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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?**

I have been affiliated with the society for over 25 years and believe that my research and administrative experience position me to contribute to the society in a positive way. The ICIS and its members are not unique in facing challenges related to geopolitics, misinformation, mistrust and lack of funding. However, technological advances are enabling new areas of research at a speed previously unimaginable. I believe the ICIS can serve our membership by supporting and enabling a collaborative, diverse and equitable scientific environment to enable impactful discoveries, whether fundamental or clinical in nature. While the annual meetings are at the centre of the society, additional initiatives to support knowledge translation and dissemination, collaboration, professional development and advocacy will only serve to strengthen the society and its members. My diverse experience over a ~25 year career in basic to translational research, international partnerships and academic administration have given me a diverse and comprehensive perspective.

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

I have been a member of the ICIS since it was formed, and was a member of the International Society for Interferon and Cytokine Research (ISICR) previous to that. I had the opportunity to serve the ISICR as a council member and treasurer, including during the merger with the International Cytokine Society to form the ICIS. I had the honor of working with Sarah Gaffen, Warren Leonard and Robert Schreiber in organizing the inaugural ICIS conference in San Francisco, at which time we implemented several trainee and new investigator events that continue to this day. Early in my career, I was the recipient of an ISICR new investigator award and the Christina Fleischmann award while in 2024, I received the ICIS Honorary Lifetime Membership Award.

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

I was less involved in the ICS over the past 10 years as I took on increasing leadership activities at my university, including department chair of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences, Associate Vice President Research and then Vice President Research and Chair of the Board of McMaster Innovation Park from 2018 until 2024. During COVID-19, I served on several provincial task forces and participated in many public engagement events. These activities provided excellent outreach, advocacy, partnership and leadership opportunities. As I have now moved out of university administration, I look forward to becoming more active with the ICIS as I greatly enjoyed my previous interactions with the society.