ACTION ITEMS

At its 2015 Summer Meeting, Council endorsed the Award Committee’s request to increase the value of the Career Enhancement Awards (CEAs) from a maximum of $4,000 per award to a maximum of $20,000 for each Research CEA and a maximum of $10,000 for each Teaching CEA. Because the Awards Committee has generally lacked a body of members with expertise in education research, the Committee requested that Council support two Action Items to ensure the Committee has expertise to judge applications for Teaching CEAs: (1) Reserve three places on the Awards Committee for APS members with experience in education research without increasing the total number of Committee members and (2) Approve the appointment of 2-4 ad hoc reviewers from the APS education research community to assist with the review of applications for Teaching Career Enhancement Awards each year. Council approved both Action Items

CAREER ENHANCEMENT AWARDS

Two categories of Career Enhancement Awards (CEAs) were established in 1995, Research CEAs and Teaching CEAs. Both established and early career professionals are eligible to apply for these awards. Previously, there have been two calls for CEA applications each year. However, with the increase in the value of the CEAs in Summer 2015 (see above), applications from 2016 onwards will be submitted once a year.

The Fall 2015 round of applications was the last under the original CEA scheme, which capped funding for each CEA at $4,000. For the Fall 2015 round, the Awards Committee received 6 applications Research CEAs and no applications for Teaching CEAs. Four Research CEA applications were awarded funding:

- Blair Johnson, University at Buffalo
- Flavia Souza, Louisiana State University Health Science Center
- Frank Spradley, University of Mississippi Medical Center
- Thad Wilson, Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine

The increase in value of the Research and Teaching CEAs has resulted in significant changes in how the CEA scheme is run.

1. Eligibility: Applicant must now have been a member in good standing of the APS for a minimum of two years and hold a rank equivalent to Assistant Professor or above.
2. Submission Deadlines: There is now only one call for CEA applications each year rather than two.
3. Evaluation Criteria: In 2016, the Awards Committee replaced its 1-100 scoring system with a 1-9 NIH-style scoring system. The evaluation criteria for RCEAs were revised by a subcommittee consisting of Li Wang, Minolfa Prieto and Maggie Alonso-Galicia. Barb Goodman, with help from Marsha Matyas, developed the first set of detailed criteria for
The Committee used the revised evaluation criteria to review the first round of applications for awards under the revamped CEA scheme. The Committee thanks the people who were involved in the development of new evaluation criteria for their efforts.

(4) Review Process: David Harris, who has education research experience, joined the Awards Committee immediately after EB2016. A second person with education research experience, Robert Augustyniak, was endorsed for a term on the Awards Committee beginning in January 2017. Finally, ad hoc reviewers (Jonathan Kibble, University of Central Florida College of Medicine; Tom Pressley, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center; Penny Hansen, Memorial University of Newfoundland; Johanna Krondiris-Litowitz, Youngstown State University) participated in the review of 2016 applications for Teaching CEAs. We thank these volunteers for their important contribution to the evaluation of Teaching CEA applications.

For the first round of awards under the revamped CEA scheme in 2016, the Awards Committee received 8 applications for Research CEAs and 8 applications for Teaching CEAs. Council approved the award to Research CEAs to
- Pooneh Bagher, Texas A&M Health Science Center, Temple, TX
- Sarah Lindsey, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
- Lucienne Morcillo, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Srinivas Sriramula, LSU Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, LA
- Steven Swoap, Williams College, Williamstown, MA

Teaching CEAs were awarded to:
- Lisa Harrison-Bernard, LSU Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, LA
- Fernanda Marcondes, University of Campinas, Piracicaba, Brazil
- Susan Marsh, Washington State University, Pullman, WA
- Leslie Sprunger, Washington State University, Pullman, WA

YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

APS Young Investigator Awards (YIA) comprise the Arthur Guyton Award for Excellence in Integrative Physiology, the Lazaro J. Mandel Award, the Shih Chun Wang Award and the Dean Franklin Award. Only one award in each category is given annually to a postdoctoral fellows, medical resident or early career professional. The awards are presented at the Experimental Biology meeting. In 2015, the Committee received 9 applications for the Guyton Award, 8 applications for the Dean Franklin Award, 5 applications for the Shih-Chun Wang Award, and 2 applications for the Lazaro J. Mandel Award. Many of the applicants for the YIAs were very impressive. The winners of the 2015 YIAs were:
- Arthur C. Guyton Award for Excellence in Integrative Physiology
  Alain Frigon, Department of Pharmacology-Physiology, University of Sherbrooke
- Dean Franklin Young Investigator Award
  Timo Reig, Department of Nephrology and Hypertension, University of California San Diego and VA San Diego Healthcare System
- Lazaro J. Mandel Young Investigator Award
  Jennifer Pluznick, Department of Physiology, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- Shih-Chun Wang Young Investigator Award
  Il-man Kim, Vascular Biology Center, Georgia Regents University
MEASURING OUTCOMES OF THE AWARDS PROGRAM

The Awards Committee appreciates the need to measure the success of the Career Enhancement and Young Investigator Awards and to determine whether previous Awardees believe that winning these Awards has positively impacted their professional activities. With input from relevant APS staff, the Committee has developed a survey that will facilitate the collection and analysis of relevant data. This survey is going through a final spot check and should be available for Council approval shortly. The Committee aims to send out the survey before the end of the year to people who received CEAs and YIAs 3 and 5 years ago. Information from this first survey should be available in early 2017, with the survey sent out annually to recipient 3 and 5 years after their award. Demographic data on recent applicants and awardees are already available through the Awards website and will also be useful for indicating how successfully the Awards Program is meeting the Society’s goals.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

(1) Conflict of Interest Policy: The first round of applications for $20,000 Research CEAs highlighted the need for the Awards Committee to have a Conflict of Interest Policy. This policy is currently being drafted and should be available for Council approval soon.

(2) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Awards Committee members and for the Chair of the Awards Committee are being developed. The committee thanks Amie Dirks-Naylor, Amy Arnold and Alexander Staruschenko for drafting an SOP for Awards Committee members. Before the end of the year, the Committee will discuss and finalize the SOP for Members.

(3) Archiving information: When folders become available in APSConnect, they will be used for storage of current versions of Awards Committee documents.

This is my last year as Chair of the Award Committee and I would like to thank Council for the opportunity to serve the Society in this capacity over the past two and a half years. It has been a particular privilege to serve as Chair of the Awards Committee when the Career Enhancement Awards Scheme has undergone such a substantial revision, becoming an even more important component of APS’s Awards program.

Respectfully submitted,

Ida J. Llewellyn-Smith, PhD
Chair, APS Awards Committee