational and industrial ambitions to the Board seat, systematically guiding others to navigate the necessary steps and witness the life-changing potential of innovative research in the whole field of biofabrication. In 3-D bioprinting and biofabrication, my lab published some of the early seminal papers establishing the pillars of this field. We introduced the seminal concept of 3-D acoustic cell printing over a decade ago. Recently, we published the first ever biofabrication in space, forming and assembling 3-D tissue organoids at the International Space Station marking a small step in our technology development but a significant step in human exploration of outer space.

Having served as a tenured faculty member at Stanford and previously at the Harvard-MIT HST program, I have established a distinguished track record of leading sponsored projects in science and engineering. This experience has provided me with deep knowledge of the federal research landscape and regulations. I understand the importance of managing expectations, communicating a clear vision, and effectively leading and motivating teams comprised of highly skilled individuals. I have successfully fostered collaborative relationships within and across organizations, as well as with individuals who share the motivation to turn ideas into impactful outcomes. Furthermore, my experience in managing public-private partnerships, such as the Royal Philips and Stanford partnership, has honed my skills in this domain.

Throughout my tenure as director of The Canary Center for Early Cancer Detection, I have had the privilege to work with faculty and staff in implementing policies and programs, not only at Stanford but also within international collaborations. These experiences have equipped me with the ability to set and execute a vision effectively. I understand that successful execution requires alignment and compromise among diverse stakeholders, with open communication channels playing a vital role in achieving shared goals. As a visionary leader, I believe in identifying and building upon win-win scenarios, both in managing tasks and managing the overall vision and expectations.

I am excited to bring my unique experiences to the Board and create impact through new translational programs that will shape the research environment and priorities at the ISBF in the years to come. I am deeply honored by the potential responsibility and the opportunity to serve the ISFB and our community as a whole. Furthermore, I would like to emphasize my commitment to academic mentoring and teaching. I view our trainees and colleagues as candles waiting to be lit, enabling them to spread the work of improving human health through innovation and entrepreneurship. Mentoring over 50 post-doctoral fellows, 35 graduate students, 100 undergraduate students, and 20 high school students, I have witnessed their continued success and the impact they have made in their respective fields. As a professor, witnessing the extraordinary achievements of my mentees brings immeasurable joy. I am deeply committed to science education at all levels and actively engage in outreach programs to inspire and encourage underrepresented groups, and women, to pursue careers in STEM.

Moreover, my administrative responsibilities as a member and past Chair of the Board for the International Alliance for Cancer Early Detection (ACED) have further broadened my reach and impact. Working alongside leading researchers, we tackle the challenges in early cancer detection models, a critical area of unmet clinical need. Additionally, as the director of the Canary Center, I mentor a diverse group of core faculty and scientists, facilitating collaborative efforts. In conclusion, I believe that my diverse experiences, deep commitment to translational research and innovation, and passion for mentoring and teaching make me a highly qualified candidate for the ISBF Board seat. I am eager to contribute to the organization's vision and actively participate in shaping its future. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Truly,

