Amanda Hays, Ph.D., is a Scientific Officer and Senior Director at BioAgilytix Laboratories. In her current role, she serves as an internal and external resource for scientific and regulatory guidance to support clients in their drug development activities. Her experience spans multiple fields and analytical technologies, including pharmacology, drug metabolism, immunoassays, immunogenicity, biomarkers, flow cytometry, and quantitative polymerase chain reaction, and has supported programs through all stages in drug development working on multiple different drug modalities and disease indications. Prior to her current role, she served as the director of bioanalytical sciences at ICON plc, formerly PRA Health Sciences. In that role, she led the large molecule method development and operations groups at the Lenexa Kansas laboratory.

Hays received a bachelor’s degree in biology from Park University and a doctorate in pharmacology from the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Kansas City, Kansas. After she received her doctorate, she worked in the drug metabolism and pharmacokinetics field as a research scientist in the drug transport group at Xenotech. She then moved into bioanalytical science after taking on a research scientist role at Eurofins-Viracor where she began to establish her career in bioanalysis and corporate leadership. She served as the R&D manager supporting method development and validation of bioanalytical and biomarker assays. Recently, Hays was appointed as an adjunct professor in the division of pharmaceutical sciences at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Pharmacy.

Hays has been an active and engaged volunteer and member of AAPS. She served on the Scientific Programming Committee for AAPS Land O’Lakes in 2021, the bioanalytics chair of the Scientific Programming Committee for PharmSci 360 (2022) and the vice chair of the Summer Scientific Forum (2023) and the bioanalytical track chair of the Abstract Screening Committee for PharmSci 360 (2021). Hays also serves as a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Communities Structure Task Force (2023). She is a member of the editorial content committee for the AAPS Newsmagazine. Hays currently serves as the chair of the Biomarker and Precision Medicine community (2022–2024) and was previously the vice chair (2021) and secretary (2020). Hays spearheaded the conception of the AAPS Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) working group under auspices of the Bioanalytical Community in 2022 to bring together scientists in the industry to discuss best practices on regulated PCR analysis. She is a peer reviewer for several journals including The AAPS Journal and the Bioanalysis. Outside of AAPS, Hays is an active member of the International Society for Advancement of Cytometry and the Global CRO Council and the executive sponsor of the BioAgilytix Black Employee Network (BBEN) Affinity Group (2022).

Why are you interested in serving AAPS in the capacity of member-at-large and how has your experience prepared you to lead AAPS?

“I am interested in serving on the AAPS Board of Directors because I passionately share the AAPS mission of bringing pharmaceutical scientists together to improve global health.

“Over the years AAPS has provided an avenue to express and share my thoughts. It has connected me to a network of scientists who also share my interests and passion for moving the industry forward. AAPS is an
organization that provides an opportunity for scientists to learn from each other and collaborate. As much as it has been a rich experience for me, I want to be able to give back to the organization and help enhance the member experience in that same way. If elected to the board, I want to be able to provide that kind of support to other members.

“My experiences as a scientist and in leadership roles throughout my career have prepared me well to serve as a member-at-large on the board of directors. Throughout my years of leadership, I quickly realized the importance of information sharing and collaboration in science to move the field forward. In these leadership roles, I prioritize making myself approachable and accessible to other scientists to support sharing ideas and solutions. I also take pride in my ability to drive on the execution of ideas. I enjoy seeing projects through to completion and achieving goals. I thrive in team environments and working with others towards common goals.

“My top priority while serving on the board of directors is to be a resource for AAPS and its members. I have been very involved with AAPS communities and planning committees over the years and feel that I have a lot to contribute from my experience and knowledge of the organization. I particularly love this organization because it has really helped shape my identity as a scientist. AAPS gave me a venue to interact with some of the greatest scientists in the industry, experts, and thought leaders. If elected to the board, I want to be able to provide that kind of support to others. I really think the AAPS organization and AAPS communities have so much to offer to all scientists, early or seasoned in their careers. It is a place for engagement, collaboration, and exchange, and my priority will be to foster and build on those aspects and ensure that AAPS resources and opportunities are visible to all.”