

InterPore President-Elect Candidacy Letter: Bo Guo

InterPore feels like home to me, and I know it feels that way to many of us. We come from different disciplines, but we all share a fascination with how fluids, chemicals, and energy move and interact within porous structures. Whether we study fuel cells, hydrology, soil science, or petroleum engineering, porous-media science is our common intellectual home. I am proud to belong to this community and feel a responsibility to contribute to its future.

I joined InterPore in 2016 and have chaired its Membership Committee since 2021. I also served on the Program Committee from 2021 to 2023 and have organized minisymposia at eight InterPore annual meetings. These experiences have deepened my understanding of what sustains our society and how we can best serve our members. Chairing the AGU Hydrology Section's Groundwater Technical Committee and the 2024 Computational Methods in Water Resources (CMWR) conference has given me experience bringing research communities together. My Humboldt Fellowship and a decade of collaboration with the University of Stuttgart have broadened my international perspective. Drawing on these experiences, I would focus on three priorities if elected.

Strengthen year-round member engagement. Building on InterPore's existing year-round programs, I would work with the Academy, Program Committee, national chapters, and early-career groups to develop workshops and courses that address emerging scientific and professional needs. One of the priorities would be developing a collective response to AI's opportunities and challenges. Recent advances illustrate AI's enormous potential for scientific discovery, while raising urgent questions about education, training, and younger researchers' career prospects. I would propose a member-led task force to establish a forum to discuss AI's impact on research, teaching, and career development in porous-media science and to identify concrete steps our society can take. A central goal would be to help younger researchers develop independent scientific judgment, adapt their skills, and build careers in academia and industry as scientific work evolves.

Make participation and leadership more accessible. In an era of rapid change, it is critical that all InterPore members have a voice in shaping our society's direction. I would support defined roles for early-career researchers to co-lead activities and bring their perspectives into decisions. In recruiting volunteers and selecting leaders, we should involve colleagues from a wider range of regions, backgrounds, disciplines, career stages, and organizations.

Strengthen industry engagement in InterPore. I would work with the Industry Committee, Program Committee, and national chapters to increase industry members' participation in our annual meetings and year-round activities. This would include inviting industry colleagues to co-organize sessions, present their research needs at annual meetings, and give webinars on problems where porous-media research could make a difference. I would draw on connections through AGU and institutions in the United States, Europe, and China to initiate these conversations while working with national chapters to broaden participation in other regions.

As the 2027 Henry Darcy Distinguished Lecturer, I will visit institutions around the world, introduce colleagues to InterPore, and listen to their views on what our society does well and where it falls short. I would bring these perspectives to my work with the Council, committees, and staff, focusing on initiatives we can deliver well and assessing their value to members. I would be honored to serve our community as President-Elect.

Sincerely,

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