APS Conference Committee Report
June 2014
Mike Brands, Committee Chair

Summary of Activity, July 2013 to June 2014

1. Annual APSCC meeting at APS held October 9, 2013
   - Status of upcoming 2014 conferences was discussed
   - Final version of 2015 Endothelin Conferences was approved and forwarded to Council
   - Decision to contact Dr. Don Kohan about re-submitting his genetic engineering workshop that was rejected. He was contacted and decided not to resubmit.
   - Discussed the role of an APSCC liaison to each conference: Be involved throughout planning and submission phases, and attend conference to report back to the APSCC
   - Discussion of conference proposals that did not get approved or were in progress
   - Discussion of APS web page presence for APSCC
   - Review of Cross Sectional Symposia proposals as potential APS conferences; possibly liaison with the JPC to facilitate generation of conference ideas
   - Discussion of letter from APS President, Dr. Kim Barrett, encouraging the APSCC to "reach out to colleagues to organize conferences as opposed to waiting for proposals to be submitted."
   - Dr. Brands recognized as incoming chair in 2014

2. March 2014, Dr. Brands sent the committee a one-page document (attached) that summarized recent (since 2011) APS conferences, listed 2 old conference ideas that could be removed from consideration, and listed 7 ideas (new and from recent APSCC discussions) for the committee to consider. The APSCC Liaison role noted above was encouraged by soliciting volunteers from the committee to select a conference idea to work on. There was good e-mail discussion on the relative viability and committee interest in these conference ideas. From that list, item 1 (Inflammation conference, Dr. David Harrison) and item 5 (Mitochondria conference, Dr. Victor Darley-Usmar) have been taken up by the organizer and entered the planning stages. Others are still being considered, but an update on status is needed.

3. May 2013, APSCC member, Dr. Susan Majka, and co-organizer, Dr. Anna Hemnes, submitted a "pre-proposal" for a conference on "Understanding the Sex Paradox in Pulmonary Hypertension (PAH): A Focus on Vascular Remodeling." There was open e-mail critique and discussion, followed by a closed vote by the committee. Dr. Brands sent these instructions:

   Remember, the point of getting these proposals to the table early is so that someone does not work on something in a silo and submit a final proposal that gets rejected. This is our chance to critique it, offer suggestions for improvement, and determine whether it is something that we believe ultimately will succeed. The caveat is that once we approve it at this stage, we need to take ownership as a committee and help see it through. We are not bound to approve the final proposal, but in this scheme a failed final proposal is as much our fault as the organizers.

The vote was unanimous in support. Dr. Majka will present a revised version October, 2014.
4. June 13, Dr. Victor Darley-Usmar submitted a complete proposal for a conference entitled, "Physiological Bioenergetics; From Bench to Bedside." This is the aforementioned "Mitochondria Conference". At the time this report was submitted, the APSCC members were discussing it, submitting comments, and stating their level of enthusiasms via e-mail. Comments are due July 1. Because it essentially is a complete proposal, we will be discussing whether to formally approve via e-mail, with or w/out modifications, for forwarding to council.

5. June 18, another proposal was submitted to Sarah and Dr. Brands via e-mail. Dr. Brands recommended to Sarah that the committee finish business on the mitochondria conference, and review current status of submitted and planned conferences, before reviewing this new one. The conference organizer was notified by Dr. Brands that we would review it as soon as some current business was off the table.

6. June 20, this report

Comment on Committee Function

I have been very pleased with the engagement by the committee in the e-mail discussions of these proposals. There was a little contentiousness in the early going on one occasion, due most likely to how the intent behind a comment - especially a critique - often cannot be conveyed appropriately via e-mail. These are growing pains, and the committee bounced back fine. There has been active, robust discussion of the Mitochondria Conference. It looks like we will be able to conduct business effectively to move these proposals forward via e-mail. This is important, because the annual October meeting obviously is not enough by itself to handle all this, and conference calls are hard to organize in a timely way to deal with business on the fly, as it develops, while it's fresh on peoples' minds. Hopefully we can keep this going - these are very engaged committee members.

Brief Summary of Conference Proposal Status
(forward from the Endothelin Conference)

1. "Physiological Bioenergetics; From Bench to Bedside": Organizer is Dr. Victor Darley-Usmar. Proposed date is October, 2015. APSCC will vote on this via e-mail on or about July 1, 2014.

2. "Understanding the Sex Paradox in Pulmonary Hypertension (PAH): A Focus on Vascular Remodeling": Organizers are Dr. Susan Majka and Dr. Anna Hemnes. Proposed dates are 2015 or 2016, depending on best fit with other pulmonary conferences. Revised form, possibly a complete proposal, will be submitted by Dr. Majka at the October 2014 APSCC meeting.

3. Inflammation, Immunity, and CV Disease. Organizer Dr. David Harrison. He has recruited Dr. David Mattson as co-organizer, but now believes that he will need to hold this in 2016.

4. New submission received June 18. Will be sent for committee review and discussion the first week of July.
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Past APS Conferences

2011 Conferences
- 7th International Symposium on Aldosterone and ENaC, September
- Physiology of CV Disease, Gender Disparities, October

2012 Conferences
- Autonomic Regulation of CV Function, July
- Integrative Biology of Exercise, October

2013 Conferences
- none

2014 Conferences
- The APS Institute on Teaching and Learning, June
- Comparative Approaches to Grand Challenges in Physiology, October

2015 Conferences
- Endothelin conference

Future APS Conferences

Old ideas that have not moved forward - do not consider
- vascular stiffness
- brown adipose

New Ideas for Committee Consideration

1. Inflammation, Immunity, and CV Disease - APSCC Liaison, Mike Brands
   - David Harrison, organizer
   - Previous conference in August, 2010 was successful (program attached)
   - Dr. Harrison wants to do it, deciding on potential date
     - last e-mail was March 11, 2014

2. miRNA and Epigenetics - APSCC Liaison, Konstantin G. Birukov
   - Yun Fang, organizer

3. Professional Skills Training/Career Workshop - APSCC Liaison, OPEN
   - our liaison with the Career Opportunities in Physiology Committee (COPC) is Erika Boesen.

4. Early Life Programming and CV Disease in Adulthood - APSCC Liaison, OPEN
   - Jennifer Pollock, organizer

5. Mitochondrial Metabolism and Disease - APSCC Liaison, OPEN
   - Victor Darley-Usmar (UAB)

6. Physiology undergraduate degree programs
   - John Halliwill, Univ. of Oregon - APSCC Liaison, Mike Brands
     - last e-mail was March 20, 2014

7. Obesity/Metabolic Syndrome, Physiology and Translation - APSCC Liaison, OPEN