

# Election Statement

*Kevin Weinfurt, PhD*

**Please describe your motivation for becoming involved with ISOQOL. How does ISOQOL's mission and vision relate to your work?**

I have spent more than 25 years growing up in ISOQOL, and the society has shaped me as a scientist in ways I could not have anticipated when I first joined. ISOQOL's mission — to advance the science of quality of life and related patient-centered outcomes in health research, care, and policy — is not something I support from a distance. It is the animating purpose of my professional life, and it is why I want to serve as President.

My motivation begins with a deep commitment to the rigor of our science. Our field rests on intellectual foundations that need ongoing attention and, sometimes, renovation. Over the years, I have watched our shared frameworks evolve, and I have tried to contribute to that evolution — most notably through work on modern approaches to validity in patient-reported outcome measurement. This work has convinced me that one of the most valuable things any of us can do for ISOQOL is to help keep our scientific foundations strong, coherent, and fit for the challenges ahead, including the growing role of generative AI, the incorporation of non-Western perspectives on health and quality of life, and the expanding array of clinical outcome assessments now in use.

My motivation also comes from a genuine love of this community and a commitment to its future. Mentorship has been one of the most meaningful parts of my career. Watching early-career researchers find their footing, develop their ideas, and go on to do impactful work is deeply satisfying — and it is essential to the long-term health of our field. ISOQOL is a global society, and I am especially committed to creating opportunities for the next generation of researchers from all parts of the world to develop their skills, find their voices, and contribute to our shared mission.

Perhaps most importantly, I come to this role as a lifelong learner. I have been humbled repeatedly by what I did not know and have been transformed by what my colleagues have taught me — through their published work, through conversations at our annual meetings, and through the kind of generous, rigorous peer review that I believe represents science at its best. The moral commitments that hold our community together — a dedication to honoring patients' voices, to intellectual humility, and to pursuing truth in the service of reducing suffering — are ones I carry with me every day.

As President, I would want to serve those same commitments at the level of the entire society. That means fostering an environment in which our members are continuously learning from one another, in which scientific rigor is celebrated and supported, and in which the doors of our community are open wide to researchers at every career stage and from every corner of the world.

ISOQOL has given me an intellectual home. I would be honored to help sustain and strengthen it for everyone who lives and works here.



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*Kevin Weinfurt, PhD*

**Please describe your qualifications and how your experiences will influence your ability to contribute as an ISOQOL Board Member.**

My qualifications for serving as President of ISOQOL stem from a career that has deliberately straddled multiple worlds — academic medicine, industry, and regulatory science — and from a longstanding commitment to bringing those worlds into productive conversation.

As a professor at Duke University, I hold joint appointments in Population Health Sciences, Psychology and Neuroscience, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, and Philosophy. These appointments are not ceremonial — they reflect a genuine effort to remain fluent in the languages of multiple disciplines. The science of quality of life and patient-centered outcomes sits at the intersection of measurement theory, clinical medicine, statistics, ethics, and health policy. As President, I would draw on that breadth to help ISOQOL engage stakeholders across all of these domains.

My research career has similarly spanned multiple sectors. I served as a Principal Investigator in both rounds of the NIH PROMIS initiative and was later President of the PROMIS Health Organization. I have collaborated extensively with industry partners on clinical outcome assessments and served as a COA Expert Adviser to the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research from 2020 to 2024, contributing directly to the agency's guidances on patient-focused drug development. This experience engaging with federal sponsors, industry scientists, academic researchers, and regulators has taught me how to build bridges across institutional cultures — a skill that is essential for leading an international society whose members come from all of these communities.

Within ISOQOL itself, I have served in a range of roles that have prepared me for the presidency. I served on the Board of Directors from 2017 to 2020, co-chaired the 2017 Annual Conference, and chaired the Annual Conference Integration Task Force. These roles gave me direct experience with ISOQOL's governance, strategic challenges, and the considerable work required to bring a large, global membership together around shared goals.

Beyond ISOQOL, I have led or co-led major national research networks, including serving as Co-PI of the NIH Symptoms of Lower Urinary Tract Dysfunction Research Network and of the NIH Health Care Systems Research Collaboratory Coordinating Center — a multi-institutional pragmatic trials network. Prior to my current role as Vice Chair of Faculty, I served as Vice Chair of Research and Interim Chair in my department at Duke. These experiences have given me practical training in the administrative, scientific, and interpersonal dimensions of large-scale leadership.

Finally, I have functioned throughout my career as a researcher, administrator, and educator simultaneously — teaching graduate courses, mentoring trainees, and co-directing a clinical research training program at Duke. I understand what it means to build capacity in others, and I would bring that same orientation to the presidency of ISOQOL.



**ISOQOL**

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR QUALITY OF LIFE RESEARCH