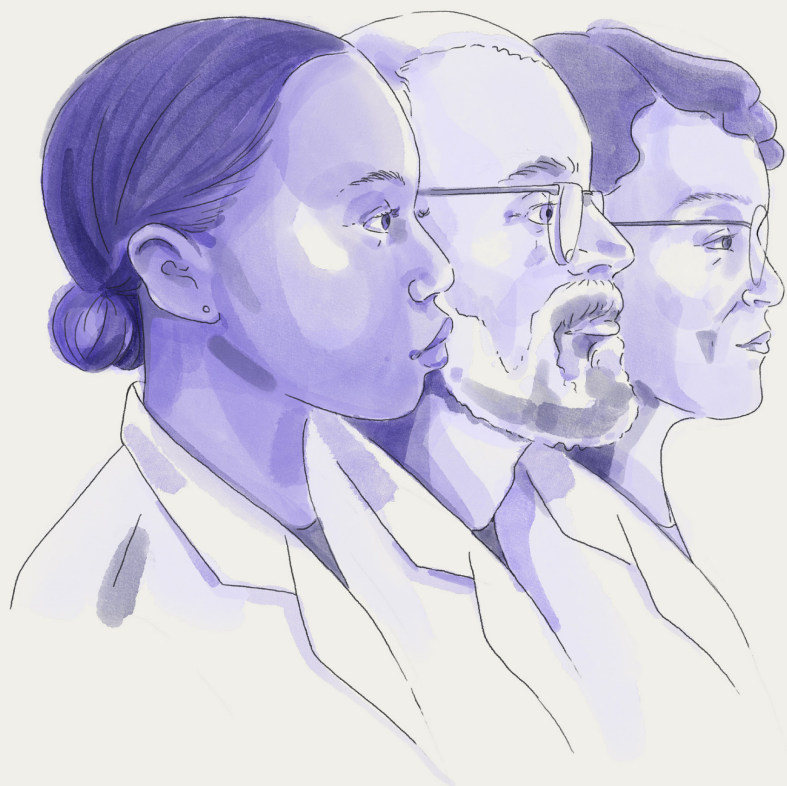




IDSA Elections

Biographical Sketches and
Personal Statements

July 2026

Biographical Sketches and Personal Statements



IDSA 2026 election ballot

Vice president
(4-year term):

Rajesh T. Gandhi, MD, FIDSA
Boston, MA

Director
(3-year term):

Jacinda C. Abdul-Mutakabbir, PharmD, MPH,
FIDSA
San Diego, CA

Gonzalo Bearman, MD, MPH, FIDSA, FACP,
FSHEA
Richmond, VA

Sharon Weissman, MD, FIDSA
Columbia, SC



Vice president

Rajesh T. Gandhi, MD, FIDSA

Physician, Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

Education

- MD: Harvard Medical School
- Undergraduate: University of Utah

Current professional appointments

- Professor of medicine, Harvard Medical School
- Physician, Infectious Diseases Division, Massachusetts General Hospital

IDSA participation

- IDSA Board of Directors, HIVMA representative, 2022-2025
- HIVMA Board of Directors, Executive Committee (immediate past chair, 2021-2022; chair, 2020-2021; chair-elect, 2019-2020; vice chair, 2018-2019)
- HIVMA Board of Directors, director, 2014-2017
- IDSA Journals Committee, 2022-2025
- IDWeek Program Committee, chair, 2017

Other relevant activities

- Harvard University Center for AIDS Research, co-director
- AIDS Clinical Trials Group, vice chair

Personal statement

During the upcoming years, I see IDSA facing a number of challenges and opportunities, and I believe that my experience, skills and temperament will allow me to contribute to IDSA's success. I believe we need to hold true to our core values while building partnerships, honoring a variety of perspectives and expanding our reach. I would bring my personal experiences, as well as apply my skills from my leadership roles in the Harvard Center for AIDS Research and as previous director of the Massachusetts General Hospital HIV Clinical Services, to expand the reach of our organization.

