The 2016-2017 fiscal year was very busy and filled with numerous accomplishments, including launching a new undergraduate physiology majors initiative. The Committee awarded the ADInstruments Macknight Early Career Innovative Educator Award to APS member Katherine Wilkinson of San Jose State University for her novel lab entitled, “An Hypothesis-Driven Laboratory Component for an Upper-Division Undergraduate Neurophysiology Course”. Her application and innovative teaching approach combines an authentic research experience with active learning classroom and provides a strong “systems approach” to the department’s physiology curriculum. The EB 17 Refresher Course entitled “Curricular Innovation in Sex and Gender-Based Medical Physiology Education” was once again well attended and received very strong reviews. This year’s course was headed by Education Committee member Karie Scrogin and featured, Drs. Virginia Miller of the Mayo Clinic, Todd Vanderagh of the University of Arizona, Kent Thornburg of Oregon Health & Sciences University, and Marjorie Jenkins of Texas Tech University. The Education Office expanded the Professional Skills “online” Training Courses to include Publication Ethics. Summer field testers deemed this new course highly popular and needed. In keeping with expansion of undergraduate physiology majors, the Committee and APS again sponsored keynote addresses at the Human Anatomy and Physiology Conference (M. Harold Laughlin, Ph.D.) and the National Association of Biology Teachers (Larry Kenney, Ph.D.). Undergraduate Research activities at EB17 continued to grow. APS renamed the undergraduate abstract awards the “Barbara A. Horwitz and John M. Horowitz Outstanding Undergraduate Abstract Awards” in recognition of a generous gift from APS members Barbara A. Horwitz and John M. Horowitz, longtime supporters and mentors of undergraduate researchers. There were 91 applications reviewed with 30 of these being named Barbara A. Horwitz and John M. Horowitz Outstanding Undergraduate Abstracts. In the final competition of these 30 awardees, Janine DeBlasi, from the University of South Florida was awarded the David Bruce Award for best undergraduate poster presentation. In all, 115 undergraduates presented their research at the EB17 undergraduate poster session.

The NIH funded Frontiers in Physiology: Integrating Programs to Build Communities of Practice (R25 OD016492), continues to train teachers in inquiry-focused instruction using first a year-long online program followed by a summer laboratory research experience and attendance at the spring EB meeting for additional training in workshop activities. Two regional APS chapters (Michigan and Puerto Rico) are in the process of developing regional communities to support K-12 science education. These regional pilot programs provide the foundation for future integration of the program into other APS chapters. Physiology PhUn week completed its 11th consecutive year of outreach reaching 14,189 school children in 2016 and utilizing 608 volunteer scientists nationwide. PhUn week 10-year participation awards were presented to Barb Goodman, Andrea Gwozdow, and Lisa Bernard-Harrison.

The Education Committee has begun expansion of recognizing and supporting undergraduate programs in physiology that serve as exemplars in preparing students for physiology careers. Significant information and data are being gathered to bring forth to the membership where we believe there will be substantial impact on physiology graduate programs and careers in the immediate and distant future. A formal subcommittee has examined the availability of undergraduate physiology programs in US institutions, and produced a list of “best practices as defined for the development and delivery of undergraduate
degrees/programs /curriculum/courses in Physiology for the 21st century.” The first Physiology Majors Interest Group (P-MIG) meeting was held May 18-19 at Michigan State University and hosted by Erica Wehrwein. The meeting was highly innovative and successful with the group agreeing to expand upon the contents for 2018 and holding an even larger conference at the University of Arizona hosted by Claudia Stanescu. It is clear that this next arena for the discipline of physiology is critical to defining and branding of the society as a whole. The committee is deeply committed and invested in making undergraduate physiology a major focus for APS both now and in the future. We strongly believe that an undergraduate physiology focus will provide the future of the APS membership through expanded numbers of students pursuing physiological and biomedical science research careers.