Annual Report of Distinguished Physiologists Committee

The Distinguished Physiologists Committee consists of ten members. One of the primary duties of each Committee member is to “develop and maintain liaison with emeritus members and members about to retire”. This liaison is accomplished by submitting, on behalf of the Society, a personal 70th, 80th, 90th, or 100th birthday greeting. Each greeting includes an invitation for the senior recipient to inform APS about his or her current activities, interests and whereabouts, and requests “words of wisdom” for younger colleagues. The historical and philosophical commentaries evoked by this invitation provide the material subsequently published in “Senior Physiologist’s News” in each issue of The Physiologist. By the end of 2015, the Senior Physiologist Committee members sent birthday wishes to 69 members reaching age 70, 50 members reaching age 80, 30 members reaching age 90, and to six member reaching the age of 100! Six response letters were received and published in The Physiologist.

Another responsibility of the Senior Physiologists Committee is to review applications and recommend to Council the annual awardees of the $500 G. Edgar Folk, Jr., Senior Physiologists Award. This award is designed to support the scientific activities of a senior member. In 2015 we received and awarded one application; Celia D. Sladek of University of Colorado-Denver.

Peter Lauf, MD.
Chair, Distinguished Physiologists Committee