

Megan Othus, PhD

Candidate Statement

I am Professor of Biostatistics at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center and an affiliate Professor of Biostatistics at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. I received my PhD in Biostatistics from Harvard University in 2009. I moved to Seattle and the Fred Hutch right after graduation and have been here since then. My research is primarily focused on clinical trial design and conduct. In particular, I am the faculty statistician for the SWOG Cancer Research Network's Leukemia and Rare Cancer Committees. SWOG is an NCI-funded cooperative group that conducts clinical trials across a network of over 1,000 US institutions. In my role within SWOG, I lead the design, development, conduct, and reporting of clinical trials and related projects conducted within my committees. I have benefitted from generous mentorship throughout my career and am committed to paying that forward. I have been the organizer of the SWOG Young Investigator Workshop since 2011, faculty on the American Society of Hematology's Clinical Research Training Institute since 2016, and was recently awarded an R25 to start a summer mentored internship



program in Seattle for undergraduate students who identify as a member of a group historically underrepresented in medical research.

IBS has provided a formative touchpoint throughout my career. The first conference I ever attended was an ENAR meeting while in graduate school (Tampa, FL in 2006!). WNAR provided my first opportunities to connect with researchers outside of my institution after moving to Seattle in 2009. I served as WNAR Secretary from 2012-2021. I am currently one of the WNAR Representatives to the IBS Council and in that role I have been able to learn more about different initiatives at the IBS level. Through serving as WNAR Secretary for nearly a decade, I was able to observe Presidents using their positions to continuously improve WNAR year to year. If elected WNAR President I would like to use my unique experience and perspective to further bolster activities WNAR has invested in over the last years. I would like the opportunity to increase mentorship opportunities within WNAR. WNAR has historically had a large pool of student members and many wonderful mid- and senior-level current or past members and potential mentors. I would like to find more and different ways for mentorship relationships to form that can complement ongoing WNAR efforts and some newer efforts that IBS is rolling out for all regions. Building on efforts of prior WNAR Presidents, I would like to work towards having free or reduced membership fees for two- or three-years after graduation. With additional mentorship opportunities and reduced membership costs, I hope we can work towards retaining more recent graduates as engaged WNAR members. There are many professional societies and meetings competing for limited member time. I would also like to do work to understand the role WNAR plays in members' professional lives and areas where members may see a role for additional effort from WNAR. As an IBS Council Member I have learned that IBS has funds that can be used to foster connections between different regions and if elected President would look forward to applying for those funds for new opportunities for WNAR.