

Bio:

Christian “Chris” Nelson, PhD, is the Director of the Walther Center for Supportive Oncology at the Indiana University (IU) Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center, the Walther Professor of Supportive Oncology, and Professor of Psychiatry and Medicine at the IU School of Medicine. Dr. Nelson also serves as the Chief Resilience Officer for the Cancer Center.

He specializes in improving the quality of life of patients treated for genitourinary malignancies and older adults with cancer. As the psychological liaison to the Genitourinary and Sexual Medicine services, he helps men with prostate cancer who experience treatment-related sexual dysfunction, along with their partners, optimize intimacy before, during, and after treatment. He also works with the Geriatric Disease Management team, providing psychological support to patients aged 65 years and older.

Personal Statement – Christian Nelson

Christian Nelson, Member-at-Large

I am honored to be considered for a Member-at-Large position on the International Society for Sexual Medicine Board. Sexual medicine has been a central focus of my clinical, research, and educational activities for more than 20 years. Throughout that time, I have been an active participant in the ISSM community and have attended World Meetings consistently for the past two decades. My commitment to the field has also included service in leadership roles, most notably as Treasurer of the Sexual Medicine Society of North America (SMSNA) for four years. These experiences have given me a deep appreciation for the important role ISSM plays in advancing science, education, and clinical care worldwide, and I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the Society's continued growth and success as a Member-at-Large.

A major strength I would bring to the Board is a multidisciplinary perspective grounded in the biopsychosocial model of sexual health. As a clinical psychologist and researcher, my work has focused on understanding and addressing the psychological, behavioral, relational, and quality-of-life consequences of sexual dysfunction, particularly among men with prostate cancer. Throughout my career, I have worked closely with urologists, sexual medicine specialists, oncologists, nurses, and rehabilitation professionals to develop interventions that improve both sexual function and overall well-being. I believe ISSM is uniquely positioned to promote a comprehensive view of sexual health that integrates biological, psychological, and social dimensions, and I would be committed to supporting initiatives that strengthen this multidisciplinary approach across research, education, and clinical practice.

I am also motivated by ISSM's global mission and its ability to improve sexual health through education and collaboration. Over the past two years, I have served on the steering committee for the ISSM/Movember partnership focused on disseminating the Guidelines for Sexual Health Following Prostate Cancer Treatment, and I have directed the workshop component of this international initiative. This experience has reinforced my belief that high-quality, evidence-based sexual medicine education should be accessible to clinicians and patients worldwide. As a Member-at-Large, I would work to support ISSM's efforts to expand educational opportunities, foster collaboration across disciplines and regions, support early-career professionals, and improve access to sexual medicine knowledge in lower-resource settings. I would be honored to serve as a Member-at-Large and to work with ISSM colleagues around the world to advance sexual health through science, education, collaboration, and patient-centered care.