Second, a major priority for IDSA continues to be expanding and sustaining the ID workforce. I believe I will be able to contribute to this critical priority because of the breadth and depth of my educational and mentoring activities as well as my experience in workforce development in my previous roles as HIVMA chair and on the IDSA Board of Directors.



Finally, I believe in the upcoming years, we will have unprecedented opportunities to enhance infectious diseases care and prevention by expanding IDSA's engagement with research funders, public health and the private sector. To realize these exciting opportunities, I would draw upon my leadership experience with ACTG and my experience working with NIH, CDC and FDA, academia, and clinical guidelines committees. We are in a golden age of infectious diseases diagnostics, therapeutics and prevention, and I will work diligently to support IDSA's members and to advance the field of infectious diseases.



Director

Jacinda C. Abdul-Mutakabbir, PharmD,
MPH, FIDSA

Associate professor of clinical pharmacy, Skaggs School
of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
San Diego, California

Education

- Bachelor of human health performance: Howard University, 2014
- Doctor of pharmacy: University of Saint Joseph, 2017
- Pharmacy postgraduate residency year 1: Howard University, 2018
- Master of public health: Wayne State University, 2020
- Infectious diseases pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics postdoctoral research fellowship, Anti-Infective Research Laboratory, 2020

Current professional appointments

- Associate professor of clinical pharmacy, Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Division of the Black Diaspora and African American Studies, University of California-San Diego
- Director of education, COPE Health Equity Collaborative

IDSA participation

- IDSA Inclusion, Diversity, Access and Equity Committee, chair, 2025-present
- IDSA Inclusion, Diversity, Access and Equity Committee, vice chair, 2023-2025
- *Open Forum Infectious Diseases*, journal reviewer
- *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, journal reviewer
- *Science Speaks* blog, contributor

Other relevant activities

- American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Antimicrobial Agents and Resistance Track, vice chair, 2023
- ASM Antimicrobial Agents and Resistance Track, chair, 2023-2025
- Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria, ASM-designated representative, 2025-present

Personal statement

At a time of escalating infectious diseases and public health threats, collaboration among infectious diseases professionals and organizations is essential to protecting the health of communities



worldwide. Equally important is strengthening communication among scientists, clinicians and the public to rebuild trust and ensure equitable access to evidence-based care and information.

Throughout my career, I have been committed to developing a translational research program focused on the syndemic relationship between noncommunicable diseases and antimicrobial-resistant infections. My work has resulted in more than 70 peer-reviewed publications and integrates laboratory and clinical investigations to identify the mechanistic causes and social drivers of inequities in infectious diseases outcomes.

As a leader, I have leveraged my research, clinical and community engagement experiences to foster multidisciplinary collaboration and advance meaningful systemic change. Through my service with IDSA, including my roles as vice chair and chair of the Inclusion, Diversity, Access & Equity Committee, I have supported and led programs and initiatives, such as facilitating the “Health Equity Series” for the *Science Speaks* blog and developing equity-focused IDWeek BugHub sessions, that elevate diverse voices and ensure representation across all professions and backgrounds within the organization.

As we navigate this critical moment in public health, I, as a member of the IDSA Board of Directors, will advocate for policies and initiatives that advance infectious diseases research and innovation, support the next generation of leaders and improve care for *all* communities.



