APS members represent 88 countries from 6 continents with over a quarter of the Society’s membership being international. International members represent a large and important constituency within The Society and one that is growing—over 30% of new members are internationals. At the recent Experimental Biology Meeting (Boston, April, 2014) international registrants comprised approximately 21% of the total registration (15% APS members). These figures clearly indicate the international nature of APS.

The role of the International Physiology Committee (IPC) is to assist APS by identifying and implementing ways in which APS can best serve its international members, achieve globally its goals of fostering education, scientific research and dissemination of information in the physiological sciences, and raise its global stature.

The IPC assists APS in the review of international awards programs. The International Early-Career Physiologist (IECP) travel awards program provides support for students, trainees and junior faculty working outside the USA to attend Experimental Biology (EB). The IPC reviewed 38 applications and APS made 12 awards of $1,000 each for EB2014 (awardees are named on the APS website).

The IPC also reviewed applications for APS travel awards to support individual attendance at the Pan American Congress of Physiological Sciences (“Physiology Without Borders”) to be held at Iguassu Falls, Brazil, August 2014. Criteria for the awards included strength of the applicant, quality of submitted abstract, career stage and geographical location. 24 applications were received for the first round and 15 for the second round. Applicants from South America were awarded $750 and applicants from all other countries were awarded $1000 each. Names and details of the successful applicants will be available on the APS website.

Following the recent expansion of the former Latin-America Initiative (LAI) to the International Opportunities Program (IOP) the IPC reviewed 6 applications to support symposia, workshops and short courses. The aim of the IOP is to strengthen ties between APS and international societies on a global level with a particular emphasis on underrepresented regions. Five applications were supported (of up to $7,500 each) with 3 from Brazil, 1 from Morocco and 1 from Vietnam. The applicants and programs supported were:

1. Vagner Antunes, Ph.D., University of Sao Paulo - “Workshop on Writing and Editing Scientific Manuscripts” to be held, University of São Paulo, Brazil July 29th – August 1st, 2014.
2. Faadiel Essop, Ph.D., Stellenbosch University - Full-day symposium “CardioMetabolic Diseases in Africa: Prevalence, Mechanisms and Treatments” to be held September 3rd, 2014 as a satellite meeting to the International Society for Pathophysiology congress September 4th – 7th, 2014, Rabat, Morocco.
4. Fernanda Marcondes, Ph.D., University of Campinas - The second “Workshop in Active Methods used in Physiology Teaching” at the University of Campinas, Piracicaba, Brazil, April 24th – 25th, 2014
5. Gina Yosten, Ph.D., Saint Louis University - Course titled “Novel Technologies for the Study of Cardiovascular Biology and Fluid Homeostasis”, to be held August 27-29, 2014, São Paulo State University, Araraquara, Brazil.

In 2014 Bryan MacKenzie finished his term as Chair of the IPC and his considerable efforts are acknowledged and applauded. During the coming year the IPC would like to increase the visibility of its programs thereby attracting a larger number of quality applications for its programs.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael A. Hill, Ph.D.
Chair, APS International Physiology Committee

How can APS better serve its international members? How can APS serve in outreach to the international physiology community? If you have suggestions, ideas, or concerns, please contact Michael Hill, PhD, Chair of the APS International Physiology Committee, at hillmi@missouri.edu