

ICAP Board of Directors Application – Statement of Interest

Rebecca R. Hill, PhD, DNP, FNP-C, CNE, FAAN

Why I Would Like to Join the ICAP Board

I am passionate about advancing evidence-based, interdisciplinary care for individuals with ankylofrenula and their families. ICAP has been a cornerstone in shaping global understanding of tongue-tie, and I seek to contribute my expertise in clinical research, academic leadership, and professional collaboration to further strengthen ICAP's mission. Board service offers an opportunity to expand international research initiatives, strengthen clinical practice guidelines, and ensure equitable care for feeding dyads worldwide.

Professional Background in Tongue-Tie (Research Focus)

My research program has centered on the assessment, treatment, and outcomes of infants with tongue-tie. As Principal Investigator, I have led multiple funded studies, including a Gerber Foundation grant (Exploring maternal and infant feeding symptoms for mothers breastfeeding infants with tongue-tie: A prospective cohort study, \$30,000) and several institutionally funded projects at the MGH Institute of Health Professions focused on gastrointestinal dysfunction and feeding outcomes pre- and post-frenotomy.

I am frequently invited to present internationally on tongue-tie research. I have authored more than a dozen peer-reviewed publications specifically on ankyloglossia and tethered oral tissues, including:

- Feeding and gastrointestinal symptomology: Comparing infants without oral restriction to those with treated and untreated tethered oral tissues (IJOM, 2024).
- Improvement in problematic feeding symptoms for infants with tethered oral tissues after frenotomy (Journal of Neonatal Nursing, 2023).
- Gastroesophageal symptom improvement for infants following tongue-tie correction (Clinical Pediatrics, 2023).
- The prevalence of ankyloglossia in children aged < 1 year: A systematic review and meta-analysis (Pediatric Research, 2020).

My work has been recognized through awards such as the Best Abstract Award, New England Association of Neonatal Nurses (2024) and the Sigma Theta Tau Inge Corless Research Award (2023).

Board and Leadership Experience

I bring extensive governance and leadership experience. I currently serve as Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Nursing, overseeing academic strategy, curriculum, and faculty development. I also serve on the National League for Nursing Board of Governors (2024–2027), the Eastern Nursing Research Society Membership Committee (2024–2026), and previously as President of Sigma Theta Tau International, Upsilon Lambda Chapter (2017–2018). These roles have prepared me for the collaborative, policy-focused, and strategic responsibilities of Board service.

History of Involvement with ICAP

I have been an active member of ICAP since 2021, contributing through research presentations, committee engagement, and scholarly dissemination. At the 2022 ICAP Conference in Vancouver, I presented findings on the effects of frenotomy on breastfeeding, feeding, and gastrointestinal health, and in 2024 I presented both a podium and poster session on problematic infant feeding symptoms for infants with and without tongue-tie. My ongoing collaborations with ICAP colleagues have been central to advancing my program of research and to supporting ICAP's mission of interdisciplinary collaboration.

Conclusion

I bring a strong track record of funded research, international dissemination, and organizational leadership that directly aligns with ICAP's goals. My expertise in tongue-tie research, combined with my leadership experience and long-standing ICAP involvement, uniquely position me to contribute meaningfully as a Board Member. I welcome the opportunity to further advance ICAP's mission and global impact.