



Residents Forum Executive Committee Elections

Candidate for Secretary

Alexander Besen, MD

University of Rochester Medical Center
Rochester, NY



When are you taking your boards? – 2026

CAP Experience:

Activity	Position	Years of Service
Residents Forum	Delegate	08/09/2021 – 12/31/2021

How did you become interested in serving on the RFEC?

I became interested in RFEC from attending the Residents Forum meetings in fall 2023 and spring 2024. In the time between them, I applied to and was invited to join the medical student outreach committee. I've greatly enjoyed getting to work with Dr. Bhardwaj, Steven, and all of my fellow committee members. I've also gotten the time to talk with Dr. Parnaz Danesh about the secretary role, as I think it dovetails well with my skillset.

What do you hope to accomplish during your time, if elected?

As CAP RFEC bylaws are in the process of being updated (per Dr. Danesh), I hope to help with a smooth transition from the old policy of minute recordings to the new policy where the RFEC manager performs that task. If feasible, I would like to also look into and establish some form of regular correspondence with programs in order to keep delegate lists up to date, as I know from experience that programs may update their delegates in the middle of an academic year. I'd also like to work with the RFEC chair to offer more frequent correspondences with junior members, as well as send out newsletters to medical students to keep them informed of Residents Forum events and opportunities.

Please convey your understanding of the role of an Residents Forum Executive Committee member and their responsibility to the Residents Forum and the College of American Pathologists.

RFEC is responsible for overseeing the Residents Forum and CAP junior members, both through serving as a liaison body between the House of Delegates and Residents Forum and through organizing and running the bi-annual Residents Forum meetings. In addition, RFEC organizes and supervises multiple committees that involve CAP junior members and medical students. They also play a role in choosing which junior members serve on which committees, based on who applies. To that end, there is both frequent electronic communications to stay on top of and monthly RFEC meetings, including in-person meetings prior to the Residents Forum sessions in the spring and fall. Different RFEC positions such as the chair may have additional travel requirements.

Please address the time commitment for the office in which you are interested and your ability to fulfill it.

There will be at least twelve days with RFEC meetings in addition to the two days dedicated to the Residents Forum meetings. Additional afternoons would be needed for overseeing meetings of the Residents Forum Credentials Committee. I believe I can handle the responsibility, as I have been able to balance my clinical responsibilities thus far with attendings meetings of the medical student outreach committee and associated committees in my residency program. In addition to this, thanks to my program's flexible scheduling, I have frontloaded a lot of my busier clinical rotations into my first two years and the start of my third year. By the time of the RFEC elections in October, I will have finished the



busiest required rotations and will have predominantly lighter rotations and electives remaining until the end of my residency.

What talents and skills do you bring to the Residents Forum Executive Committee that you believe would benefit the Residents Forum?

I am organized and methodical, responding to requests and messages as soon as possible. I've been known to approach problems from unique angles and sometimes come up with unconventional solutions. I'm diligent and hard working and always eager to learn.

What else should the Residents Forum know about you?

I've previously served as the secretary of multiple executive boards for collegiate clubs and greatly enjoyed the experiences.