

Charlotte H Smith MD

Tell members a little bit about yourself.

Your Practice

I've done pretty much everything there is to do in PMR in my career: solo private practice, group practice, academic, pain/interventional, SCI, TBI, pediatrics, sports/marathon medical director, hospital ethics chair, workers compensation educator for State of TX, research, etc. I have worked in every level of care including acute care, IRF, SNF, LTACH, outpatient, served as a medical director of IRFs, hospital networks, and a continuing care community (with SNF rehab/ALF/ILF/LTC). I have worked in multiple settings, including urban centers with robust systems of care and rural settings with very limited care/few providers. None of this has been by design. I've simply shown up in various places and tried to meet needs (or at least not make things worse....) It's been an amazing journey. I continue to learn things as I've have been blessed to work with amazing people over the years. I've loved all of it and don't see retiring any time soon (because there is still so much left to do). Currently I split my time between the Pacific NW, Idaho and Texas. Career-wise, I am doing a variety of things-Sr. VP for Clinical Care Medrina, providing concierge consultative care and doing forensic psychiatry.

Your Life Outside of Work

Outside of work, our main home is in a tiny town in beautiful N. Idaho where we grow things and care for our chickens.

What accomplishments/honors are you particularly proud of that you would like to share with members?

I have created comprehensive learning management systems with curriculums for post-acute and team-based care for two national groups. It was a lot of work because there was no existing content related to standards and best practices in these areas. I was also fortunate to be part of the Austin TX team that developed the first US SCI NeuroRecovery center in collaboration with Lone Star Paralysis Foundation in Austin. It provided access to state of the art, leading edge locomotor and other neurorehabilitation therapies for anyone with a SCI, including uninsured/underinsured persons (all paid for through charitable giving). I had the privilege of helping to develop a medical school and PMR residency in Austin TX and being part of teams that designed hospitals (Dell Children's Hospital and CTRH in Austin). The most intimidating thing I've done was as the resident delegate representing all US residents in the AMA House of Delegates. We were able enact policies related to resident work hour reform (despite only having only one vote and tremendous opposition). I was very shy at that time but ended up testifying in the AMA and doing national media interviews. This led to a lot of legislative testimony opportunities, media work and leadership roles within medical politics in local, state and national arenas. I overcame my shyness and actually enjoy doing all of these things now.

What have you advanced in your local community outside of or in conjunction with your medical practice?

I am currently working with Cornerstone Health, a not-for-profit group that is creating innovative models to increase access to healthcare in rural Idaho. There is no state with fewer healthcare providers per capita than Idaho, so there is a huge need (especially for PMR).

What special skills or unique attributes do you bring to the Board of Governors?

I have been involved with our Academy since 1987, have attended all but one Annual Assembly and have served on a multitude of committees and work groups. This has given me a knowledge base regarding the AAPMR and an understanding the challenges and opportunities. Because I have worked in so many types of practices, I have a strong understanding of what our very diverse membership faces in their practices. I think this will be helpful. There have been multiple times in my career where I've had to step into

tumultuous circumstances as a leader to unify organizations. The skill sets that I've had to develop in the midst of these experiences have proven to be helpful. I hope that I can use what I've learned and be an asset to the BOG.

What is a current or future challenge to the Academy or the specialty that you look forward to addressing as a Board Member?

Our biggest challenge is to unify our specialty so that we have the best chance of accomplishing the BOLD mission. Working together and promoting one another will serve us well.

What have we not asked you that you think members should know about you?

I am in a season of life where I have both desire and the bandwidth to serve our Academy. It is a challenging time for PMR for many reasons. I will do my best to further our specialty so that we not only survive but we thrive as preeminent leaders in medicine.

