

Rinarani Sanghavi, MD, MBA, FAAP, NASPGHAN-F

Personal Statement for Secretary-Treasurer candidacy

I am seeking the role of Secretary-Treasurer of NASPGHAN with a strong commitment to advancing the mission, financial stewardship, and organizational excellence of NASPGHAN. My professional background combines clinical experience, administrative leadership, service to NASPGHAN and a demonstrated record of responsible financial oversight, positioning me to contribute effectively to the society's continued growth and impact.

Throughout my career, I have developed a reputation for reliability, attention to detail, and thoughtful decision-making. I have experience managing complex responsibilities that require clear communication, accurate record-keeping, and adherence to regulatory and governance standards. These skills are essential for maintaining transparent financial practices and ensuring that organizational resources are allocated in alignment with strategic priorities.

In addition, I bring experience collaborating with multidisciplinary teams and engaging with stakeholders across diverse settings. I value structured processes, timely reporting, and accountability, all of which are critical to the Secretary-Treasurer role. My approach emphasizes both fiscal responsibility and forward-looking planning to support sustainable initiatives, educational programs, and research efforts within the field.

I am particularly motivated by the opportunity to support a society that plays a vital role in improving pediatric gastrointestinal health. I am confident that my organizational skills, financial acumen, and dedication to service would allow me to contribute meaningfully to the leadership team and the broader membership.

I would be honored to serve in this capacity and to help ensure NASPGHAN's continued success through effective governance and sound financial management.

Qualifications

I am a practicing pediatric gastroenterologist who successfully established a Neurogastroenterology program at Children's Medical Center Dallas. To complement my clinical work, I earned a Master of Business Administration in Healthcare Leadership and Administration, with a focus on finance, from the University of Texas at Dallas in 2018, graduating with top honors.

Since that time, I have served as Chair of the Pediatric Business Strategy Group at UT Southwestern Medical Center. In this role, I oversee departmental finances, revenue cycle operations, and compliance for a Department of Pediatrics comprising nearly 500 faculty

members. This experience has provided me with a comprehensive understanding of the operational and financial dimensions of pediatric practice, including documentation, coding, reimbursement structures, budgeting, and financial reporting.

In addition, I serve as Chair of the UT Southwestern Compensation Committee, where I apply statistical and financial analysis to guide institutional efforts in salary benchmarking and to promote gender equity in compensation. I maintain an active interest in the broader economics of healthcare and finance through regular engagement with leading industry and financial publications.

Vision

As Secretary-Treasurer, my priority would be to ensure the continued financial strength and sustainability of NASPGHAN through prudent, risk-adjusted investment strategies and a diversified portfolio. I would also seek to expand and diversify revenue streams by engaging strategic partnerships with organizations aligned with evolving areas of healthcare delivery, including telehealth, artificial intelligence, and electronic medical record and endoscopy software providers.

Additionally, I would advocate for the introduction of a student membership category with a nominal fee to foster early interest in pediatric gastroenterology and support the development of the next generation of specialists.

Through disciplined financial stewardship and forward-looking strategy, I am committed to supporting NASPGHAN's mission and long-term growth.

NIH Biographical Sketch

Name: Rinarani M. Sanghavi, MD, MBA, FAAP, NASPGHAN-F

Date Prepared: March 8, 2026

A. Personal Statement

I am a Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Gastroenterology at UT Southwestern Medical Center and a pediatric neurogastroenterologist at Children's Health, Children's Medical Center Dallas. My clinical and academic focus is on pediatric gastrointestinal motility disorders, including anorectal malformations, constipation, functional gastrointestinal disorders, and irritable bowel syndrome. I serve as Director of Neurogastroenterology and the GI Motility Laboratory, where I have led the development of multidisciplinary programs including the Aerodigestive Center, Chronic Abdominal Pain Clinic, Motility and Biofeedback Program, and the Center for Anorectal Malformations and Pelvic Disorders.

My leadership portfolio integrates clinical innovation with administrative and financial oversight. As Chair of the Pediatric Business Strategy Group and Director of the Office of Faculty Engagement and Development, I oversee financial strategy, revenue cycle optimization, and faculty development for a large academic pediatric department. I also serve as Chair of the Faculty Compensation Committee, where I lead institutional efforts to ensure equitable compensation through data-driven analysis.

