



## Candidates for the 2021 ACPA Board of Directors



### **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

John A. Girotto, MD, MBA, FAAP,  
FACS

What does the future hold for the ACPA in this changing world? The ACPA should be positioned as the primary advocacy voice for our patients - a voice for education of parents and providers, and a voice of support online and in public. The ACPA also must deliver exceptional value to its members of all specialties. We are a unique multi-disciplinary society, and we should deliver the kind of support that draws in and empowers all members.

How we accomplish this is about to change dramatically. We are poised to become a truly international organization with new electronic resources, education, and family support. I am excited to be involved in leading that transformation.

Caring for children with cleft lip / palate and craniofacial differences is my primary everyday surgical practice. I currently serve as Chair of Pediatric Surgery for Spectrum Health and Section Chief of Pediatric Plastic Surgery / Dermatology at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

I have been very active in the ACPA. Most recently, during my time as Treasurer, we merged with the CPF and created an investment strategy carrying us through these difficult times. The clinical team I lead is well represented at each annual meeting, presenting over 30 abstracts in the last 6 years, teaching courses, and innovating care.

Personally, I attended Washington University in St. Louis. Working with Dr. Jeff Marsh I first became interested in caring for children with cleft lip / palate and craniofacial differences. My residency was at Johns Hopkins, followed by a craniofacial fellowship at Seattle Children's Hospital with Dr. Joe Gruss. I obtained my MBA from the Simon Business School. Marissa and I have been married for 27 years. Our son is a Northwestern graduate/ masters working in St. Louis for Boeing defense while our daughter starts her sophomore year at the University of Michigan pursuing public health and economics.



### **VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Adriane L. Baylis, PhD, CCC-SLP

I currently serve as the Director of the Velopharyngeal Dysfunction program, Co-Director of the 22q Center, and Director of the Craniofacial Speech Fellowship for the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. I am also Associate

Professor of Clinical Plastic Surgery at the Ohio State University College of Medicine, with secondary appointments in Pediatrics and Speech and Hearing Sciences. For the past 17 years, I have enjoyed the opportunity to teach, mentor and conduct research, as well as provide speech diagnostic and treatment services to children with cleft palate, VPD and related craniofacial anomalies. ACPA has been an integral part of my educational and professional journey.

I have served as a Co-Investigator and Executive Team Member for NIH-funded grants focused on speech disorders, speech development and speech/surgical outcomes in craniofacial populations, including the Americleft Speech Project and CORNET. I have a strong record of national and international presentations and publications resulting from my research and other collaborative efforts. Since joining ACPA as an undergraduate student, I have presented at every ACPA meeting for the last 16 years.

While ACPA has given me resources and opportunities to grow as a clinician and researcher, it has also been an organization in which I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve. I am currently part of the ACPA Development Committee, and recently completed serving on the Webinar Sub-committee in 2019 to help ACPA initiate online educational programming. I have also served on the ACPA Council, Membership Committee, Nominating Committee and Education Committee, as well as co-chaired the 2018 Preconference Symposium, served as Co-Chair of the 22q SIG, and was part of the 2017 Program Committee.

I hope to join the ACPA Board to have the opportunity to provide new ideas and support for ACPA's first virtual meeting. As we move toward a new era for the organization and our scientific meetings, I look forward to the challenge and opportunity to be part of innovative and nimble approaches to ensure the success of ACPA.

**BOARD MEMBER POSITION - NAMED** – Vote for one: **Joli C. Chou, DMD, MD** or **Sean P. Edwards, MD, DDS, FRCDC**



**BOARD POSITION - NAMED**

Joli C. Chou, DMD, MD

I am greatly honored to be nominated for a position on the ACPA Board of Directors.

I am a pediatric oral-maxillofacial surgeon and I have been a member of the ACPA since 2007. I have always considered ACPA the “go to” organization for all things cleft and

craniofacial. I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the organization for the last 13 years and have had the opportunity to serve in various capacities for the ACPA over the years including the Program Committee, the Membership Committee, the Patient Education Task Force, and the Finance and Management Committee.

Currently I am an associate professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery at the Thomas Jefferson University specializing in pediatric oral and maxillofacial surgery and dentofacial deformities. Prior to this post, I practiced pediatric oral and maxillofacial surgery at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and Women and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo.

I have always focused my practice in pediatric care with a special interest in patients with cleft and craniofacial differences and is strongly committed to creating a world where people with cleft and craniofacial conditions may thrive. If elected to the ACPA Board of Directors, I hope to work with the leadership of the organization to engage all members in the specialties represented at ACPA and all stake holders in the community so that the organization continues to fulfill its mission.



**BOARD POSITION – NAMED**

Sean P. Edwards, MD, DDS, FRCDC

I am honoured to be considered for a position on the Board of the ACPA an organization that I love and hold in the highest regard. I am an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon and have been fortunate to call Ann Arbor, Michigan my

home for the past 15 years. My wife is an orthodontist in our community and we are busy with our four kids, their hockey, field hockey and rowing.

My undergraduate education was in biology at the University of New Brunswick in eastern Canada. From there, I completed dental school at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. I then moved to the United States where I completed medical school and residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery at the University of Michigan. This was followed by a fellowship in pediatric craniomaxillofacial surgery at the University of Pittsburgh and a second fellowship in head and neck oncology and microvascular reconstruction at the University of Michigan. I joined the faculty at the University of Michigan in the section of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery after my fellowships almost 15 years ago. I am currently the chief of Pediatric Maxillofacial Surgery at C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital and am a member of our Craniofacial Anomalies Program. Cleft lip and palate care has been my passion from the outset and is a major focus of my clinical practice and research interests.

