

Steven R. Flanagan, MD, FAAPMR

Past President

Tell members a little bit about yourself:

I am currently the Chair of Rehabilitation Medicine at New York University Grossman School of Medicine and Medical Director of Rusk Rehabilitation at NYU-Langone Health. My path to medicine was uninterrupted after deciding I wanted to be a physician at the age of 8. I graduated from Fairfield University in 1984, Rutgers Medical School in 1988 and completed my PM&R residency at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in NY in 1992. I immediately joined the faculty at Mount Sinai, where I focused my clinical practice in brain injury medicine. I assumed the medical directorship of their brain injury program shortly thereafter and became the first Vice Chair of the Department in 2001. I was recruited to my current position at NYU-Grossman School of Medicine in 2008.

Your practice:

My current practice is a mix of ambulatory, subacute and administrative work. I continue to enjoy seeing patients and overseeing the work of our Department. Over the course of my career, I've been able to work with colleagues to establish a seamless continuum of care for people with brain injury in the New York City Metropolitan region consisting of acute, IRF, SAR and ambulatory care. I've been fortunate to collaborate with highly-skilled and innovative faculty who have advanced Rusk Rehabilitation and our field. Our team made substantial contributions to the successful NYU-Langone Bundled Care Initiative, and most recently, played important roles in assisting our health care system navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Both nicely demonstrated the value that PM&R adds to quality healthcare.

Your life outside of work:

I've been domestically-partnered for 34 years, although legally married only for 5. My husband and I live in New Jersey, where I enjoy gardening and cooking (when not involved in homework!). I started brewing beer a few years ago and recently expanded my repertoire to include Belgium ales, stouts and porters. About every 18 months or so, I'll cure and dry a homemade prosciutto, but I haven't perfected it just yet.

What special skills or unique attributes do you bring to the Presidential Line?

Successful leadership requires setting the proper example. It is also dependent on surrounding oneself with a diverse crew of talented and dedicated colleagues and having the wisdom to listen to them. I'm looking forward to using what I've learned throughout my career, including being the chair of a large academic department, and applying that to the challenges our Academy, members and field face in the current and future healthcare environments. The value PM&R brings to health and medicine is immense. I've often said the Triple Aim of medicine isn't feasible without the involvement of physiatrists throughout the continuum of care. Our challenge as a specialty is ensure our contributions continue, are recognized and remain impactful.