POSITION: CCDD Chair-Elect

VERÓNICA CONTRERAS-SHANNON, PH.D.
St. Mary’s University

Candidate’s Statement:

I am humbled that the nominating committee has selected me as a candidate for CCDD Chair-elect. ASIP and CCDD programming has seen me through my postdoctoral training, early faculty years, and academic promotion. I started as an ASIP trainee member in 2005 and began serving on the Committee for Career Development and Diversity (CCDD) in 2016. An ASIP trainee travel award gave me the opportunity to attend my first national meeting, and later did the same for my undergraduate research students. As a trainee, I attended the kinds of CCDD workshops that, more recently, I help plan as a CCDD member. Now, as a faculty in a Primarily Undergraduate Institution (PUI), the ASIP community provides me with a pivotal connection to investigative pathology. ASIP has provided the support, training, and network that has enabled me to be successful in educating the next generation of diverse scientists and providing these students with the experience of doing experimental pathology. If elected as CCDD Chair, I will continue to ensure that ASIP members at any stage of their training or career are supported with programming and networking opportunities that will foster critical professional career development. As CCDD Chair, I would draw on my experiences being involved in the CCDD committee planning efforts for Experimental Biology and PISA, the expertise of the CCDD and other ASIP committees’ memberships, as well as my experience from having served on multiple faculty development committees at my own institution and postdoctoral training activities at UT Health San Antonio. I see exciting potential to grow the society and practice of experimental pathology by connecting with other scientists who, like me, have one foot firmly in the classroom and the other in the research lab. I know that ASIP and the work of the CCDD provide a valuable and stimulating scientific society for its members. It would be my honor to serve the ASIP membership in this role.