I believe in supporting good organizations through service. I sit on many boards and have experience in a variety of leadership positions. I served as the residency program director for oral and maxillofacial surgery for ten years and am currently the associate chair for research. I have sat on many committees at the University of Michigan at all different levels. I have served on several grant review committees and been on the board of directors for several foundations and associations including the Osteoscience Foundation, the American Academy of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery, the Strasbourg Osteoscience Research Group. Internationally I am the chair for research for the International Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. I have been an active member of the ACPA since 2006. I have served on several committees including Ethics, Membership and Organizational Alliances. I have been part of the annual meeting planning committee at least four times. I have also served as chair of the Ethics Committee. I am a vocal advocate for the ACPA and use every opportunity to advocate for its important mission and its primacy as a lead organization in support of patients with facial differences, the families that support them and the clinicians that provide their care.

I am the son of an oral and maxillofacial surgeon who was infected with his passion for caring for children with clefts of the lip and palate. I have always been drawn to the ACPA because of its unique interdisciplinary nature. I would be honored to be a part of the ACPA Board and have the opportunity to work to grow and strengthen this organization that I love and ensure that it remains the principle organization representing and advocating for children and families affected by facial differences.

[Click here](#) to vote in the 2021 ACPA Board of Directors Election.

Voting ends September 14, 2020.

**BOARD MEMBER POSITION – AT-LARGE – Vote for one: Michael T. Friel, MD, FACS, FAAP or Krishna G. Patel, MD, PhD**



**BOARD POSITION – AT-LARGE**  
Michael T. Friel, MD, FACS, FAAP

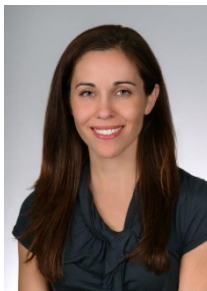
Caring for children with cleft and craniofacial conditions brings so much joy to my life, as I'm sure it does to you. My first introduction to the organization was as a patient. I was incredibly fortunate to have my bilateral cleft lip and palate corrected by Don LaRossa, at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia as an infant, child, and adolescent. This was an

incredible experience to live, and it certainly propelled my interests in cleft care.

I became professionally involved with the ACPA during my plastic surgery residency and my first ACPA meeting was at the 2011 Puerto Rico annual meeting. Since that time I have been involved in both the Cleft Palate Foundation and ACPA, having been a board member of the Cleft Palate Foundation at the time of the merger with ACPA. For the last three years, I have chaired the Development Committee in the ACPA. During my time on the Development Committee, we have seen increased engagement among the members and increased fundraising to help us advance patient care and research for individuals affected with a cleft lip, cleft palate, and other craniofacial anomalies. The Thrive Campaign and the President's Circle were both launched as part of this committee. Previously, I served on the membership committee, where we continued to look for ways to get members involved early and increase the value of the membership.

As a triple board-certified plastic surgeon, I'm the director of pediatric plastic surgery at the Ochsner Hospital for Children in New Orleans. My practice is focused only on children and adolescents, and I serve as the surgical director of our ACPA accredited cleft and craniofacial team. I hold academic positions as an Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery at Tulane University and an Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Queensland as part of the Ochsner/UQ program, and our program is home to the Tulane/Ochsner Plastic Surgery Residency program. I hold memberships in the American Society and the International Society of Craniofacial Surgeons, the American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons, the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, and the American Association of Pediatric Plastics Surgeons. I am a section editor for head and neck surgery for *Annals of Plastic Surgery*, and a reviewer for *Cleft Palate Craniofacial Journal*.

As a board member, I will continue to support our members by providing avenues for professional development, and by being indefatigable advocate for the patients we treat.



**BOARD POSITION – AT-LARGE**  
Krishna G. Patel, MD, PhD

Thank you for the honor to be considered for Board Member - At Large on the ACPA board. I have practiced at the Medical University of South Carolina for twelve years and am a Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology. I am the Director of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and the Director of

our ACPA-accredited Craniofacial Cleft Lip and Palate Team. I have been an active member of our craniofacial team and the ACPA since 2008. I also serve on the executive board for the American Board of Otolaryngology. Additional leadership positions that have prepared me for this position include serving on the board of directors for the non-profit organization, Global Smile (2018-2020), serving as chair for the Plastic Reconstructive Surgery committee within the American Academy of Otolaryngology (2016-2018), and serving as Secretary/Treasurer for the South Carolina Society of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery (2011-2018). My interest in providing excellent care has always led me to be involved in all aspects of our craniofacial team, as well as participate in clinical research on topics related to cleft lip and palate. Within ACPA, I have served as Chair of the Otolaryngology Forum twice, and served on the Ethics, Membership and Communications committees. Most recently, I joined as a section editor in Otolaryngology for the *Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Journal*.

My background education includes a BA from Columbia University and an MD/PhD from the Medical College of Georgia. I completed residency in Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery at the University of North Carolina Hospitals and a fellowship in Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the University of California Davis Medical Center. I am double boarded in Otolaryngology and Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery.

I am excited about this opportunity. I have great respect for the standards that ACPA upholds for caring for patients and its ability to provide a platform for multidisciplinary care to thrive and advance.