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
Several new awards were established. In the CV section the Kaley Award was established to honor long time member Gabor (Gabe) Kaley. The first session, chaired by Irv Zucker will be at the EB 2014 meeting and will solicit abstract submissions. The EEP section continues to grow and has added two new trainee awards (one postdoctoral and one predoctoral). Some sections are judging and giving awards at poster sessions during the EB meeting. The CEP section hosted an on-site undergraduate poster session for the second year with an undergraduate award. The CNS section posted recognition cards at section winners’ posters and provided lists to steering committee members to visit them. Several sections are having trainee award winners chair and organize future EB sessions. The GIL section gave discounted banquet tickets to all award applicants to encourage attendance. Application numbers and quality were increased for most sections; some cited delaying the submission deadline after abstract submissions and more aggressive advertising.

Engaging members in your section operations
Most sections use biannual newsletters to communicate key information to their members, with some using both hardcopy and on-line versions and others going strictly on-line at the APS website. Most sections provide a newsletter in the fall to advertise submissions for the EB meeting and in the spring to highlight upcoming EB events. The CaMP section will send out the spring newsletter after the EB meeting to highlight meeting events and best reviewers for AJP Cell. ListServs and occasional emails are also utilized, and a few sections such as NCAR are using social media such as Facebook. Several sections have expanded their steering committees, or enlisted section members to help function as judges for section awards to spread the workload and engage more members. Some sections have expanded their steering committees to maintain international representation. 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 remains the only section to have been successful in obtaining new funds to participate in the APS matching fund program to support a trainee-oriented event. The expense of having banquets and dinners continues to increase. Several sections have expressed concerns particularly about the expense of on-site events. Some sections are close to running a deficit and are actively seeking new avenues of fund raising within the membership and outside the society. It was noted by several that a significantly higher
proportion of personal donations comes from junior members relative to long-standing senior members. Several sections are considering publically acknowledging donations in their newsletters (with permission of donors). Many sections still express a lack of expertise in fund-raising from companies and seek advice from the APS regarding approach, appropriate amounts, and understanding how to successfully attract short- or long-term donors. Several sections have expressed difficulty in participating in the APS matching funds program with daunting task of raising a large sum of money that would yield little in the short term where it is needed.

**Interaction with APS and other sections**
Several sections have a long history of interacting with overlapping interests and members. Some work better in clustering programming and events, whereas others appear to work better by spreading these throughout the meeting. The cross-sectional programming has been very successful. Some sections, such and CNS and NCAR, host overlapping on-site receptions to allow members to attend both. Other sections such as Renal and CaMPS hosted off-site dinners on consecutive nights to facilitate more participation. The APS staff works with the sections to facilitate the meeting events and programming. With recent evolutions of how section banquets are organized and run, the APS staff will be working with SAC to lay out a time line for coordinating efforts.

**Programming for the section**
Several comments were made about the small room sizes at the Boston venue for EB 2013, with overcrowded rooms at many of the sessions. Several sections expressed improved coordination of programming after relaxing the clustering of program by sections, such as RESP, CNS, and NCAR. Other sections, such as Renal preferred to continue clustering their programming and coordinate with sections such as WEH, CAMP and the Epithelial Transport Group. The GIL section continued to feel clustered toward the end of the meeting, reducing their ability to interact with other sections and have their sessions optimally attended. It was expressed that smaller sections may have a more difficult time maintaining a critical mass on the last day of the meeting. Larger sections such as CV and RESP program on all days of the meeting.

To ensure diversity of speakers at the EB meeting, CV is instituting a new policy of not having invited speakers from the EB meeting also give a talk at the next EB meeting. Several sections are holding trainee only sessions that are either presented as featured topics (CEP and NCAR) or special poster sessions (like Data Diuresis for WEH, Highlight breakfast for RESP, a Poster Symposium for GIL, and Posters with Professors for Renal). Several sections were involved in APS meetings outside of the EB meeting. EEP participated in the planning of an Integrative Biology of Exercise meeting in Denver, CO in October 2012. NCAR participated in the Autonomic Regulation of Cardiovascular Function in Health and Disease in Omaha, NE in July 2012, and participated in the FASEB Summer conference Neural Mechanisms in Cardiovascular Regulation in Oregon, July, 2013.

**Recruitment and retention of section membership and leadership roles in the APS and section**
The membership numbers by section have been mixed with some losing members (mostly regular and emeritus members), some remaining stable, and others growing. The sections received contact information for members who have not renewed their dues. Some sections are
contacting these members to find out why they dropped membership and to encourage renewal of membership with APS. Most sections are actively engaging members to nominate for APS committees and working to help produce effective applications. During the fall SAC meeting, SAC viewed the data regarding APS committee memberships by section, numbers of applications for each committee and by each section, and discussed strategies for helping members interested in serving on APS committees to complete a competitive application.

**Interactions with publications representative**
Several sections also maintain strong ties with APS journals. AJP Regulatory works consistently with EM, CEP, EEP, and NCAR to publish meeting highlights and reviews from section members. CaMP has maintained strong ties with AJP Cell by encouraging members to publish in the journal and having the journal publish articles from lectures at the EB meeting. Similar interactions are reported by CV section with *AJP Heart* and RESP section with *AJP Lung*, and EEP section with *Journal of Applied Physiology*. Some sections, such as GIL, have made their journal liaison—the *AJP GIL* editor-in-chief—a full voting member of their steering section. Interactions occur directly through the editor-in-chief or by interactions with associate editors of the journals. The *Journal of Neurophysiology* has not had strong ties with APS sections or the EB meeting in recent past. It is hoped that a new incoming editor may facilitate such interactions. In addition, the launch of the new APS on-line journal *Physiological Reports* will be another venue for publications of members’ works.

**Engaging trainee, industry, and international members with steering committee**
A noted strength of the APS is its commitment to involving and mentoring trainees, which happens most effectively at the section level. Most sections reported EB meeting sessions targeted for trainees, such as featured topics and poster sessions. Trainees are given the opportunity to plan and chair such sessions. Many sections are engaging previous award winners to actively participate in upcoming EB sessions. Awards targeted to trainees continue to be on the rise, and application numbers and quality appear to be growing stronger for many sections. Several sections have trainee committees or subcommittees as part of their steering committee in addition to a Trainee Advisory Committee (TAC) representative. The CEP trainee subcommittee organized its first annual CEP section Trainee Mixer before the section dinner at the EB 2013 meeting. CaMP trainees were invited to attend a breakfast with the Hugh Davson Distinguished Lecturer. Several sections are now including a trainee section in their newsletters, which is written by trainees (TAC reps) and targeted toward issues of interest to trainees. Some sections are currently looking for new trainee representatives for their section (GIL, CNS, TEACH).

Many sections are increasing International member participation either by establishing an International member position on their steering committee or informally working to have international members on their steering committees. Several sections are working to best define the roles and goals for their International steering committee members. Interactions with industry members have been mixed. The EM section is chaired by Josh Anthony, from the Campbell Soup Company, and many sections have members from industry as part of their steering committees. These members are encouraged to participate in programming, mentoring of trainees for industry-related careers, and fund-raising in the world of industry. Other sections do not currently have members from industry.