



2025 FSPHP Board of Directors Candidates Statement of Interest

Name: Art Hengerer, MD, FACS

Title: Past Chair of the New York Board of Professional Medical Conduct, Past Chair of FSMB Board, and Chair of the Dept of Otolaryngology at University of Rochester

Organization: Federation of State Physician Health Programs, Board Member

Board Position on the 2025-2027 Ballot: Public Member

Why do you have an interest in serving on the FSPHP Board of Directors as a Board member or officer?

Involved for 14 years with the impact of burnout and mental health issues in physicians beginning during my years with prior regulatory agencies and boards, I viewed the FSPHP as an organization with a mission to continue my efforts which started at the FSMB Board, to alter the mental health questions on license applications. This is considered by many in other health care venues as a significant barrier to seeking care along with inadequate "safe haven" protection.

What is your vision for the next 2-3 years for the organization? (Please include any thoughts on objectives for accountability, consistency, and excellence measures, as well as funding initiatives.)

- 1) To see the PEER and ETA programs begin to enroll more PHPs and evaluation programs and become successful in helping to standardize the operations and professional credibility across all programs.
- 2) Now that most SMB have addressed the mental health questions to apply to current impairment. The next step is to be successful in getting the appropriate legislation in place to make safe haven for physicians participating in the PHPs. I have been serving as co-chair of the task force addressing this issue and drafting the action plan and legislative changes needed to solve this the next piece in the puzzle to address the stigma.
- 3) As the public member with significant board and leadership experience continue to challenge the Board with ideas and of possible changes. Suggestions like adding Board members from different backgrounds, the need for and methods of increasing operating funds and endowment, and how to increase the visibility of the FSPHP mission on a national level. These are all steps I see as necessary if we are to have a increasing influence on the health of our physician population and the wellbeing of the public. At my suggestion these topics will be on the agenda at the next Board retreat in the fall.

What skills do you bring to the organization?

- 1) Significant Board experience in multi-tenonprofit organizations as a board member and chair.
- 2) I'm a bridge builder and during my last term have interacted effectively with the other board members raising questions and offering ideas that are at times different than other members or suggesting alternative solutions.
- 3) I have professional relationships with leaders of many organizations of the House of Medicine so I can help in advancing ideas and programs the FSPHP wants to enhance and develop increased exposure nationally.