

Personal Statement

I emigrated from Romania alone at the age of 19, leaving behind a degree in genetics for the privilege of receiving training in psychology, a discipline that was forbidden during Romania's dictatorship years. My professional journey took me from inner city clinics in Ohio to psychiatry and medical settings at MGH/HMS. My personal and professional experiences taught me the power of perspective-taking, generative listening, and integrating individuals, communities, and organizations with diverse, often divergent opinions. I have the expertise, passion, energy, and determination to strengthen and diversify our SBM community. I would be truly honored to serve as your President-Elect for SBM.

SBM is the leading behavioral health organization housing some of the brightest and most forward-thinking minds across healthcare. To foster meaningful change through science, research, and policy, we need innovative solutions and support from other professional organizations, disciplines (engineering, computer science, business, medicine), industry, and philanthropical partners. As an advocate for innovation and integration, diverse opinions are necessary to solve major health, economic, and social justice problems. I vow to build partnerships with other organizations and disciplines to widen SBM's membership and bring resources that can foster true, interdisciplinary collaboration.

Biographical Sketch

Ana-Maria Vranceanu, PhD, is a mentor, researcher, clinician, leader, educator, and collaborator. Her work is guided by the values of community, collaboration, and service. She is Associate Professor of Psychology at Harvard Medical School (HMS), Founding Director of the Center for Health Outcomes and Interdisciplinary Research (CHOIR) and its clinical psychology doctoral training program, and the James and Elizabeth Gamble Endowed Chair Co-Director (Psychiatry) at MassGeneral Neurosciences, Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). She develops, tests, and implements innovative, accessible, technology-enhanced behavioral health interventions with the goal of enhancing the health, well-being, and equity of individuals (patients, caregivers, dyads) across the lifespan and on the continuum from health to illness. Her work pioneered biopsychosocial models of care in critical care settings, orthopedic practices and rare disease clinics. Dr. Vranceanu co-leads a mentoring group for HMS/MGH women faculty in behavioral medicine. She also leads a career development mentoring group comprised of 15 mentees (psychologists, neurologists, surgeons, physical therapists, athletic trainers, exercise physiologists) who are preparing and executing NIH career development award applications. Dr. Vranceanu has published more than 200 peer-reviewed articles and been Principal Investigator on more than 25 NIH, DoD, and foundation funded grants, with continuous funding since 2009.

Dr. Vranceanu has been an SBM member since 2006. Within SBM, Dr. Vranceanu serves as an SBM Fellow, Pain Ambassador for the State of Massachusetts, current Co-Chair of the Integrative Medicine and Spirituality SIG, and past Co-Chair of the Pain SIG. In these leadership positions, she coordinates and leads webinars and conference presentations that integrate multiple SIGs (i.e., Pain, Physical Activity, Student, Integrative Medicine and Spirituality, Health Equity) and contributes to outlook articles and SBM policy statements. She is on SBM's 2022 Annual Meeting planning committee and faculty on SBM's leadership institute for Mid-Career investigators, where she mentors and coaches investigators on individual leadership projects.

In addition to her SBM involvement, Dr. Vranceanu co-leads the International Consortium for Mental and Social Health in Musculoskeletal Illness. This Consortium brings together interdisciplinary stakeholders who provide care to persons with acute and persistent musculoskeletal pain. The goal is to develop collaborative, novel, scalable solutions for the comprehensive assessment and treatment of pain in medical settings. Dr. Vranceanu is also Director for the NINR funded Palliative Care Research Cooperative Clinical Trials Intensive, board member for the International Society of Behavioral Medicine, and Research Co-Chair for the International Association for Neuropalliative Care.