

DICLE ARAS

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I would like to state below what I would like to do if my candidacy is accepted.

- I would like to support the process of opening a research center/laboratory that will support the work of IRCRA and give them a new impetus. For this, a European Union Project support can be obtained and a stable athlete development and measurement center can be established in a country that is easily accessible to everyone and also has natural climbing areas. I think that this situation will advance scientific studies on sport climbing and bring athletes and trainers together. This building can accept students almost like a climbing school and can also work as a camp center.

- The subject of training in sport climbing is an area that can be considered quite new and for which there are not enough resources yet. Although former climbers have high climbing skills, it is not possible to find an inclusive resource due to their inadequacy in training science. Therefore, I can arrange for the creation of the sport climbing training information book on behalf of the IRCRA. For this, I would like to take part in issues such as bringing together researchers in the field, determining the content, editing it, and pioneering such a work. I believe that such a publication, which covers the development of the athlete in its entirety (anatomy, physiology, health, etc.) and explains the measurement tests, will be effective.

- Turkey is a country that develops in the field of sports climbing, has achieved success in the younger age categories and has many natural climbing areas. In addition, new indoor sports climbing areas are opened every year, and the prevalence of the branch in the country is increasing. I can arrange for the next IRCRA congress to be held in Geyikbayırı, Antalya, TURKEY and all the necessary organization related to this issue.

As someone who has many years of climbing experience, scientific research on climbing and has also been a coach in the national team, I am pleased to do such studies.

Kind regards,



GABRIELA FONSECA SALIBA

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It is with great enthusiasm that I write this email to apply for the Board Nominations of the association. Since 2017 I have been organizing lectures, courses and events related to climbers' health in my country. And from 2021 onwards I started to coordinate online events for climbers' health online and the Rio Climbing Medicine in person with Volker and Isabelle Schoeffl in November 2022.

I would like to be able to help organize the next IRCRA Congress with my expertise and availability. I think secretary could be a position that I can help the association better.

KAJA LANGER

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The first time I encountered the IRCRA was when I began working on my final thesis at the Technical University Darmstadt. It was truly inspiring to discover that I wasn't alone in my passion for climbing research. Browsing through the IRCRA's member list on their website introduced me to a global network of likeminded individuals. Connecting with them and seeing their profiles added a tangible and motivating dimension to my work.

I aspire to uphold this spirit of openness and enhance accessibility to the IRCRA for example by modernising the website for better clarity. Moreover, I envision a stronger collaboration between the IRCRA and the IFSC, national federations, and other associations, aligning practical applications with research pursuits. To bolster the IRCRA's credibility and standing, I propose pursuing official association status. I intend to initiate discussions within the committee and among the members to outline the necessary criteria and steps.

Enhancing the sense of community within IRCRA, especially between practitioners and scientists, is a priority for me. One approach to achieve this could involve organizing member gatherings and forming specialized interest groups dedicated to exploring specific topics.



Li Yuan

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If elected as a committee member of the IRCRA, I hope to leverage the hardware and software advantages that China University of Geosciences School of Sports Science possesses. Our institution can become a vital platform for world-class rock climbing research and practical development, offering experience and support for IRCRA's international exchange efforts. We can host high-level international academic conferences, inviting experts from around the world to engage in academic discussions in China. We can actively participate in international academic exchanges, showcasing the development of rock climbing in China to the global community. Together with IRCRA, we can establish a professional rock climbing coach training system. Furthermore, as an important partner of IFSC, we can strengthen the collaboration and communication between IRCRA and IFSC. We will also work diligently to facilitate exchanges and cooperation between IRCRA and other international academic organizations. In summary, both personally and as an organization, we are eager to contribute our full commitment to the development of IRCRA and look forward to the opportunity to serve. Thank you.

Ludovic SEIFERT

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During the past 10 years, I was involved in the IRCRA firstly as a treasurer and then as vice-president. During that time my main concern was to bring together academics and practitioners. For this reason, I particularly used my energy to co-organise the IRCRA congress at the same time than climbing events, such as (i) the World Cup in lead climbing in Chamonix 2014 which allowed to get more than 200 attendees, (ii) the Olympics in Tokyo 2021, despite the COVID, and (iii) the World Championship in Bern 2023. During those congresses, we always succeeded to involve coaches, staff from federation and climbers during workshop, round table and lectures. Obviously, this success is not only mine but comes from teamwork. If I'm elected in the next Executive Board of IRCRA, my first wish is to continue bridging the gap between academics and practitioners through 2 directions: (i) to organise the IRCRA congress during climbing event to connect science to practice, (ii) to include time for discussion with coaches, climbers, staff from national federation and IFSC, in the IRCRA congress.

As sport climbing becomes more and more popular, but other forms of climbing (ice climbing, mountaineering, traditional climbing) remain important research topics for a global understanding of climbing, it seems important to further communicate with other national and international federations related to climbing in general in order to (i) disseminate research findings, (ii) structure networking, (iii) to share resources, (iv) to involve them in IRCRA congress and to cover wide range of topics. If I'm elected in the next Executive Board of IRCRA, my second wish is to better structure networking and to better communicate through a more effective IRCRA website.

