It was an honor to be elected President of AP-LS, and I am very much looking forward to working with all of you in the upcoming year on our organization. The first thing I want to do is tell you about my Presidential initiative: **Embracing Leadership: Developing Skills for Your Career Evolution.** This is a leadership training program for our members that will provide participants with the skills and the opportunities to become leaders within our Division and beyond. Based on surveys of our membership and on the surveys done on specific subgroups within our membership (ECPs, Student Section, etc.), there appears to be a high level of interest in leadership development. Many members have expressed the desire to be involved in leadership, but they feel it is difficult to “break into” leadership in the Division. This perception is one of many barriers to leadership for our members, and this feeling is not limited to leadership within the Division.

Feelings of imposter syndrome or potential lack of perceived competence to lead are other barriers to leadership. Many people believe they are not ready to serve in leadership roles based on feelings of limited knowledge about leadership and development of leadership skills. Leadership is not something that we are typically trained to do in our graduate programs, but many of us are called upon to do it anyway. This lack of confidence in the ability to lead keeps competent and deserving people from serving in leadership roles. These leadership roles are not limited to service to the Division. Our members are asked to lead in a variety of ways outside the Division, such as department Chairs, directors of programs or centers, clinical supervision, supervision of graduate and undergraduate students, service on committees, and many more. We want our members to feel confident in these roles and to show the world that we, as a Division, are leaders.

The goals of **Embracing Leadership** are to: 1) provide training for interested members in a variety of leadership skills that could benefit their careers broadly, 2) cultivate interest in leadership within the Division, 3) provide leadership opportunities within the Division, and 4) prepare our members to take on leadership challenges inside and outside of the Division. We will meet these goals by providing program participants with skills-based training on a variety of leadership topics starting around January, 2020. We also will connect participants with mentors who are current AP-LS members in leadership positions. Together, they will engage in collaborative leadership work for the Division that will open opportunities for leadership within the Division. We will begin that work at a workshop on the Wednesday before the AP-LS Annual Conference in March, 2020. Participants will get one night of their hotel costs covered to reduce the financial burden of attending this workshop.

My greatest hope for this program is that it will inspire more of our members to seek out leadership roles within and outside the Division so that the world will view us as leaders in our fields. If it sounds like you would like to be a participant in the **Embracing Leadership** program, then please apply! We strongly encourage applicants at ALL career levels, including graduate students. The Call for Applications is available in this
issue of *The AP-LS News*. You also can click here to view the online application: [AP-LSEmbracingLeadershipApplication](https://scrippscollage.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_oAsDzwcBELQQJwh). You will need to upload a brief CV and a statement of interest (1000 words maximum) that provides a brief summary of where you are in your career, your goals for your own leadership development, what skills you would like to develop, what leadership roles you have had, and what (if any) leadership roles you would like to obtain in the future. The online survey will ask you some basic demographic questions that we may use to evaluate the program. **Applications are due November 15, 2019.**

If you have any questions about Embracing Leadership or if you have questions for me as President, please feel free to email me at jgroscup@scrippscollage.edu any time. I look forward to us leading together!