



**Simone Betchen, MD,  
FACS, FAANS, MBA**

*Vice - President*

It is with great enthusiasm that I formally declare my candidacy for the esteemed position of Vice President of AWS. Serving as Treasurer over the past two years has been a privilege, affording me invaluable insights into our organization's financial landscape and operational dynamics. Now, I stand ready to channel my dedication, vision, and leadership into a new role that promises to further elevate AWS's success and growth.

Last year, I embarked on a transformative journey as the Chief of Neuroscience at UHS in Binghamton, NY, a decision aimed at deepening my business acumen, enhancing leadership capabilities, and fortifying collaborative relationships across diverse sectors including faculty, trainees, and external leadership. This professional evolution, coupled with my 14-year tenure with AWS and unwavering commitment to equity-focused initiatives, has equipped me with the essential skills requisite for the role of AWS Vice President:

**Financial Stewardship and Growth:** During my tenure as Treasurer, we implemented quarterly meetings with our financial advisor to ensure proactive management of our investments. Initiatives such as diversifying our investment strategies and optimizing cash reserves have significantly bolstered our financial stability. Notably, we now possess reserves covering over a year of operating expenses, enabling us to fund critical programs promptly and address unforeseen gaps in funding.

**Committee Leadership:** As liaison to the resident, medical student, and grants and fellowships committees, I have fostered close collaboration and provided strategic support to align their objectives with organizational goals. This partnership has empowered these committees to enhance their

effectiveness, such as enabling medical students to play a more pivotal role in our social media outreach and facilitating increased access to travel funding for national conferences.

**Strategic Vision:** Beyond financial oversight, I have worked closely with our leadership to spearhead initiatives aimed at enhancing member engagement, fostering innovation, and promoting professional growth. Emphasizing teamwork and transparent communication, I have endeavored to cultivate a culture of inclusivity and collaboration within our organization. Looking ahead, I am eager to contribute to organizing our session at the Women in Surgery symposium and laying the groundwork for our 2026 national conference.

In conclusion, it has been a profound honor to serve as Treasurer, and I am eager to leverage my experience, passion, and forward-thinking approach in the role of Vice President. With a history of chairing the Member Services Committee, I am well-prepared to act as their executive liaison, ensuring they receive the support needed for their success. As a strategic planner, I am committed to orchestrating a compelling program for next year's annual conference and beyond.

I am confident that my background, skills, and unwavering commitment to AWS's mission position me strongly to contribute to a thriving future for our organization. Thank you for considering my candidacy. I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to continue serving AWS and its esteemed members in the capacity of Vice President.

Warm regards,  
Simone Betchen, MD, FACS, MBA