As climbing is now an Olympic sport, several topics are very important to consider for practitioners such as competition analysis, performance optimization and injury prevention. If I'm elected in the next Executive Board of IRCRA, my third wish is to better connect to IFSC to facilitate access to competition, coaches and competitors to help them in participating in research notably regarding competition analysis, performance optimization and injury prevention.



Rachel Danielle Berger

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Prospective Direction for IRCRA

I was introduced to IRCRA via my quest to find like-minded individuals seeking to study and progress rock-climbing, likely driven by a shared first-hand love of the activity itself. As a graduate student hoping to apply my lab's behavioral research interests to my population of interest, rock climbing, I first sought to see what and more specifically, who was out in the field doing the current research. Upon attending the 6th IRCRA congress in Bern, I realized just how many intersections of interested parties there are in helping the research move forward. Between coaches and athletes themselves, routesetters and climbers alike, not to mention the various subsets under the umbrella of climbing being researched, I see IRCRA as a gathering place for many. I also detected some of the challenges this diversity presents such as big picture questions presented during the general assembly of: Who is this organization for? What are its goals? Is the name even inclusive enough? And so on. As a climber, I got a bit excited at the prospect of finding a challenging problem and potentially being part of the individuals trying to figure out workable beta to solve it. What I was most inspired to see was an executive board polling its members and helping them steer the direction of their organization. Just as climbing movement reveals itself in the landscape, I believe the direction of the organization reveals itself in the members.

I come from a background of leading and being lead in a couple of different organizations - the Evans Scholarship house and the United States Air Force. The former housed 80 live-in individuals at my undergraduate university, where I was influenced by various executive boards as a scholar for four years and then selected to be a resident advising member for two years. Here, I witnessed in a very immediate way, the importance of polling and reflecting the wishes of a larger organization, while also balancing the involvement individuals are able and willing to give. The importance of the structures we had put in place there became more evident as I saw its close ties to the tiers of leadership so prevalent in the military. As I observe the current state of the IRCRA, I see the need for both tiered leadership and stakeholder-specific subgroups. To me, the magic of the congress is getting to be exposed to lots of different perspectives, but also closely interact with those who could advance one's own interests. Distilling the organization into more focused communities can help bolster connection, communication, and potential collaboration, while providing a manageable entity to lead itself. I see lots of passionate members that lack channels to interact. It can be difficult to attend congresses and make those meaningful connections, but in the interconnected world available to us, that limitation can be overcome. The other benefit of congresses that can be expanded upon to the time outside of them, is exposure to the developments of others' who are not necessarily the same type of stakeholder. As brainstormed by attendees of the general assembly, enter the IRCRA semi-annual newsletter! - a place for each stakeholder subgroup to share what they think is most important to develop in their area of research, their latest publications, rock climbing related events, etc. This newsletter serves as a checkpoint for stakeholder subgroup members to connect and engage semi-regularly in order to produce an updated statement and for opinions to be polled as to the direction the organization is moving and how best the executive board can support this. When IRCRA has an operating framework, channels designed to foster communication, and opportunities for lower tiers of leadership, an executive board sets into motion the potential of this resourceful collection of people to drive climbing forward. Being a vessel for that certainly drives me.

Somayeh Askari Hoseini

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Considering the mission and objective of IRCRA which is the combination of science and rock climbing activity, I could suggest three various plans for the next two years. They include identifying the research gaps in each scientific field in each discipline or providing research necessities in each discipline, then announcing them to the researchers to work on it. This causes performance improvement sooner.

Moreover, identifying specific physical and anthropometrical tests and preparing international norms with scores for each test. This capable trainers and coaches to evaluate their athletes easily and accurately. Furthermore, in order to have comparisons in the speed climbing papers it is necessary to determine specific phases because each researcher divided the speed route into their desired phases

PETER WOLF

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As an executive board member, I would be keen to link researchers in the field of climbing also in the time between our congresses. Whether this requires the foundation of an association including by-laws is still to be determined. As a starting point, I would like to help find and share funding opportunities for exceptional international collaborations. I would also like to intensify the exchange with the International Federation of Sport Climbing, as I am convinced that we as scientists can contribute to the well-being of athletes and the reputation as well as media impact of sport climbing itself.



Taylor Reed

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If elected to IRCRA's executive board, I would bring a practitioner's perspective to the IRCRA. I understand and appreciate the role of research in rock climbing, and am always looking for new ways to incorporate research into coaching elite climbing. I regularly ask questions that get us from research to applicability. I will rely on my past experience of crafting practical guidance from research in my role as a senior analyst, and my communication with both researchers and practitioners the world over.

