Career Opportunities in Physiology

2013 Career Symposium
In 2013, the Career Opportunities in Physiology (COPC), Trainee Advisory, and Women in Physiology Committees again coordinated the topics of their sessions to provide a complementary set of career advancement sessions for physiologists. The session was entitled “Communicating Science to Non-Scientists: Keys to Funding and Visibility”, and speakers provided presentations about effective communication skills necessary for talking with various audiences about one’s work. Multimedia presentations for the Symposium will be posted at the APS website and catalogued at the APS Archive of Teaching Resources for wide dissemination. Users can listen to a narrated PowerPoint presentation.

2014 Career Symposium
The symposia to be presented will be entitled “Conscious Choice and Serendipity in Your Career Trajectory: A Panel Discussion.”

Career Presentations at APS Conferences
In 2012, the Committee sponsored a workshop at two APS Conferences: “Autonomic Regulation of Cardiovascular Function in Health and Disease” in July and “2012 APS Intersociety Meeting: The Integrative Biology of Exercise” in October. Irving Zucker, former APS President, presented “The Ins and Outs of Authorship” workshop in July, and Committee member Lacy Holowatz presented it in October.

Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship Program (UGSRF)
2012-13 Program. The 2012-13 UGSRFs completed their fellowship year by attending EB 2013 in Boston, MA. Of the 24 fellows, 22 (92%) attended EB and 22 (92%) submitted an abstract. The 2012-13 UGSRFs, like those in the past, competed successfully in the David S. Bruce Excellence in Undergraduate Research Award program, winning 8 of the 26 abstract awards and 4 of the 13 Bruce Awards.

2013-14 Program. For the 14th year of the program, 66 applications were received. The quality of the applications was deemed very high by the Committee and they were pleased to be able to recommend 24 students for fellowships. Over the 14-year history of the program, the program has received 716 applications for the 252 awards granted, with an average funding rate of about one-third (35%).

APS Undergraduate Research Excellence Fellowship Award (UGREF)
For the first year of the program, 35 applications were received for the six fellowships. The quality of the applications was deemed very high by the Committee, with 28 applicants scoring more than 70 points and the rest scoring more than 63 points. The Committee was pleased to recommend six students for fellowships; 17% of the applications were funded. This indicates that there is a significant pool of potential applicants for this program and that there are students who are eager to continue their physiology studies over multiple years and who are primarily interested in Ph.D. or MD/Ph.D. programs.

Undergraduate Orientation Session at EB
The EB 2013 orientation session attracted more than 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.

**Highlighting Undergraduate Research Papers**
The Committee will invite APS members to send citations of new APS journal articles that have undergraduate students as one of the authors. These articles/students will be cited at the Undergraduate Education section of the APS website and the APS Career Web to encourage other undergraduate students to become active in physiology research. Links will be provided for APS summer research programs, as well.

**Career Outreach Resources**
The APS Career PowerPoint Presentations provides downloadable PowerPoint files for use at the middle and high school levels, as well as lower and upper undergraduate levels. Since the initiation of this project, these PowerPoint presentations have become important tools not only for use by APS members individually, but in both undergraduate and K-12 outreach programs, especially PhUn Week. It also provides interactive, online physiology activities to enhance the PhUn Week website and engage younger children (early or pre-readers) in doing simple physiology experiments and to engage their interest in science careers. The Committee will be developing career trading cards, pages where students can answer physio-quizzes to unlock special cards and posters.

**APS Local and Regional Science Fair Awards**
This program encourages APS members to make an APS physiology award at their local or regional science fair at the elementary, middle, or high school level. The program provides opportunities for students from elementary through high school to learn what physiology is and to become “associated with the field” through recognition of their work. The program also builds connections between APS members and their local schools. Finally, it encourages local fairs to promote physiology-based projects to their students, since there are potential awards to be won. Student winners receive an APS t-shirt and a certificate for the best physiology project. The teachers of the winning students receive the APS book, *Women Life Scientists: Past, Present, and Future* and an APS resource packet. Up to 100 awards are available each year on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Physiology Video Contest for Undergraduate and Graduate Students**
The Committee was pleased to receive 10 submissions that met all of the criteria for copyright, permissions, etc. The applicants included both undergraduate and graduate students. The Committee selected “Hillbilly Hypoglycemia” by Michael Ridlehoover, Alexis Wren, and Zachary Minter at Augusta State University as the First Place winner. It was also selected as the Viewer’s Choice award by the general viewing public. It should be noted that their institution provided funding for all three students to attend EB. All entries will be included in the Archive.

**Excellence in Professional Student (MD or DO) Research Travel Award**
For the 1st year of the program, 13 applications were received. The Committee was pleased to recommend 8 students for fellowships, thus, 62% of the applications were funded. These students were matched with a mentor for EB, similar to what is done for the Minority Travel
Fellows Program. Fellows and mentors corresponded via email and then met each other at an Orientation Session on Sunday morning.