Career Opportunities in Physiology Committee

2009 Session Web Resources
Multimedia presentations for the EB 2009 Careers Symposium, “Rising and Surviving: Elucidating Tenure and Promotion in Multiple Career Paths” have been posted on the APS website and catalogued in the APS Archive of Teaching Resources. The resources include talks by Richard Klabunde, Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine (“Overview of promotion in academia and industry”), Marian R. Walters, Penn State Capital College (“Tenure and Promotion in Universities”), Lois J. Geist, University of Iowa (“Tenure and Promotion at Medical Schools”), and Magdalena Alonso-Galicia, Merck Research (“Promotion in management and research tracks in industry”).

2010 Career Symposium
In 2010, the Career Opportunities in Physiology, Trainee Advisory, and Women in Physiology Committees coordinated the topics of their sessions to provide a complimentary set of career advancement sessions for physiologists. The session featured speakers with experience in different types of government agencies.

2011 Career Symposium
The Committee will focus its EB symposium on careers in non-traditional academic positions. The session is entitled, “New Opportunities in Non-traditional Academic Positions”. Employment opportunities at US Medical Schools are currently evolving. New models of employment are being created that allow both the institutions and the faculty more flexibility and a variety of opportunities. The current surveys indicate that a variety of academic institutions are moving away from traditional tenure-track appointments. As many factors influence the financing of US medical schools, recent data indicate that they are adopting similar strategies moving forward. The goal of this symposium is to provide trainees with an over view of these trends to inform their decisions regarding future employment opportunities in academia. Speakers will provide presentations about current non-traditional research- and teaching-oriented career opportunities and discuss future trends in medical institutions.

Career Presentations at APS Conferences
In 2009, the Committee presented a two-hour workshop at the APS Conference “2009 APS Conference: Sex Steroids and Gender in Cardiovascular-Renal Physiology and Pathophysiology,” using materials from the Professional Skills Course. The workshop, “Writing your first papers: The ‘ins” and “outs’ of authorship,” focused on how authorship on manuscripts is determined and engaged participants in an authorship case study. Presenters also shared an overview of the career development resources offered by the APS, including the Professional Skills Courses.

Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship Program
The 2009-10 UGSRFs completed their fellowship year by attending EB 2010 in Anaheim. Of the 24 fellows, 23 (96%) attended EB and 22 (92%) submitted an abstract. The 2009-10 UGSRFs, like those in the past, competed successfully in the David S. Bruce Excellence in Undergraduate Research Award program, winning three (30%) of the ten 2010 Bruce Awards.
2010-11 Program
For the 11th year of the program, 73 applications were received, a 46% increase from 50 applications last year. The Committee recommended 24 students for fellowships; these students were subsequently approved by Council. Over the 11-year history of the program, the program has received 550 applications for the 180 awards granted, with an average funding rate of 33%.

Undergraduate Orientation Session at EB
The third orientation session at EB 2010 attracted 75+ undergraduate students. All undergraduate students who submitted a first-author physiology poster were invited and announcements were posted in emails to the Trainee and All-APS listservs. Members of the Careers, Trainee Advisory, and Education Committees gave the session presentations.

APS Website or Facebook – “Career Designer”
The Committee is planning a web application that would generate interest in learning more about physiology careers (“Could you be a physiologist?”). The K-12 student could click on career keywords that interest him/her and see the biography of an APS physiologist whose career deals with those interests.

Career Outreach PowerPoint Presentation Package
The Education Office has developed online experiments and a web format. Currently, they are working with a graphic artist to finalize the artwork for the online experiments. These activities should be completed before PhUn Week in November 2010 and will be promoted via the Career web, PhUn Week activities, and the APS Archive of Teaching Resources.

APS Local and Regional Science Fair Awards
In 2010, 27 requests for a Science Fair Award Packet have been received to date from APS members. Advertisements are posted in The Physiologist and the All-APS News email updates for members and sent to all past participants.

APS Careers Web Site
Links for this site of more than 1,500 pages are checked on an annual basis to assure that the resources can be easily accessed. This year, APS is redesigning its website and installing a content management system to handle the myriad content of the site. The career information on the website will be better integrated into the overall APS website once the new site is available.

Physiology Video Contest for Undergraduate and Graduate Students
The Committee has developed a proposal for an annual video contest for undergraduate and graduate students. The APS Presents...Phantastic Physiology Voyage 2009: “Function Follows Form” award will encourage undergraduate and graduate students to creatively connect with physiology and engages them with the broader public through a short video contest. The Committee proposes two awards of $750 for first prize and $250 for Viewers Choice Prize. These videos would creatively demonstrate and/or explore a specific physiological function in five minutes or less. The video can be staged as a short play, commercial, news broadcast, talk show, music video, or documentary.
The awards will be presented at the annual Experimental Biology meeting. The first award, which will consist of a $750 prize, will be presented to the first place video that will be chosen by the Career Opportunities in Physiology Committee and the second award, consisting of a $250 viewer’s choice prize will be given to the fan favorite.

**Physician-scientists**
The Committee continues to discuss possible activities or outreach to physician-scientists. The Committee has discussed ways to encourage MD students to be involved physiology research. Many medical students do research between their M1 and M2 year and present this research at a research days at the medical school; however, very few of these MD students present this research at a major scientific conference. To address this, the Committee is developing an Excellence in Medical Student Research Travel Award to encourage MD students to present their research in APS sessions at the Experimental Biology Meeting.