Director

Gonzalo Bearman, MD, MPH, FIDSA, FACP,
FSHEA

Chair, Division of Infectious Diseases, Virginia
Commonwealth University
Richmond, Virginia

Education

- BA: Colgate University
- MD: SUNY at Buffalo School of Medicine
- Internal medicine: SUNY at Buffalo
- Infectious Diseases: Weill Cornell College of Medicine/New York Hospital
- MPH: Columbia University
- Board certified in internal medicine, infectious diseases and preventive medicine/public health

Current professional appointments

- Richard P. Wenzel Professor of Medicine and Chair of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Virginia Commonwealth University
- Associate chief quality and safety officer for research, VCU Health
- Editor-in-chief, *Antimicrobial Stewardship and Healthcare Epidemiology*, Cambridge University Press

IDSA participation

- IDSA Division Chiefs Community of Practice, chair, 2022-present
- IDSA Leadership Institute, former faculty member, 2019-2022

Other relevant activities

- NA

Personal statement

I'm honored to serve as the Richard P. Wenzel Professor of Medicine and Chair of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine. I am also associate chief quality and safety officer for research at VCU Health. I have dedicated my career to advancing patient safety, improving health care quality, leadership and mentoring the next generation of infectious diseases professionals.

My prior leadership positions within professional societies include service on the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America's Board of Trustees and with the IDSA Leadership Institute. I currently serve as



chair of the IDSA Division Chiefs Community of Practice and as editor-in-chief of *Antimicrobial Stewardship & Healthcare Epidemiology*.

I believe in the importance of scholarship and mentorship in infectious diseases practice, as evidenced by my receipt of the 2023 SHEA Mentor-Scholar Career Award and the 2019 SHEA Barry Farr Award. Through broad collaborations with talented colleagues and trainees, I am fortunate to have numerous peer-reviewed publications and to have lectured extensively throughout the United States and internationally on infection prevention, public health, antimicrobial stewardship and leadership in ID.

Most importantly, as a Board member, I will serve IDSA in its mission to elevate infectious diseases as a specialty; develop our workforce; advocate for reasonable work standards with equitable pay; promote clinical excellence, public health, infectious diseases threat preparation and efforts to reduce the impact of antimicrobial resistance; and speak up for the well-being of our patients.



Director

Sharon Weissman, MD, FIDSA

Chief, Prisma Health Midlands, Medical Specialties
Columbia, South Carolina

Education

- BS, biology: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
- MD: Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, NY

Current professional appointments

- Chair, Department of Medicine, University of South Carolina Floyd School of Medicine

IDSA participation

- HIVMA/IDSA Foundation G.E.R.M. Committee, chair, 2021
- IDSA SPAP Advisory Group, chair, 2023-2026
- IDSA Standards and Practice Guidelines Subcommittee, vice chair, 2022-2024
- IDSA Standards and Practice Guidelines Subcommittee, chair, 2024-2026
- IDSA Practice and Quality Committee, ex officio, 2023-2026

Other relevant activities

- IDWeek, abstract reviewer
- IDSA Members Advocacy Program, participant
- IDWeek Step Contest, winner, 2025

Personal statement

More than 15 years of practicing ID in rural South Carolina, one of the most medically underserved states in the country, shapes why I want to serve on the IDSA Board and what I hope to contribute.

The issues I most want to work on are ones I deal with every day: the ID workforce shortage, particularly in rural and underserved areas, the critical role prevention plays in infectious disease care, and making sure policymakers and health systems understand the value ID physicians bring to patient outcomes and population health.

We are not training enough ID physicians, and those we do train are not reaching the communities that need them most. I spent 10 years as the ID fellowship program director at USC and have seen firsthand how training shapes where and how physicians practice. I also know from my research, using statewide



datasets and machine learning to study gaps in the HIV care continuum, just how much unmet need exists in places that lack access to ID care.

My work co-founding the Antimicrobial Stewardship Collaborative of South Carolina, serving a decade as HIV medical consultant to the SC Department of Health and building CUE-HIV as a multistate research collaborative have taught me how to get things done across institutions and systems.

I would bring to the Board a perspective that is grounded in what ID practice looks like outside major academic centers, in states where the need is greatest and resources are thinnest. My IDSA committee experience, research background, and years working across clinical, public health, and training systems give me a practical lens on workforce, prevention, and the value of ID care that I think is underrepresented at the Board level.