

Nathan L. Vanderford

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Webpage

Statement of Interest

ASBMB plays a pivotal role in the professional development of BMB scientists. I know this firsthand. As a second-year biochemistry PhD student, I attended the 2005 ASBMB annual meeting in San Diego, CA. There, I heard Nobel laureates Michael Brown and Joseph Goldstein speak about their work. I also presented my own research on a national stage for only the second time. This meeting solidified my interest in biochemistry.

It's exciting that a goal in ASBMB's strategic plan focuses on professional development. This has been a key area of my service to the society. I have been a member of ASBMB's Education and Professional Development (EPD) Committee since 2017, I was Chair of the Graduate and Postdoctoral Education and Professional Development Subcommittee (2021-2023), and I became Chair of EPD in 2023. I participated in planning the 2020 and 2021 annual meetings, focusing on organizing professional development content. I have also served as an Undergraduate Poster Competition judge for several years. I believe education and professional development activities – which extend across all areas of the society – are critical to ASBMB's mission and impact.

Higher education, science, and science education and training are under existential threats. Now is the time to double down on protecting and investing in these areas. As a Council member, I will have a critical eye on how ASBMB comprehensively serves its members, how ASBMB supports the scientific enterprise, and how ASBMB supports the professional development of BMB scientists, especially in the context of threats and opportunities.

Education and Training

- B.S., Agricultural Biotechnology, University of Kentucky, 2003
- Ph.D., Biochemistry, University of Kentucky, 2008
- Postdoctoral Fellowship, Molecular Physiology and Biophysics, Vanderbilt University, 2009
- MBA, Midway University, 2013

Awards and Honors

- ASBMB Travel Award, 2005
- American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship, 2007
- University of Kentucky Alumni Association Great Teacher Award, 2017
- Kentucky Academy of Science Excellence in Science Education and Outreach Award, 2020
- University of Kentucky Excellent Undergraduate Research Mentor Award, 2021
- University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center Faculty Mentorship Award, 2021
- ASBMB Fellow Recognition, 2022
- Invited presenter on the topic of cancer education and training, U.S. President's Cancer Panel, National Cancer Program, National Cancer Institute, 2024
- American Association for Cancer Education Fellow Recognition, 2024
- University of Kentucky Center for Clinical and Translational Science Mentor Award, 2025

continued

Relevant Experience

- Assistant Director of Research, NCI-designated Comprehensive Markey Cancer Center, University of Kentucky, 2011-2020
- Assistant Professor (2014-2021) and Associate Professor (2021-present), University of Kentucky
- Director, NIH/NCI-funded Appalachian Career Training in Oncology (ACTION) R25 Program, NCI-designated Comprehensive Markey Cancer Center, University of Kentucky, 2016-present
- Reviewer, ASBMB Award for Exemplary Contributions to Education, 2017-present
- Director of Administration, NIH/NIGMS-funded P20 Center for Cancer and Metabolism, University of Kentucky, 2017-present
- Assistant Director of Research and Education, NCI-designated Comprehensive Markey Cancer Center, University of Kentucky, 2020-2024
- Site Director, NIGMS-funded Summer Healthcare Experience (SHE) in Oncology R25 Program, NCI-designated Comprehensive Markey Cancer Center, University of Kentucky, 2020-present
- Member, ASBMB annual meeting planning committee, 2020 and 2021
- Member, Education Committee, Global Cancer Consortium, 2021-present
- Editorial Board Member, Journal of Cancer Education, 2021-present
- Judge, ASBMB Undergraduate Poster Competition, 2021-present
- Chair, ASBMB Graduate and Postdoctoral Education and Professional Development Subcommittee, 2021-2023
- Member, ASBMB Meetings Committee, 2023-present
- Chair, ASBMB Education and Professional Development Committee, 2023-present
- Assistant Director of Pathway Programs and Student Success, NCI-designated Comprehensive Markey Cancer Center, University of Kentucky, 2024-present