I want to help deepen connections throughout the climbing world. I would like the IRCRA to have a strong relationship with the practice of rock climbing. I would support a stronger relationship with the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC), member federations, organizations, researchers, coaches, and climbers (competition athletes or climbers interested in the outdoors). We can and should deepen connections to provide support for evidence-informed practice.

Additionally, I want to help implement researcher and practitioner needs. I've listened to stakeholders through my past position at the IRCRA, and as an elite coach in the United States, and believe I can help target needs: helping connect researchers with similar interests; support to find, identify, and understand research; build more objective assessments and training; and craft research-related practical guidance to specific communities and on specific topical matters.

Xavier Hugues

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First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the organizers of this event. As a member of a learned society myself, I know how tedious these tasks can be. I really liked the idea of the congress and the atmosphere created by the participants and organizers. I would like to see this kind of event continue, and that's why I want to play an active part in the life of this association. I am firmly convinced that the IRCRA will soon have a role to play in the world of climbing, and that we must play an active part in its development. Even so, I know that I am still a researcher in the making, and that I certainly do not have the skills to be one of the organization's 4 leading positions. Nevertheless, I think that having "young researchers" in this kind of association could be beneficial on several levels. As well as getting extra help with organizing congresses, I'm offering to create/feed a news letter that would provide a (perhaps rough) summary of current events affecting us all. There could be links to interesting scientific articles on specific topics (biomechanics, nutrition, physiology, training, etc.) and perhaps a section with (brief) summaries of important climbing events. In this approach, the IRCRA manager would be responsible for managing the content, and could ask members who are specialists in the field to participate in writing the content, so as to ensure quality summaries and news. In addition, it might be a good idea to link this review with teasers on other social networks. I assume that a certain amount of activity, even in moderation, with useful scientific content around climbing, could attract other actors and increase the popularity of our association.

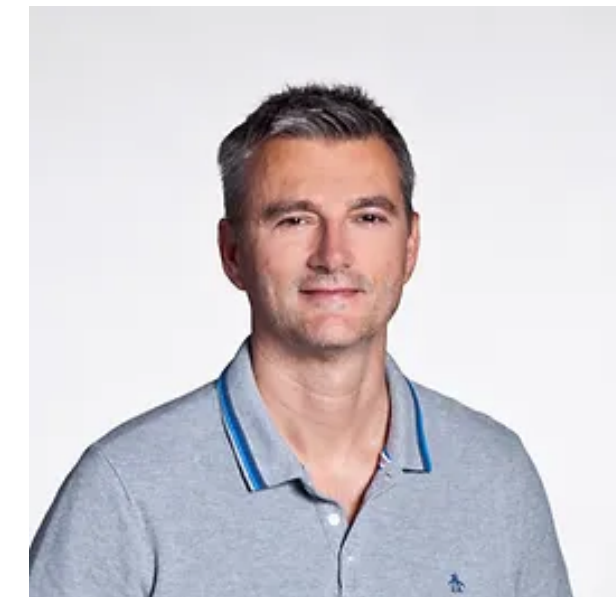
Thank you for your concern.

I wish you some good climbs with endless adventure.

Xavier Hugues

Xavier Sanchez

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It is my pleasure to submit, again, an application for the Managing Council (executive board) of the International Rock Climbing Research Association (IRCRA). I ran a couple of times for the positions of Vice-President (finishing runner-up) and Treasurer (being appointed). Today, IRCRA is running elections for the entire MC, hence my application to have the opportunity to join again the IRCRA team.

I have a large leading experience and collaborative involvement in international academic governing bodies. I have been, for instances, a founding member and first President of the European Network of Young Specialists in Sport Psychology (ENYSSP); a member of the managing council of the European Federation of Sport Psychology (FEPSAC) over 12 years, holding positions as regular member (4 years), Secretary General (4 years), and Vice-President (4 years); and I currently am President-Elect of the Division 12 (Sport Psychology) of the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP), and Vice-President of the French Federation of Sport Psychology (SFPS).

Since very early in my career, I have been passionate by the field of sport climbing. For instances, I presented, back in the early 2000's, at the two international conferences on Science and Technology in Climbing and Mountaineering held in Leeds, UK. I have been a member of IRCRA since its very beginning, and an active member collaborating in the organisation and development of the last three IRCRA conferences. For instances, both in Chamonix and in Bern, I oversaw the psychology section programme.

I have contributed to the development of sport climbing science through research production and dissemination. I completed my PhD in Psychological Sciences at the University of Louvain (Belgium) in sport climbing and psychology. Also, I produce numerous peer-reviewed papers in international journals, and I have given keynotes and talks as well as organised symposia at international events in topics related to sport climbing. For instances (a) I delivered a climbing-related keynote at the 2011 international conference of the French Society of Sport Psychology held in Bordeaux; and (b) I organised (chair and co-speaker with Vanesa España and Ludovic Seifert) an invited symposium at the 2022 European Colleague of Sport Sciences (ECSS) conference in Seville, Spain.

I am looking forward to having the opportunity to joining IRCRA executive board again to keep developing both the discipline and the association the next years