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**Please briefly describe why you believe you are suitable to serve as a member of the Nominations Committee. 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?**

I believe I am well-suited to serve as a member of the ICIS Nominations Committee because of my commitment to promoting scientific excellence through inclusion and equity. As an immunologist from Costa Rica who completed his doctoral training in Germany, I have experienced both, high-resource research environments as well as limited research conditions. This dual perspective has been determinant in my interest in promoting global representation within the Society.

Over the next years, I believe the ICIS should prioritize four key areas: (1) strengthening global equity in scientific participation, (2) creating tangible support structures not only for early-career researchers from low- and middle-income countries, but also for established researchers who struggle to perform high quality research in these countries, (3) facilitating interdisciplinary research and collaborations within the ICIS to address complex immunological challenges, and (4) recognize and address the distinct needs of minority scientists who continue working in low- and middle-income countries, as opposed to those who, although from underrepresented racial or ethnic backgrounds, are based in well-resourced institutions in high-income countries. These two groups face different challenges and require specific support mechanisms.

Among the challenges ahead is fostering collaboration and unity within the Society's scientific community. This is especially critical in the face of increasing political and institutional pressures in some countries, where national policies are undermining academic freedom and withdrawing support for scientific research. In this context, international solidarity and support are more essential than ever.

ICIS could expand regional and periodic scientific initiatives to promote strong collaborations within the Society, also develop more inclusive nomination and mentorship programs, and increase the accessibility to scientific events organized by the Society.

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

Recent ICIS participation:

- Contributor, Signals+ Newsletter

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

A few months ago, I took the initiative to promote the creation of the Costa Rican Association of Immunology (ACI, by its Spanish acronym) with the aim of uniting the various research groups across the country working in the field of immunology. The primary goal of this effort is to foster stronger scientific collaboration, encourage knowledge exchange, and promote more efficient use of available resources and infrastructure. This initiative seeks not only to strengthen our national research capabilities but also to give greater visibility to the important immunological work being carried out in Costa Rica. I was recently elected as the first president of ACI, a role in which I am committed to promoting high-quality immunology research, building national and international networks, and supporting the next generation of immunologists in our country.