Committee on Honors
Annual Report, 2015 APS Summer Council Meeting

Committee Members
Kim E. Barrett, PhD (Chair)
Francois M. Abboud, MD
Kevin P. Campbell, PhD
Shu Chien, MD, PhD
Juanita L. Merchant, PhD, MD
Ernest M. Wright, DSc
Martin Frank, PhD (Ex officio member)

Committee description/charge

The Committee on Honors (COH) is composed of five members of the Society who have been elected to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), National Academy of Engineering (NAE), and/or Institute of Medicine (IOM). The Chair of the Committee is the APS Past President, and the Society's Executive Director is an ex officio member, without vote. The duties of the COH are to:

- Coordinate the nomination process of APS members to National Academy of Sciences (NAS), Institute of Medicine (IOM), or organizations of similar stature
- Coordinate the nomination process of APS members for major scientific awards
- Identify APS members to serve on task forces or subcommittees with these organizations

Background

The Committee on Honors (COH) was established at the 2013 Summer Council Meeting and it was formed to address a longstanding concern of the Society, namely the inability of our members to gain recognition for their outstanding contributions to science by honorific bodies such as the NAS, NAE, and IOM. In early 2013, Sue Barman and Frank identified a few APS members who seemed to meet the criteria for election to the IOM. On the basis of their initiative, nomination packets for three APS members were completed for the 2013 IOM nomination process. One of these nominees, Eve Marder, was elected to the IOM in Fall 2013. (Due to the confidential nature of these nominations, the names of the other applicants are not included in this report.)

For the 2014 IOM nomination process, the COH led by Sue Barman arranged to have nomination packets submitted for 5 individuals. Walter Boron was the only candidate from the group that was elected to IOM membership. However, there were five other APS members who were also elected to the IOM without the assistance of the APS COH.
Committee activities between Fall 2014 – Spring 2015

For the 2015 IOM nomination process, the Committee on Honors was chaired by Kim Barrett. The group arranged to nominate 2 individuals for the IOM and one individual for the NAS. One individual was also nominated for the Academy of Medical Sciences (UK) and another will be nominated for this body in the fall. At this time, we do not have any information about the success of those efforts, other than knowing that the first nomination to AMS was not successful (but will automatically be reconsidered).

As we have done since the Committee on Honors was established, we have worked with APS members in IOM leadership positions to respond to calls for nominees to serve on IOM taskforces/panels. The APS leadership has attempted to identify appropriate APS members to serve on taskforces/panels addressing topics of interest to our membership, obtained CVs and brief descriptors for candidates and submitted them for consideration of service. It is unknown whether any of these candidates were selected for service. However, by putting their names forward, they do become familiar to those who may be involved with nominating individuals for IOM membership.

Fall 2015 – Spring 2016

Since the Chair of the COH is the APS Past President, Barrett’s term ended with EB 2015. David Pollock will serve as Chair of the COH through EB 2016.