I completed an MBA with honors, focusing on healthcare leadership and finance, and have pursued advanced leadership training through programs such as ELAM/ELH, the AAMC CMO Leadership Academy, and the Stanford Chief Wellness Officer Course. My work emphasizes aligning operational efficiency with clinician well-being, advancing equity, and fostering leadership development within academic medicine.

B. Positions, Scientific Appointments, and Honors

Academic Appointments

- 2022–Present: Professor, Pediatrics (Gastroenterology), UT Southwestern Medical Center
- 2015–2022: Associate Professor, Pediatrics (Gastroenterology), UT Southwestern Medical Center
- 2007–2015: Assistant Professor, Pediatrics (Gastroenterology), UT Southwestern Medical Center

Leadership and Administrative Roles (Selected)

- 2024–Present: Chair, Faculty Compensation Committee, UT Southwestern Medical Center
- 2018–Present: Director, Office of Faculty Engagement and Development, Department of Pediatrics, UT Southwestern
- 2017–Present: Chair, Pediatric Business Strategy Group (Revenue Cycle Optimization), UT Southwestern
- 2007–Present: Director, Neurogastroenterology and GI Motility Laboratory, Children’s Health, Dallas
- 2021: President, Medical-Dental Staff, Children’s Health, Dallas
- 2021: Chair, Medical Executive Committee and Medical Advisory Committee, Children’s Health
- 2022: Immediate Past President, Medical-Dental Staff, Children’s Health
- 2020–Present: Leadership roles, Professional Development Committee, NASPGHAN
- 2026: Chair, Ensuring Equity in Awards and Leadership, NASPGHAN

Honors and Awards (Selected)

- Fellow, Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM/ELH), 2024
- Institutional Service Award and Clinical Excellence Award, UT Southwestern, 2023
- Scrubs and Heels “Breaking the Glass Ceiling” Award, 2023
- Fellow of NASPGHAN, 2020
- Best Doctors in Dallas, 2019–2025 (multiple years)
- Physician Leadership Development Program Recognition, UT Southwestern, 2014
- Most Outstanding Resident Award, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, 2004

C. Contributions to Science

1. Development of Multidisciplinary Programs in Pediatric Neurogastroenterology

I have led the establishment of several innovative, multidisciplinary clinical programs

that integrate gastroenterology, surgery, nutrition, and behavioral health to improve outcomes for children with complex motility disorders. These include the Aerodigestive Center, Chronic Abdominal Pain Clinic, and specialized programs for anorectal malformations and pelvic floor disorders. These initiatives have improved access to coordinated, patient-centered care.

2. Advancing Clinical Care in Pediatric Motility Disorders

Through my work as Director of Neurogastroenterology and the GI Motility Laboratory, I have advanced diagnostic and therapeutic approaches for pediatric motility disorders. My focus has been on functional gastrointestinal disorders, constipation, and irritable bowel syndrome, contributing to improved clinical pathways and patient outcomes.

3. Leadership in Academic Medicine and Health System Operations

My contributions extend to operational and financial leadership within academic pediatrics. I have led initiatives in revenue cycle optimization, financial management, and faculty engagement, enhancing efficiency and sustainability within a large pediatric department. My work in compensation equity has supported institutional efforts toward fairness and transparency.

4. Advocacy for Equity, Leadership Development, and Physician Wellness

I have been actively involved in national efforts to advance professional development, equity, and leadership in pediatric gastroenterology through NASPGHAN and other forums. My work emphasizes mentorship, the advancement of women in medicine, and the integration of wellness into academic leadership structures.

D. Additional Information: Research Support and/or Scholastic Performance

Education and Training

- MBA (Honors), Healthcare Leadership and Administration, University of Texas at Dallas, 2016–2018
- Fellowship, Pediatric Gastroenterology, UT Southwestern Medical Center, 2004–2007
- Residency, Pediatrics, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, 2001–2004
- MBBS (Honors), Seth G.S. Medical College and K.E.M. Hospital, Mumbai, India, 1994–2000

Professional Development (Selected)

- Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine / Healthcare (ELAM/ELH), Drexel University, 2025

- Business Certified Coach (BCC), Center for Credentialing and Education, 2024
- Stanford Chief Wellness Officer Course, 2023
- AAMC Chief Medical Officer Leadership Academy, 2022
- Six Sigma Lean (Yellow and Green Belt Certified)

Other Professional Activities (Selected)

- Scientific Advisory Board Member, AbbVie (pediatric motility therapeutics)
- Data Safety Monitoring Board member for pediatric clinical trials
- National and international invited speaker on neurogastroenterology, nutrition, and leadership