2016 Physiology Understanding Week

OVERVIEW

The primary goals of PhUn Week are to:

- Inform and excite students about physiology as a discipline and as a potential career;
- Increase the awareness and relevance of physiology in students’ daily lives;
- Assist teachers to recognize physiology in their standards-based curriculum; and
- Involve more physiologists in outreach to students and teachers in their communities.

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 website.

PARTICIPATION

2016 was a big success with more than 14,000 students reached at 91 event sites across the nation and Puerto Rico being coordinated by 75 APS members serving as Lead Coordinators for a total of 608 scientists presenting, and partnering with 207 classroom teachers and educators.

- Achieved 89% of the goal (16,000/14,189) in the number of students participating with nearly 31% of the visits in high school classrooms, and approximately 45% in the primary, elementary, and 24% middle school grade levels.
- The numbers of physiologists (608/500) exceeded projected goals while the number and teachers (207/250) and event sites (91/100) did not.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>% Goal</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientists</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>14,189</td>
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</tbody>
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PROGRESS

The PhUn Week program has established itself in eleven 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 eleven years. This year, 2016, will be the 11th year of the PhUn Week initiative. Special recognition of institutions and APS members who have participated for 10 years and 5+ years were recognized for the second year at the EB PhUn Week poster session.

June 2017
2016 Physiology Understanding Week

Total number of events, physiologists, and teachers (top panel), and students (bottom panel) by year, 2005-2016.

Number of Events, Physiologists, and Teacher Participants by Year

Number of Students Reached

June 2017
The distribution of grade levels being reached during PhUn Week events has shifted completely. During the first few years (2005-2009) 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.