

## 2024 Nominee for Secretary

**Susan Carpenter, Ph.D.**

Professor of MCD Biology

University of California, Santa Cruz, California, United States

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**Please briefly describe why you believe you are suitable to serve as a member of the Council. Consider the following within your response: What do you think should be the ICIS's top priorities over the next three to five years, and what challenges might come? How might the ICIS serve our membership better in your view? In what way has your background given you a diverse perspective?**

I have been Secretary for 18 months and I am eager to remain involved. The society has been growing and I like their encouragement and support of scientists at the varying levels of their careers. I like the connections with industry and network opportunities for our trainees. I am passionate about diversity and so opportunities to host meetings or showcase scientists who have been historically marginalized is something I am eager for the society to continue implementing and growing.

**Please list your current and/or past participation in ICIS committees. Include committee membership, positions of leadership, speaking invitations, etc.**

As mentioned above I have been secretary of the society since 2023. Previously I was a member. I have been familiar with the society since the merger of the two societies as this occurred when I was doing my PhD with the then president Prof. Luke O'Neill. I have had the pleasure of speaking at the Cytokine meeting in Japan in 2017 and in Greece in 2023.

**List any other relevant qualifications for office, including any non-ICIS volunteer other leadership activities. (Not a CV.)**

- I am the Co-director of the UCSC RNA Center. I am involved in generating our priority areas of focus each year. I am the chair of the immunology within MCD. We generate a calendar of events including monthly Immunology club, section seminars and social events. We also promote our outward facing presence on campus.
- I am the chair of our departmental DEI committee (3 years). Our priorities are to promote an inclusive, welcoming and supportive environment for all in our department.