

CRS Board Elections 2026

Position Director at Large
Name Assaf Zinger, PhD
Work Bioinspired Nano Engineering and Translational
Therapeutics Lab, Chemical Engineering, Technion-
Israel Institute of Technology
@CRS Annual Meeting Planning Committee (2022,2023,2024)
Annual Meeting Planning Committee Chair (2025)
NND Focus group secretary, Young Israeli CRS mentor



CRS is not only an **outstanding scientific society** - it is also a **vibrant and enjoyable global community**. Through my leadership within AMPC, I have worked to translate vision into action. I now seek to expand these proven initiatives across our Society.

I'm not bringing abstract ideas. I'm bringing real experiences I've been fortunate to help lead alongside many dedicated colleagues. launching **CRS Around the World** to connect members globally; **integrating patients–scientists–physicians–industry** sessions at CRS 2025 in Philadelphia; implementing a **double-blind peer review processes to promote fairness**; **expanding the number of invited speakers** to include more diverse voices across regions and career stages; I helped initiate the **Rise & Run** event at the 2025 Annual Meeting- a simple yet meaningful initiative designed to foster genuine connections among our members beyond formal mentorship frameworks and scientific sessions, encouraging approachable, cross-generational dialogue in an informal, fun, and welcoming setting.

My vision is built around three core aims:

Aim 1: Global Connectivity & Chapter Empowerment. CRS must be truly global, versatile, and interconnected. Through *CRS Around the World*, we connected colleagues internationally- often for the first time- and expanded engagement beyond the annual meeting. At CRS 2025 annual meeting, we nearly doubled the number of invited speakers, creating a more inclusive program reflecting diverse geographies and career stages. As Director at Large, I will build on this momentum by establishing recurring global forums, increasing visibility for emerging chapters, and strengthening collaboration between chapters through mentorship and shared programming. We should also aim to expand our footprint by establishing new local chapters in regions not yet formally represented-including a dedicated USA Chapter-ensuring that CRS continues to grow where scientific excellence is thriving. Having mentored the Young Israeli CRS chapter, I have seen how empowering early-career members elevates both engagement and scientific quality. I believe each local chapter should develop a Young CRS chapter to contribute to annual meetings, strengthen local excellence, and cultivate our future leaders, ensuring the long-term vitality of our Society.

Aim 2: Scientific Excellence & Future Leadership. CRS must remain the leading scientific voice in the drug delivery field. Within my AMPC, we established double-blind abstract review to promote fairness and unbiased evaluation. I support transparent governance and clear communication as foundations for trust and excellence. In close partnership with the Young Scientist Committee (YSC), we should implement structured mentoring networks across chapters and organize grant-writing workshops for PIs and early-career investigators. Empowering YSC to help lead these initiatives will not only strengthen career development pathways but also embed leadership training into the fabric of our Society. By leveraging the strength of our global community, we can increase competitiveness, collaboration, and continuity of excellence. Scientific rigor, inclusivity, transparency, clinical integration, and leadership development must go hand in hand.

Aim 3: Institutionalizing Patient & Clinical Partnership. CRS should not only represent patients-it should actively engage them as partners, while strengthening the role of clinicians within our Society. As a scientific community dedicated to drug delivery, we benefit greatly from deeper clinical engagement that connects laboratory advances to real patient needs. At CRS 2025 in Philadelphia, we created integrated sessions where patients, scientists, physicians, and industry shared one platform. These were not symbolic gestures, but meaningful dialogues that enriched the scientific discussion and highlighted the importance of clinical perspective in shaping impactful research. As Director at Large, I will work to formalize structured patient and clinician involvement at our annual meeting and local chapter meetings, encourage chapters to collaborate with local patient and medical societies, and ensure that patient and clinical perspectives help inform research priorities across CRS. By embedding these partnerships into our structure, we strengthen translational relevance, societal impact, and the long-term value of our science.

See you soon in Lisbon!

Assaf Zinger