

Candidates for Secretary/Treasurer



Sebastian Doeltgen, MSLT (distinction), PhD

Associate Professor
Flinders University
Adelaide, Australia

Please list past services to DRS and other leadership roles in other organizations:

I have been an active member of the Society since my first attendance at the Fifteenth Annual Meeting (2007) in Vancouver, BC. Until 2016, I regularly chaired sessions at Annual Meetings and participated in poster or presentation scoring. From 2016 onwards, I have been actively contributing to the leadership of the Society as a member of the following committees:

2016 - 2017: Awards and Scholarship Committee

2017 - 2018: Awards and Scholarship Committee

2017 - 2018: Organizing Committee of the 2018 Annual Meeting

2018 - 2020: Councilor, Board of Directors

2018 - 2020: Chair, Membership Committee

2019 - 2020: Bylaws Committee (contributed to the discussions that recently led to the change in the DRS membership structure)

2020 - 2021: Strategic Planning Committee (contributed to the implementation of the current DRS Strategic Plan)

2021 - 2022: Organizing Committee of the 2022 Annual Meeting

As part of my academic employment at Flinders University in Adelaide, South Australia, I have extensive leadership experience in both research and large organizational contexts. I am the Research Integrity Chair of our College (Faculty) and a member of the University's Academic Senate. I also have experience in scholarly publishing, e.g. as Associate Editor (Dysphagia) for *Folia Phoniatrica et Logopaedica* (2017-2019). I lead the Flinders Swallowing Neurorehabilitation Research Laboratory and regularly publish in high-ranking international journals.

Why is DRS important to you?

DRS is important to me for two reasons:

Professionally, our Society is a world-leading advocate for high-quality swallowing research. Through its services and events, DRS stimulates new ideas, promotes new collaborations and supports new generations of researchers and clinicians. DRS unites us all in our core purpose: to improve the lives of those with dysphagia and the care they receive. Imagine what our work would be like without DRS!

Personally, DRS and so many of its members, junior and senior, have provided me with immense support and inspiration; through their passion for research, their commitment to excellence in everything they do and their kindness in every encounter. It is an honor to be part of and serve this Society.

What would you like to see DRS accomplish during your term in furthering its global mission?

During my term from Treasurer to Past President (2022 - 2025), I would support and lead DRS to achieve and exceed its current strategic goals. As President (2024), with the support of the Committees, I would lead the development of a new, ambitious 5-year Strategic Plan ("DRS Agenda 2030"), which will build on and extend the current Strategic Plan. I would like to see DRS continue to grow in size, diversity and impact. To achieve this, I would like to extensively grow our membership to include more diverse professions, cultural backgrounds and nationalities. I would like DRS to grow its Institute for Education and its global advocacy initiatives at grassroots, policy and research funding levels. I would like to see DRS continue to thrive!



Caryn Easterling, PhD

Retired Professor
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

Please list past services to DRS and other leadership roles in other organizations:
Dysphagia Research Society (DRS) Leadership:

DRS Member 1991-present

DRS Board Member 2010-12

DRS Annual Meeting Award Recipient 1999 Best Original Research Presentation

DRS Program Planning & Annual Meeting Scientific Abstract Review Committee: 2007-12; 2013-15; 2016-17

DRS Website Development Committee CO-Chair: 2010-11

DRS WCPRC Committee Member 2014-16

DRS By-Laws Committee 2011-12

DRS Scientific Session Moderator 12 Annual Meetings

DRS Annual Meeting Invited Presentations: 4

Dysphagia Journal – Associate Editor 2010-present

DRS Institute for Education (DRSIE): Advisory Board: 2020-2023

2021 DRSIE Charter Document Contributor/Editor

2021 DRSIE Webinar Series CO-Chairperson

2021 DRSIE Fall Conference Planning Committee & Faculty

DRSIE Webinar Series: Grant Revisions & Submission in 2021 for 2022 Webinar Funding and for Fall Conference to Abbott Nutrition Health Institute and Mead Johnson (respectively)

American Speech Hearing Association (ASHA) Leadership:

American Board of Swallowing & Swallowing Disorders 2001-2010 Inaugural Board Member & Board Treasurer

ASHA Fellow Award 2009

ASHA Convention Planning & Abstract Review Committee for Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders 2011-13

ASHA Special Interest Group 13 Perspectives Publication Editorial Board 2011-14

ASHA Committee for University & Clinical Collaboration in Education of Graduate Students in Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders 2007-09

ASHA Board for Certification in Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders Examination Composition and Review Committee 2007

Certification in Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders Co-Chair, Manual Revision Committee, 2007

Certification in Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders Chair, Renewal Process Committee, 2007

ASHA Convention Topic Coordinator Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders, 2006

ASHA Technical Report: Chair, Speech Language Pathology Training and Supervising other Professionals in Delivery of Services to Individuals with Swallowing and Feeding Disorders

ASHA Journal of Speech Language and Hearing Research: Editorial Board, 2010-16

Wisconsin Speech, Language and Hearing Association (WSHA) Leadership:

Founding Board Member, President WSHA Foundation, Inc. 2000-present. WSHA Foundation, Inc. is a scholarship granting 501c3 organization that awards on average \$15,000 annually to graduate students for research and study in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

WSHA Honors of the Association Recipient, 2009

Elections and Honors Committee Chair 2004-06, 2009-11

WSHA Past-President, 2001-02

WSHA President, 2000-2001

WSHA President Elect, 1999-2000

WSHA Vice President of Healthcare Services, 1994-1998

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Leadership:

