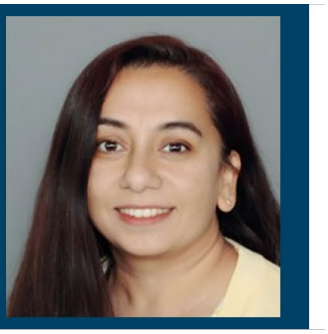
Member-at-Large Candidate



Shraddha Thakkar, Ph.D.
U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Shraddha Thakkar, Ph.D. is a senior research scientist at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (FDA/CDER), where she also serves as a project manager and principal investigator. She provides strategic leadership in the integration of artificial intelligence, machine learning, data science, and knowledge modernization to advance regulatory science and strengthen drug safety evaluation. Her work focuses on translating emerging technologies into scalable, reviewer-centered solutions that improve access to evidence, streamline scientific analysis, and support high-quality, evidence-based regulatory decision-making in complex regulatory environments.

At FDA/CDER, Thakkar leads multiple high-impact programs that are modernizing regulatory processes, expanding scientific capability, and enhancing reviewer support across the agency. Through these efforts, she has driven the development of reviewer-facing analytic tools, smart templates, curated safety resources, and generative AI applications designed to improve efficiency, standardize analyses, and strengthen decision support across multiple review divisions within CDER. She also contributes to broader innovation initiatives and works extensively across offices to ensure that new solutions are practical, sustainable, and positioned for adoption at scale.

Thakkar has built an extensive scholarly and innovation portfolio that reinforces her standing as a scientific leader. She has authored more than 40 peer-reviewed publications, contributed two book chapters, and delivered more than 90 scientific presentations. Her body of work spans regulatory artificial intelligence, predictive toxicology, drug safety, bioinformatics, and translational science in high impact journals. Her innovation record also includes a significant patent portfolio, that she has three approved U.S. patents and 15 U.S. and international patent applications.

In addition to her FDA leadership, Thakkar has established a strong record of service across national and international scientific organizations. She has served as a board member of the AAPS, president of the Midsouth Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Society (MCBIOS), president of the Massive Analysis and Quality Control Society (MAQC), and a governing board member of the AR-Bioinformatics Consortium. She has also contributed to the FDA-led Global Coalition of Regulatory Science Research (GCRSR), an international network of regulatory leaders from various regulatory agencies across the world that fosters partnerships in emerging technologies and big data science to strengthen research on the safety and efficacy of foods and drugs. Within GCRSR, she served as the U.S. FDA leader to the Cross-Training Working Group and as executive secretary for the Bioinformatics Working Group, while also supporting leadership and scientific programming for the Global Summit of Regulatory Science since 2017. In addition, she has helped lead the FDA-TransCelerate public-private partnership.

Across these roles, Thakkar is recognized for her strategic vision, collaborative leadership, and sustained commitment to scientific excellence, innovation, and service. She brings together people, ideas, and technology to build programs that deliver lasting organizational impact, strengthen regulatory science, and advance public health.

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 AAPS as a member-at-large because AAPS has played a major role in shaping my career, advancing my scientific contributions, and strengthening my professional community, as it has for many others across the field. For me, AAPS is more than a professional society—it is a vital home for pharmaceutical scientists that advances science, fosters collaboration, supports career development, and creates opportunities for leadership and service. It brings together scientists across industry, academia, government, and related sectors to exchange knowledge, address emerging challenges, and help shape the future of pharmaceutical science. AAPS has given me meaningful opportunities to grow as a scientist, contributor, and leader, and I would be honored to help guide the organization in its next phase of impact and growth.

“Over the years, I have been deeply connected to AAPS at the community level, contributing extensively through scientific programming, committee leadership, and service activities that support the organization’s mission. My experience serving as an AAPS Board Member has further strengthened my understanding of the organization’s priorities, governance, and long-term opportunities. It has also given me valuable perspective on how to balance strategic vision with practical stewardship while keeping member needs, organizational sustainability, and long-term impact at the center of decision-making.

“My experience has prepared me well for this role. In my professional career, I have led complex, cross-functional scientific and operational initiatives that require strategic vision, collaboration, disciplined execution, and long-term planning. I bring not only leadership experience, but also a strong understanding of how to translate strategy into programs and outcomes that provide meaningful value to members and to the organization. Through my work in scientific leadership, organizational service, and board and committee engagement, I have developed a practical understanding of what members need from AAPS and how the organization can continue to evolve to meet those needs.

“I believe I would bring important value to this role because of my ability to connect scientific excellence with member engagement, organizational growth, and sustainability. I also believe that strong member value is directly tied to the long-term strength and financial standing of the organization. If elected as Board member-at-large, I would bring a collaborative, forward-looking, and service-driven leadership style focused on strengthening member value, advancing scientific programming, supporting innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration, and helping ensure that AAPS remains a vibrant, inclusive, and financially strong organization.”