

WELCOME TO THE BOARD ROOM

Meet the President-Elect, Sarah Patterson, MSc, CCLS



Sarah Patterson, MSc, CCLS, (She/Her/Hers)
Associate Professor & Curriculum Coordinator, McMaster University

Q: Tell us a little more about your child life journey.

In May 1992, I started my child life internship. At that point I had no idea of the amazing career I had ahead of me. I have had the opportunity to work in several different areas and patient populations as well as internationally within our field of practice. During the last 32 years, most of my clinical practice has been within solid organ transplant population, although I have spent

time working in the intensive care, emergency room, outpatient clinics, and several other areas. Recently, I became a full time academic which has been an interesting road for me to pivot to. Pain management and pill swallowing were initially my passion for years. Now, I am quite interested in child life and simulation-based learning and education.

Q: What inspired you to serve as a board member?

Simply stated, I was nominated. At the time, I remember feeling imposter syndrome and fear of failing the people who nominated me. I went through the application and interview process and after my first board meeting, I was overwhelmed at how incredibly respectful and engaging the board was! As always, it's the people that make the difference. ACLP is full of amazing child life individuals who volunteer to make our profession better. After my time as a board Director ended, I was inspired to become the next President because of all of you!

Q: What is the Board working on right now that you are most excited about?

The Board always works on interesting projects that complement our mission, vision, and strategic plan. I am very passionate about the Emotional

Safety Initiative, and we are continuing to expand this work from the Emotional Safety Summit II we hosted last June. This excites me as it translates into our profession and throughout healthcare.

Q: What is one of their hopes for the child life profession or where do they see it in the future?

My hope for the child life profession is that we continue to work on the pipeline to the profession so that everyone interested in joining the field can pursue this profession. This means current barriers are eliminated for education, internships, salary, and employment which will help to improve the burnout we currently see from these issues. I also hope that we can continue to expand where child life services are offered and integrated, continue our global outreach, expand our collaboration, and increase recognition for all the amazing professionals in the field, both now and generations to come.

