



2024 American Pediatric Society Election Candidate

Position: Councilor

Candidate: Louis Muglia, MD, PhD

Institution(s): President and CEO, Burroughs Wellcome Fund

Subspecialty: Endocrinology

Candidate Statement of Interest

I am honored to be considered for APS Council and enthusiastically look forward to serving should I be elected. I have been a long-standing member of the SPR and APS, participated in many events at the annual meeting, and benefited enormously from this engagement. Throughout my career, I have strived to improve the lives of mothers and children through preventing or treating adverse pregnancy outcomes, specifically preterm birth, and also serve as a mentor for future generations of pediatricians and physician-scientists. I have come to appreciate the benefits, and need for, multidisciplinary research that integrates molecular approaches, environmental exposures and social determinants to truly impact society's great health challenges.

My career as a physician-scientist, I believe, has provided a foundation for new and effective approaches to treat and prevent premature birth. The signature achievement for this long, mission focused work that has produced more than 300 publications was the 2017 manuscript of a landmark study of 50,000 women which identified 6 common maternal polymorphisms that shape preterm birth risk. This work has received wide-spread attention and recognition of many honors including induction into the National Academy of Medicine, Finnish Academy of Science and Letters and American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

In addition, I have served in several prominent leadership positions in my career, including most recently as the President and CEO of the Burroughs Wellcome Fund. In this role, I have engaged with international partners to lead a new and important focus on the effects of climate change on human health, fostering innovative research by the best and brightest scholars. In addition, I have prioritized promoting support of diverse scholars with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as a core value in all our activities at the Burroughs Wellcome Fund.

Louis Muglia, MD, PhD
President and CEO of the Burroughs Wellcome Fund

Louis Muglia, MD, PhD

Louis Muglia, MD, PhD, is President and CEO of the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, an independent nonprofit research foundation in Research Triangle Park accelerating discovery in the biomedical sciences. Previously, he served as Vice Chair for Research, Director of the Division of Human Genetics, Co-Director of the Perinatal Institute, and Professor of Pediatrics at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Lou's research focus has been to understand the molecular pathways determining when birth occurs to prevent preterm birth and better treat human preterm labor and delivery, considering both genetic and environmental factors including social determinants. Priorities now at Burroughs Wellcome Fund include climate change and human health, promoting diversity and equity in science, and science communication better partnering science and the arts.

Among Lou's achievements are more than 300 publications and election to the American Society for Clinical Investigation and Association of American Physicians. In 2010, he was elected to Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2013, Lou was elected to membership in the National Academy of Medicine, and in 2020, and to the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters. In 2023, Lou was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He maintains membership in SPR, APS, Pediatric Endocrine Society, Perinatal Research Society, and Society for Reproductive Investigation.

Lou earned his Doctor of Medicine (1988) and Doctor of Philosophy (1986) degrees from the University of Chicago. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in biophysics from the University of Michigan in 1981. He completed pediatric residency training (1990) and pediatric endocrinology fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital. Lou has served on SPR council and has organized or contributed to workshops, symposia, and poster sessions and many PAS meeting over the past three decades.