**OVERVIEW**

The goal of Physiology Understanding Week (PhUn Week) is to increase student interest in and understanding of physiology in their lives, and to introduce them to physiology as a possible career. Each November, APS members are encouraged to visit their local school(s), explain what physiology is and what a physiologist does, and lead students in interactive learning activities. Program information is at the [www.phunweek.org](http://www.phunweek.org) website.

**PARTICIPATION**

2013 was a huge success with more than 14,000 students reached at 83 event sites across the nation and Puerto Rico being coordinated by 62 APS members serving as Lead Coordinators for a total of 478 scientists presenting, and partnering with 263 classroom teachers and educators.

- Achieved 105% of the goal (14,732/14,000) in the number of students participating with nearly 26% of the visits in high school classrooms, and approximately 40% in the primary, elementary, and 34% middle school grade levels.
- The numbers of event sites (83/75) and teachers (351/250) exceeded projected goals. The number of physiologists (478/500) was close to projected goals. The decrease in the number of physiologists from 2012 to 2013 was due to a change in how they are counted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>% Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientists</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>14,732</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PROGRESS**

The PhUn Week program has established itself in nine years as the APS’s major outreach event to pre-college classrooms in a concerted effort each November. APS members have established and fostered relationships with teachers in their local communities. While events in the east, south, and Midwest are well established we will continue to focus on the west coast events. Longer-term tracking and evaluation will allow more formal studies on sustaining these relationships, as well as on the impact and effectiveness of this program that reaches into the earliest pipeline of future physiologists. Figure 2 presents the data on the numbers of events, physiologists, teachers, and students over the last nine years. Next year, 2015, will be the 10th anniversary of the PhUn Week initiative. Special recognition of institutions and APS members who have participated for 10 years and 5+ years will be recognized. Formal plans for these recognitions are being formulated by the Education Committee.
The distribution of grade levels being reached during PhUn Week events has shifted completely. During the first few years (2005-2008) the majority of events were being held with high school students. In the more recent years, the shift has continued to more elementary events, more than 50% of this year’s events were in primary and elementary classrooms.
2013 Physiology Understanding Week

Dr. TanYa M. Gwathmey, Wake Forest School of Medicine poses with grad students and fifth graders from Academy of Excellence Statesville, NC during one of three PhUn Week events she led.

These two young men really enjoyed the event on Healthy Choice presented by Dr. Kasa Mathis, University of Mississippi Medical Center, at the Little Dreamers Childcare Center in Ridgeland, MS.

On the left: Students at Parker Road Elementary participated in the Dress a Scientist Activity with Dr. Jonathon Fisher’s group from the St. Louis University.

On the right: Dr. Caroline Appleyard was lead on several events in Puerto Rico including this one with students from Clegio San Conrado.

On the left: Handling a real kidney does not look pleasing to this young lady at the Mississippi Children’s Museum in Jackson, MS event hosted by Dr. Mike Ryan of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. But, Erica Wehrwein sure convinced the young man on the right to think scientists are cool at the Michigan State event.

March 2014
Here is a link to a news article written about Dr. Erika Boesen, University of Nebraska Medical Center, and her PhUn week at Walnut Grove Elementary:
http://www.nonpareilonline.com/news/local/students-learn-medical-science-through-hands-on-activities-during-phun/article_2d152e2b-1c76-5981-88f7-4f9cf202b56b.html

Also, a TV station ran this story which starts at the 21 min mark: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rbce7j8G4pE#t=1279