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Faculty Advisory Board: Founding Board Member, Board President, 2015-18

UWM College of Health Sciences Search and Screen Committee for Associate Dean of Research, 2008

UWM College of Health Sciences: UWM Dept. of Communication Sciences and Disorders Research Committee Chair, 2007-10

UWM College of Health Sciences, Community Partner Award, 2017

UWM College of Health Sciences 2012 Byoung Kim Excellence in Teaching Award

UWM College of Health Sciences 2009 Byoung Kim Excellence in Teaching Award

Medical College of Wisconsin:

Dysphagia Institute, Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology: Research Scientist, 1999-2004

Department of Neurology Research Scientist, 2004-2010

Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Research Scientist, 2004-10

Marquette University:

College of Health Sciences 2005 Distinguished Alumna Award

Marquette University College of Health Sciences, Speech Pathology 2005 Invited Commencement Speaker

Why is DRS important to you?

DRS is the HUB for scientific discovery and advancement in the field of deglutition and its disorders resulting in better patient care, quality of life, promoting principles of healthy longevity. DRS offers a place to discuss and debate scientific ideas and work with colleagues of all disciplines. As a retired professor, researcher, author the society has taken on a greater meaning as a place to serve my profession and professional passions as a leader for new initiatives. Specifically DRS Institute for Education as Co-Chair

of the Webinar Series, grant contributor, imaginator of the Fall Conference to promote young contributors to our field. My life focus presently is service to my profession, family, and community.

What would you like to see DRS accomplish during your term in furthering its global mission?

DRS Strategic Goals for 2022-25 term: Develop consensus documents/position statements. Develop publications from the DRS proceedings in collaboration with Dysphagia Journal. Develop interdisciplinary collaboration, enhance data sharing options. Continue grant applications to support educational activities. Begin developing a 2nd DRS Strategic Plan to secure new funding, fundraising for DRS. Develop awards, secure funding, fundraising for Young Investigator Awards. Promote DRS Awards, Scholarships. Promote INTERDISCIPLINARY, INCLUSIVE, DIVERSE DRS initiatives. Support, promote patient advocacy via consistent contributions from patient advocates. Increase International interdisciplinary presence. Finally, Promote, Advance the reputation of DRS.



Catriona Steele, PhD, CCC-SLP, S-LP(C), Reg. CASLPO, ASHA Fellow
KITE Research Institute, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute - University Health Network, Toronto, and Rehabilitation Sciences Institute, Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto

Please list past services to DRS and other leadership roles in other organizations:

a) Leadership/Service to DRS:

2020 – Present: Councilor, DRS Board of Directors

2020 – Present: Chair, DRS Awards & Scholarships Committee

2020 – 2021: Chair, DRS Membership Committee

2019, 2020, 2021: Abstract reviewer, DRS Conference

2016 – 2019: DRS Awards judge

2006, 2009, 2018, 2020: Member, DRS Conference Planning Committee

2006 – 2007: Councilor, DRS Board of Directors

b) Contributions through publications and conferences:

176 peer-reviewed publications

282 invited presentations

297 abstracts at conferences (104 at DRS Meetings since 2001)

c) Leadership/Service to Other Organizations:

2021: Abstract Reviewer, World Dysphagia Summit

2021: Abstract Reviewer, II Congress of the Latin American Society for Dysphagia

2020: Grant Reviewer, Canadian Institutes of Health Research

2020 – present: Chair, Quality Improvement Review Committee, University Health Network, Toronto

2020 – present: Vice-Chair, Research Ethics Board, University Health Network, Toronto

2020: Abstract Reviewer, IV Congreso Argentino e I Congreso Latinoamericano de Disfagia

2019, 2020, 2021: Abstract Reviewer, European Society of Swallowing Disorders Congress

2019 – present: Editorial Board Member, Journal of Texture Studies

2015 - present: Associate Editor, Dysphagia journal

2015 – 2017: Associate Editor, Journal of Speech-Language-Hearing Research

2013 – present: Grant Reviewer, American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation

2012 – present: Member, Board of Directors, International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative

2010 – present: Ad hoc grant reviewer, National Institutes of Health

2008 – 2010: Coordinator, ASHA Special Interest Group 13 (Swallowing & Swallowing Disorders)

1998 – 2000: President, Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists

Why is DRS important to you?

DRS has been hugely important in my career. I first attended DRS in 1996 as a clinician, and immediately became hooked on the opportunity to learn about cutting edge research, see new ideas debated, and network with leaders in the field. After attending for 3 years, I returned to school to pursue my PhD, and in 2001, I gave my first presentation at a DRS meeting. Today, I consider attending and presenting at DRS to be one of the most important formative experiences for my trainees. DRS is the forum where we collectively learn about new ideas in the field. The opportunity to ask questions, discuss and debate is what carries our field forward towards the ultimate goal of improving clinical services and outcomes for people with dysphagia.

What would you like to see DRS accomplish during your term in furthering its global mission?

As a DRS councilor since 2019, I have witnessed many exciting developments: our new membership structure; our diversity, equity and inclusion initiative; stronger relationships with societies in Europe, Japan and Latin America; and the DRSIE webinars and fall conference. The Awards Committee, which I chair, has developed conflict of interest rules and standard rubrics for judging, new travel bursaries, and a NFOSD-sponsored award to recognize advocacy. Looking forward, I believe the time is right for DRS to take a leadership role in promoting greater rigor and transparency in dysphagia research, and developing guidance on publication issues like authorship, review and ethics. Such leadership will advance care for the patients we serve.
