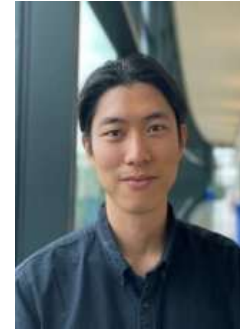


Patrick Han, PhD
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Please briefly describe why you believe you are suitable to serve as a member of the Council. Consider the following within your response: What do you think should be the ICIS's top priorities over the next three to five years, and what challenges might come? How might the ICIS serve our membership better in your view? In what way has your background given you a diverse perspective?

My name is Patrick Han, I am an assistant professor at Underwood International College in Yonsei University, Korea. Though I had pursued my higher education (Bachelors, PhD, and Postdoc) in the US, I moved to Korea for continuing my academic career as faculty. In the short time I have been in Korea, where I grew up until high school, I had felt the warm welcome of the immunology community here as I also witnessed many differences in academic cultures. Not all changes have been expected, but my experience in geographically disparate yet diverse institutions have given me a global perspective that I believe has exposed me to the challenges as a non-native researcher in US and non-US institutions, alike.

ICIS has been expanding its inclusive vision of the society by promoting young scientists, female investigators, Early Career Researcher events, and creation of Council for Inclusion and Training. I believe a set of challenges remain in expanding the global diversity of ICIS membership and participation, especially from South America, Asia and Africa. As science becomes more collaborative and need for advanced immunological research becomes recognized internationally (exponentially since COVID), the rapidly diversifying geographical distribution of high caliber scientists must be reflected in the Council for Inclusion and Training. To that end, my background gives me necessary perspective on how to best serve trainees who are often immigrants trained in a foreign country with aspirations to return to their home country. To illustrate this need, I am part of the ECR committee which has recently proposed to initiate a mentorship program for next generation of academics. As the path to academia and research is widely varied between different countries, for example in the US (where I was trained) vs. Korea (where I am faculty now), the type of mentors that should be recruited and considered in these programs must also reflect the geographical diversity of trainees.

Please list your current and/or past participation in ICIS committees. Include committee membership, positions of leadership, speaking invitations, etc.

Current ICIS committee participation:

- ICIS Early Career Researchers (ECR) committee, co-moderated the ECR Networking event in Seoul, South Korea, Cytokines 2024.
- Interpreter for invited Keynote Speaker, Dr. Drew Weissman, Cytokines 2024 South Korea.

List any other relevant qualifications for office, including any non-ICIS volunteer other leadership activities. (Not a CV.)

One of my standing commitments is to an educational non-profit dedicated to providing experiential science education to underrepresented students, called Emerging Leaders in Technology and Engineering (ELiTE). Founded while working with Engineers Without Borders researching public latrines in rural Ghana, ELiTE was inspired by a speech from Ghanaian educator, Patrick Awuah. In reference to the problem-solving nature of his school's programs, Awuah stated that, "The ability to create is the most empowering thing to happen to an individual." This line must have hit a switch in my head, because a month later I won a grant to bring creative science experiences to under-served students in Ghana. I led three college students to a small school in Nsawam to start experiential classes where students devise experiments to solve real-life problems. One such exercise was prompted by: "How do we make water fit for drinking?" We taught students the principles of distillation, and pointed them towards a bucket of dirty water, an electric heater and a few hoses. By the end of the lesson, students had discovered the challenges of condensation and batch processing and created distillation set-ups - and I discovered that I can make a (small) difference in the world. Importantly, I have learned the effects that inadequate health resources can have on people; my experiences through this program inspired me to pursue immunology as an engineer so that I can contribute to developing advanced yet accessible therapies that can benefit patients despite their resource.

With ELiTE, I continue to mentor students to college, some even to grad school! It brings me pride to see our graduates return as mentors, representing a virtuous cycle of inspiring generations of diverse scientists. As we have with ELiTE, I believe ICIS can leverage its growing membership to foster a network of role models and trainees, especially to address unique challenges of globally diverse, often immigrant, scientists.