

Personal Statement – Candidate for Region IV Secretary

I am honored to run for Region IV Secretary! This role is crucial to ensuring the smooth operation and continuity of our region's work—documenting decisions, maintaining archives, and supporting the Chair in keeping our members connected. NCURA has been a cornerstone of my professional development, and serving as Secretary is a meaningful way to give back to the community that has supported me.

In my role as Associate Director of Research Administration at Lurie Children's Hospital, I oversee more than 200 sponsored projects and significant philanthropic funding. Organizing complex information, maintaining accuracy, and keeping projects on track are central to my work—skills I would bring to maintaining Region IV's records, minutes, and archives.

I have been actively involved in NCURA for several years, including chairing the Faculty Travel Workshop Subcommittee and serving on the Professional Development Committee, where I contributed to updates in the Mentoring Our Own program. I also led the relaunch of the Faculty Workshop Travel Program, developing clear roles and an inclusive selection process. Working across institutions, exchanging ideas, and learning from colleagues is one of the most rewarding aspects of this community.

Why This Role Appeals to Me

I am drawn to the opportunity to strengthen communication, transparency, and connection across Region IV. While the responsibilities of the Secretary—documenting meetings, preserving archives, and supporting the website—may seem behind the scenes, they are essential to keeping our community informed and aligned. I am committed to ensuring that decisions and initiatives are captured accurately and shared effectively, helping our region thrive.

A Little About Me

I was born and raised in Romania and began my studies in law before transitioning to research administration—so precision and organization have always been central to my approach. If elected, I will bring dedication, reliability, and a collaborative spirit to the role, supporting Region IV in staying organized, connected, and forward-looking. Outside of work, I enjoy exploring new foods, traveling with family, and discovering hiking trails in Chicago and throughout the Midwest.

NCURA Activities

- Chair, Faculty Travel Workshop Subcommittee – Region IV
- Chair and Co-Chair, Region IV Professional Development Committee (2023–2024, Jan–May 2025)
- Member, Region IV Professional Development Committee (2023–2025)
- Recipient, John Phillips Region IV Travel Award (2020)
- Regular volunteer and participant in Region IV events and workshops

Other Professional Activities

- Clinical Research Professional Mentorship Committee – supporting professional development and onboarding

Professional Positions Held

- Associate Director, Research Administration – Division of Hematology, Oncology, Neuro-Oncology & Stem Cell Transplant, Lurie Children's Hospital
- Assistant Director, Sponsored Research Finance Office, Lurie Children's Hospital
- Research Business Manager, Lurie Children's Hospital
- Research Administrator, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

Education

- M.S., Communication Leadership – Northwestern University
- B.A., Liberal Arts – Northeastern Illinois University
- A.A.S., Paralegal Studies (ABA Approved) – Northwestern College
- Law Studies – West University of Timișoara, Romania