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Scientific Background: As a scientist in the Translational Matrix Biology research group at the University of Cologne, I focus on fibrosis mechanisms in skin as therapeutic targets. I received my Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Microbiology from the University of Lübeck, Germany, in 2004, and subsequently trained with Dr. Dieter Reinhardt at McGill University (Montreal, Canada), studying fibrillin microfibrils and molecular mechanisms underlying Marfan syndrome and homocystinuria. In 2011, I joined the laboratory of Dr. Suneel Apte, a former ASMB president, at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute (Cleveland, USA) to investigate ADAMTS proteins in genetic connective tissue disorders. From 2018 to 2024, I led a research group at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (New York, USA), focusing on ADAMTS proteases and ADAMTS-like proteins in the context of connective tissue disorders. I have contributed to more than 50 peer-reviewed publications and serve on the editorial boards of *Matrix Biology* and *Matrix Biology Plus* and as a director of the *Ines Mandl Research Foundation*.

Involvement in the ASMB: I have been an ASMB member since 2012 and consider the ASMB my scientific home. I served on the Council from 2018 to 2022 and have been a member of the Communications and Outreach, Nominating and Awards, and Program Planning Committees. I currently serve on the ASMB Publications Committee. These experiences have helped me appreciate the work that goes into sustaining the ASMB as a society and creating opportunities for its members. I would welcome the opportunity to build on this experience and continue contributing as a Council member.

My Vision for the ASMB: For me, the ASMB stands for exciting science, a strong and welcoming community, and opportunities to exchange ideas and build collaborations across disciplines and career stages. Its meetings and other scientific activities are particularly valuable in bringing together researchers from around the world. As a Council member, I would work to strengthen these connections, support mentoring and career development, and help ensure that the ASMB remains inclusive and responsive to the needs of its members. I believe it is important to create opportunities for early-career scientists while continuing to engage and support researchers throughout their careers. I would be honored to contribute to a society that has played an important role in my own scientific journey and to help sustain its position as a leading voice for extracellular matrix research around the world.