APS Conference Committee Report

Summary of Committee Activities
A Committee teleconference was held in August 11 as an introduction for new committee members and to build an agenda for the committee face-to-face meeting that was held on September 11 to consider committee goals and activities. There was an extensive and productive discussion of a number of important issues related to the conference program. The agenda items discussed included committee operating procedures, barriers to conference organization (time, money and lack of knowledge of process on part of potential organizers), conference types of interest to the committee, and strategic planning for the future. Featured highly in these discussions were issues related to how actively and aggressively should conferences be solicited and topical focus and content of conferences. Themes that emerged were to try to build on successful recurring meetings, develop a partnering strategy with existing small conference programs or societies (international included) where APS is an active collaborator in the planning process and not just a bank roll, inclusion of a translational conference or that a translational element be built into sponsored conference programs.

A strategic planning task force was organized by Council to consider areas of importance to APS. One of these areas was “Enhance opportunities for scientific interaction and exchange” In this task force issues related to the conference program were again actively discussed. Points of relevance for this report included discussion that highlighted the needs to:

- Development of a successful strategy for making small APS meetings both a financial and scientific success.
- Development of a plan for hosting an annual meeting dedicated to translational research.
- Development of a strategy to utilize the chapter program as a way to strengthen APS meetings overall. Again emphasizing the emerging importance of partnering and collaborative planning.
- Develop strategies to use new media to broaden the reach of APS meetings and conferences.

Conferences held in 2011 include:
7th International Symposium on Aldosterone and the ENaC/Degenerin Family of Ion Channels: Molecular Mechanisms and Pathophysiology
September 18-22, 2011
Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, CA

Physiology of Cardiovascular Disease: Gender Disparities
October 12-14, 2011
University of Mississippi, Jackson, MS

Conferences held in 2012 include:
Advances in Skeletal Muscle Biology in Health and Disease
February 20-24, 2012
University of Florida, Gainsville, FL

APS Conference on Autonomic Regulation of Cardiovascular Function in Health and Disease
July 7-10, 2012
Omaha, Nebraska

APS Intersociety Meeting: Integrative Biology of Exercise
October 10-13, 2012
Westminster, CO