Section Advisory Committee

The Section Advisory Committee (SAC) is composed of the elected chairs of each of the APS Section. The duties of SAC include: a) assisting the Joint Program Committee in the organization of scientific meetings, b) serving as the Society’s Long-Range Planning Committee, and c) making recommendations to Council regarding the strengthening of the Sections' role in programs, publication, public affairs, and governance of the Society. Below are summarized SAC’s primary activities over the past year.

Awards
Sections have a New Investigator Award, Research Recognition Awards, and a Distinguished Lecturer that are sponsored by the APS. Sections vary in the criteria for their awards (e.g. professional level of awardee, primary affiliation with section). Some sections reported having increased numbers of applications, whereas others struggled with application numbers and applicants qualified to receive awards. With sections that do not require primary affiliation for application, there was some overlap with other sections on awardees. Sections continue to meet and discuss improvements to their awards criteria. Awardees are recognized at dinners, banquets, and receptions by the sections.

Engaging members in your section operations
Sections are putting out regular newsletters to inform members of activities and solicit participation in the section. ListServ notices are also used as needed for nominations, votes, and information. Some sections maintain very active ties with an APS journal, such as CAMPS with AJP:Cell, and CV with AJP:Heart, whereas others such as CNS struggle to find a suitable journal affiliation. Some steering committees have expanded to form subcommittees for tasks such as judging awards and other steering committees have expanded by including section members on other APS committees as part of their steering committee. Interactions with members in industry have been mixed. Some have expanded their steering committees to maintain international representation. Some sections have a business meeting combined with their section gathering (banquet, luncheon, dinner) to be more inclusive to all section members. All sections appear to be actively recruiting junior members to participate.

Section Finances
Some sections have been very successful in soliciting donations from industry and section members for section activities, whereas others rely on APS funds (e.g. ancillary funds for interactions with Distinguished Lecturer). Several sections have expressed a decline in funding from industry sources. The Respiration Section was successful in raising $4000 from members for the APS matching fund program to fund a trainee highlight event. Some sections are finding their banquets/dinners to be expensive and will increase fundraising to maintain reasonable costs for attendees. Although the APS acknowledges donations with a letter, some sections are also discussing thanking donors in their newsletters. The CV section has established a Development Committee to promote fundraising from industry to support their banquet.

Interaction with APS and other sections
Several sections are working together to minimize overlap of common interests with regards to programming at EB. Some sections are particularly active in coordinating cross-sectional
programming either with cross-sectional symposia, complementary sectional programming, or joint sponsorship of featured topics. Sections are actively soliciting nominations from section members to serve on APS committees. Some sections did not report any efforts or interest to work with other sections. SAC should discuss the importance of integrating sections to enhance member networking, scientific exchange, and engagement with the APS while maintaining their unique identity and contribution to APS.

**Programming for the section**
Sections all sponsor a Distinguished Lecture, symposia, and featured topics. Some sections use the second hour of their Distinguished Lecture slot to further highlight the Lecturer or trainees (e.g. NCAR). Some sections have trainee specific featured topics with trainees gaining experience co-chairing a session (CEP, CV, NCAR, WEH). Others have trainee symposia and mixers that combine science and social interactions (WEH). Some sections program strictly by predetermined topics (e.g. CNS, ENDO) whereas others compose abstract-driven sessions to highlight emerging areas of science (e.g. renal, NCAR). Some sections are looking to expand their membership and participation at EB by highlighting new themes and recruiting speakers and their trainees to attend EB (CNS). Some sections have previous award winners program a session at a future EB meeting (CEP, CNS, WEH). GIL also felt their clustering at the end of the meeting hampered cross-sectional interactions, and programming of their session against the Nobel Laureate speaker was detrimental to attendance for their section. Larger sections such as CV and RESP were not affected by clustering as their programming spanned the meeting. Some sections expressed a particular effort to maintain diversity in their programming (chairs, speakers) with regard to women, international members, and members from industry (e.g. CELL, ENDO)

**Recruitment and retention of section membership and leadership roles in the APS and section**
Many sections are actively recruiting junior investigator membership and involvement either via TAC reps, newsletter, ListServ, letters distributed to department and center directors, and word of mouth. Sections are actively recruiting and encouraging self nominations to APS committees. Some sections include APS committee members with their section’s affiliation as part of the section’s steering committee to better link sections with APS committees (CNS), whereas other sections have increased their steering committee size to increase leadership opportunities and screen for future APS service (WEH). Some sections expressed interest in getting more information about members who have not renewed their membership (Cell, CEP) to recapture them. Some sections are reaching out to members of other societies in hopes of recruiting them to the APS (e.g. CNS, CEP, RESP). Some sections are looking to expand their international membership to the section and APS committees to recruit new members (CNS, NCAR, RESP). Other sections offer a year of free APS membership to award finalists (WEH). A few sections appear to have no stated goals for recruitment or retention

**Interactions with publications representative**
Some sections have a natural fit with an APS journal and a good working relationship with the journal editor (CV, Cell, CEP, EEP, ENDO, GIL, NCAR, Renal, RESP). Other sections have not had an active relationship with a particular APS journal (CNS), although the *Journal of Physiology* has been very receptive and interactive with the CNS section. Some journal editors
participate with more than one section (AJP Reg, WEH, NCAR, CEP). The journal link is also sometimes through Associate Editors (CEP; EEP). Some sections have their Distinguished Lecturers or New Investigators publish a review or lecture in APS journals. Cell is considering a Hot Topic grouping of manuscripts in coordination with an EB symposium in AJP: Cell. The editors of JAP and AJP:Heart, AJP: Reg, AJP: Cell, and AJP: Lung have been regarded as particularly friendly to sections and promoting APS member publications. The Journal of Neurophysiology does not appear to be aligned with any particular section.

**Engaging trainee, industry, and international members with steering committee**

Many section steering committees have members that are members of TAC, members from industry. Some sections have also been actively recruiting international members for their steering committee and APS committees (e.g. CNS, NCAR). Most sections have trainee-oriented events such as poster sessions, data sessions, travel awards, and recognition of trainee awards at receptions, dinners, and banquets. Trainees are actively included as speakers and co-chairs of sessions at EB. Trainee involvement is widely seen as a strength of the sections. Most sections have made it a priority to recruit and involve international members on their steering committee, for committee nominations, and in the programming of their sessions.

**Status of SOP statements for sections: some recent changes by sections**

All sections have recently updated or are in the process of updating their bylaws. Some changes include: a) generating handbooks for steering committee positions to outline duties for future members, b) expanding steering committees with at-large members, subcommittee members, international members, and trainee members, c) revising rules for existing awards including submission dates, application materials primary affiliation requirements, and goals of awards and generating new awards, and d) rules of primary affiliation for steering committee members. All sections submit their changes to full section membership for vote.