

I'm Robert Hsiung (screen name "Dr. Bob"), and I'm touched to be nominated for internal director. I feel "less than" because I'm not certified by AKRI to consult, but that's not going to keep me from accepting this nomination.

I'm a semi-retired psychiatrist in private practice in Chicago. I co-lead a monthly support group and a weekly process group for Asian American therapists. I used to have the role of Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the Student Counseling and Resource Service at the University of Chicago.

My first presentation on the application of technology and the Internet to mental health was in 1995. In 1998, I founded Psycho-Babble, a free online peer support group. I edited *E-therapy: Case Studies, Guiding Principles, and the Clinical Potential of the Internet* (Norton, 2002). I co-founded and have co-led the American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) Continuous Online Group (COG) every year since 2007. I've been called "a brilliant and reticent Web mastermind" (NY Times, 2010). At the 2019 Dialogues, I co-led a Trans-Modal COG (bringing together the modalities of asynchronous text using Slack, real-time video using Zoom, and in-person using the Cenacle). At Belgirate this year, I'll co-lead a Trans-Language COG (read and post in any of 104 languages!). I'm one of the triad of Group Analytic Society international (GASi) members who co-conceived the free online international leaderless every-Sunday-morning Alternative Large Group which participated in the 2021 Dialogues. I've "done the tech" for 5 conferences between last August and this May. I'm non-binary in that I'm attracted to member as well as staff roles.

I've been on the board of AGPA, and I'm currently on the board of the Group Foundation for Advancing Mental Health. Both, like AKRI, are national not-for-profit group organizations.

I'm a second-generation Chinese-American, married without biological children, and a covid survivor.

We candidates were asked to submit a brief statement accepting our nomination, describing our personal interest in the role, and stating our goals for AKRI.

Briefly, I'm interested in the role because I'd increase the representation on our board of the diversity in our community and bring in "outside" perspectives. My goals for AKRI would be for it to continue to become more diverse, equitable, and inclusive; to continue to use technology and the Internet to innovate and to make AKRI activities more accessible; and to continue to build bridges with other organizations like Group Relations International, AGPA, and GASi. I can see different sides of issues. I can tolerate ambiguity, anxiety, and hate. I can be used by systems to change. Would you like AKRI to change?