

## Sonia Castro Flores

**Professor and Vice Chair Diversity and Justice, Department of Medicine,  
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### Webpage

### Statement of Interest

As a graduate student, attending the annual ASBMB meetings was the highlight of my summers. It was during these meetings that I interacted with luminaries of the scientific world, including Nobel laureates, something I never imagined I would experience. I was awarded a Procter & Gamble graduate fellowship after my application was reviewed by ASBMB leadership; this solidified my commitment and loyalty to the society. It's also impressive how all society members are nurturing the next generation of scientists, providing travel awards, opportunities that indeed helped me with my future career goals.

I am grateful that ASBMB has embraced the principles of equity and universal access so critical for a well-integrated and welcoming society. I joined the MAC (Minority Affairs Committee, later renamed Maximizing Access Committee) as a member and then as Chair for 6 years. The MAC oversaw the design and submission of grants and successfully competed for NSF IMAGE and NIGMS MOSAIC grants that are flagships for the society. I also organized and chaired 3 MAC-sponsored thematic sessions at the Annual Meeting, served as a member of the ASBMB Public Affairs Advisory and Women in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Committees. In 2023, I was named an ASBMB in recognition of my service to the society.

As a member of the ASBMB Advisory Council, I pledge to ensure that all the society's goals and aspirations are aligned with its mission and vision. It would be an honor to give back to the society that has given so much to me.

### Education and Training

- B.S. University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus, 1975
- Ph.D. Biochemistry, University of South Alabama, with Honors, 1988
- Post-doctoral training, Biochemistry (Joe McCord, mentor) University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, 1989-1991

### Awards and Honors

- Summa Cum Laude, B.S. Biology, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, 1979
- Procter and Gamble Graduate Fellowship administered by ASBMB, 1986-1988
- New Investigator Award from Free Radical Biology & Medicine Journal editors based on award winning abstract
- Department of Medicine Ph.D. Excellence in Research and Teaching Award, 2005
- University of CO President's Diversity Award, 2008
- Unsung Heroine Award, Latinas First Foundation, Denver, CO, 2021
- Selected as ASBMB Fellow, 2023

### Relevant Experience

- MPI MBRS-Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) Program, University of Colorado Denver, 2014-present

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## ASBMB 2025 Election: Councilor Candidate

- Director, NHLBI-funded Graduate Experiences for Multicultural Students, 2000-present
- Organizer and Chair, “Microbiome and Health Disparities” thematic session ASBMB meeting, Boston, 2015
- Director and PI, NHLBI-PRIDE-AGOLD (Impact of Ancestry and Gender in omics of Lung Diseases), 2019-present
- Co-chair and co-PI, NSF-funded, ASBMB-sponsored workshop titled “A Comprehensive Assessment of the Barriers, Needs, and Challenges Facing Under-represented Minority Faculty in Biochemistry and Molecular and Cellular Biology”
- Member and Chair, Minority Affairs Committee (MAC), ASBMB, 2011-2023
- Organizer and Chair, “Microbiome and Health Disparities” thematic session at ASBMB meeting, Boston, 2015
- Co-chair, ASBMB-funded workshop, “Careers Beyond Academia”, 2016
- Chair and Organizer, “Inequities in Precision Medicine” thematic Session, ASBMB Meeting, Indiana, 2019
- Member Women in Biochem & Mol. Biology Committee – ASBMB
- Member, NIH Director’s Working Group on Approaches to Mitigate Sexual Harassment in STEM; 2019-present
- Co-Chair and Organizer, “Tackling Adversity: Tales of the Epigenome” MAC-sponsored thematic session, 2022 ASBMB meeting, Philadelphia, 2022
- NIGMS MOSAIC grant to MAC with Ruma Banerjee and Kirsten Block as MPI
- NSF IMAGE grant to MAC members (Squire Booker, Kay Johnson-Winters, Sonia Flores and Vahe Bandarian , MPI)
- Appointed to NIH Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council, 2024-present
- Permanent member, various NIH review committees (Radiation and Therapeutic Biology, PPG grants, T32, K- and F-grants, LRP and others).