Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to be put forward as a candidate for InterPore President-Elect. I joined InterPore in 2015 and served on the InterPore Council from 2017-20. For my service contributions, I was a recipient of the InterPore Rossette Award in 2021. My current service role is as the InterPore Ombudsperson, but as I move into a phased retirement from my academic position at Brown University this year, I expect to have more time to devote to the organization.

During my time as a member, I have watched InterPore grow into a first-class international scientific society. Its global reach, bridging of industry and academia and organizational dedication to interdisciplinarity and inclusiveness are particularly noteworthy. My short bio and CV detail some of my professional experience, but I wish here to elaborate on aspects of my background that could help me bring value to InterPore in a leadership role.

I have built my reputation as an environmental researcher at the intersection of experiments and mathematical modeling. Much of my research has involved collaborations with colleagues from diverse academic disciplines, including soil science, surface chemistry, geology, microbiology, petroleum engineering, signal processing, chemical engineering, and applied mathematics. I began these collaborations at a time when cross-disciplinary research was not encouraged, and I have always believed that the major challenges facing the world cannot be addressed without engaging those with a diversity of expertise and perspectives. These collaborations have given me a deep appreciation for the knowledge, research methods, and habits of mind that characterize researchers outside of my own discipline.

I have engaged in various service roles throughout my career, including service as an elected member of the US National Academy governing Council, as well as membership on the National Science Foundation Engineering Directorate Advisory Committee, the Stockholm Environment Institute USA Board of Directors, the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences Board of Trustees, and the Board of Trustees of Union College. Many of these roles entailed responsibility for strategic visioning and fiducial oversight. Perhaps of most relevance, I served as the Inaugural Dean of the Tufts University (Medford, MA, USA) School of Engineering (SOE) from 2003-2015, where I had the opportunity to build an independent School of Engineering. During my tenure as dean, I negotiated a new budget model, doubled the faculty size, and built the infrastructure that was needed to propel the SOE forward. I also founded a SOE Advancement organization and helped to raise $110 million dollars in support of the School.

As the only woman in my undergraduate civil engineering class at Drexel University and the first woman in my family to attend college, I have always been a champion of gender, ethnic, and economic diversity. For example, during my time as dean, we developed and piloted the Bridge to Engineering Success at Tufts (BEST) program, a summer bridge program for incoming engineering students from under-resourced high schools. In addition to my efforts to recruit and retain underrepresented faculty at Tufts, I was also one of the individuals that helped to design and found Drexel University's Program in Executive Leadership in Academic Technology, Engineering, and Science (ELATES), a unique one-year program designed to advance senior women faculty in the academic STEM disciplines.

If selected as InterPore President-Elect, I will do my best to lever my experience to support the continued growth and reach of the society. I share the values that built InterPore and believe that, in this challenging time we live in, this organization can facilitate the continued pursuit of discovery and innovation by developing and connecting porous media scientists and engineers across the globe.

Sincerely,

Linda