Sections included: Cardiovascular (CV), Central Nervous System (CNS), Comparative and Evolutionary Physiology (CEP), Cell and Molecular Physiology (CaMP), Exercise and Environmental Physiology (EEP), Endocrinology and Metabolism (EM), Gastrointestinal and Liver Physiology (GIL), Neural Control and Autonomic Regulation (NCAR), Renal (RENAL), Respiration (RESP), and Teaching of Physiology (TEACH). Water and Electrolyte Homeostasis (WEH)

Since the previous report of SAC, presented at the Summer 2015 Council meeting, SAC has had two face-to-face meetings (SAC Only) on November 4th, 2014 in Charleston, and at the 2015 Experimental Biology meeting in Boston, March 27th 2015, as well as a Joint Meeting with Council on November 5th, 2014 in Charleston, and two Joint Dinners with Council on November 4th, 2014, and March 27th, 2015. Other communications have been through emails.

1) SYNOPSIS FROM SAC MEETINGS (11/4/14 & 03/27/15) AND ANNUAL SECTION REPORTS

A) SAC membership and oversight

On an annual basis SAC undergoes changes in membership. In December 2014, Ann Schreihofer’s term as chair of SAC came to an end, and Wolfgang Kuebler took over as the new chair of SAC in January, 2015. Also in 2015, Siribhinya (Sinya) Benyajati (CEPS) and Harold Schultz (NCAR) completed their service as section chairs. We recognize and thank Ann, Sinya, and Harold for their leadership, efforts and dedication to the APS. Concomitantly, we welcome Mike Hedrick and Eric Lazartigues as new section chairs for CEPS and NCAR to SAC.

B) Increasing communication between SAC and Council

In November 2014, SAC and Council held their first joint meeting outside the regular Experimental Biology meetings in Charleston, SC, with the aim to foster communication between these two bodies in both directions, thus providing an opportunity for SAC to provide section-related updates and requests to Council directly, and for Council to provide section-related information to SAC and responding to requests from SAC.

The overall feedback from SAC members regarding this additional opportunity to exchange information and ideas to move APS forward was extremely positive, and all SAC members expressed a strong interest to continue to have a Joint Fall meeting with Council in the future, preferably in conjunction with the Nominations Committee meeting to reduce travel time and costs. Accordingly, a Joint SAC-Council meeting has again been scheduled for Fall 2015, and will be held in New Orleans November 10-12, 2015.
As a result of scheduling conflicts for the Fall 2015 Joint SAC-Council meeting, SAC made a motion that all members of Council and SAC are polled for dates for the Fall meeting (and for the nominating committee meeting) and that the meetings only be held on a date in which there will be an overwhelming majority of members present. The motion was unanimously approved by SAC members (via mail).

C) Programming of Experimental Biology Meeting

SAC has discussed extensively about ways to increase the attractiveness and diversity of our scientific program at the Experimental Biology Meeting, and has met with Robert Hester, Chair of the Joint Programming Committee, to discuss ways to do so. Specifically, it was felt that a) a more top-down approach for the programming of at least some symposia or featured topics may be helpful to ensure that new, hot, and emerging topics are adequately represented, and b) that APS should play on its strengths (diversity of topics, organ systems, and models; and involvement of junior faculties and trainees) rather than aim to copy more specialized, organ- or disease-centered conferences in its programming. To this end, it was decided to reformat the previous Cross-sectional symposia into Integrative symposia, and to give the JPC members considerably more freedom to develop these and populate them with the best international experts based on general suggestions from the membership.

SAC discussed the pros and cons of the program clustering which had been introduced with the extension of the EB programming throughout the whole Wednesday, and it was felt that the downsides of the clustering overall outweighed its advantages. Thus, a motion was put forward and approved to stop program clustering.

Ongoing discussions at SAC focus on the pros and cons to reduce the overall meeting length to 3 days (Sunday-Tuesday) in view of a) an increasing number of activities on Saturdays, b) current funding limitations, and c) the possibility to expand the number of parallel sessions with the upcoming withdrawal of the American Society of Nutrition from the EB conference. In order to increase speaker and topic diversity, regulations are under discussion to limit the number of talks per speaker to one per meeting, and to preclude individual speakers from presenting in two successive years. A formal mechanism for poster facilitators – already unofficially assigned by several sections, but not listed accordingly in the program – is presently under discussion. Overall, SAC members were concerned with what was perceived as a decline in overall attendance of poster sessions. It was suggested that Council, SAC, and FAPS members should set an example by visibly attending the poster sessions, and, potentially, to combine posters with a meet-and-greet session at the end of the day (later afternoon) rather than having posters during lunch time.

At the 2014 Fall Meeting, SAC was scheduled to review session allocations for the 2017 EB meeting. In the previous SAC evaluations, the number of session allocations for each section was determined based on a relative average of the number of abstracts submitted to each section from the previous 3 EB meetings. The benefits and limitations of this criteria were discussed, and while there was consensus that growing sections should be given the opportunity to enhance their programming, SAC members shared considerable concerns about the current evaluation system, as it was seen to a) unnecessarily enhance competition between sections for abstract submissions, b) prevent cross-sectional programming of symposia and featured topics, and c) result in strategic programming to attract more abstract submissions, rather than programming based on the best
and newest science. SAC therefore decided to keep session allocations unchanged for the time being, and to develop alternative metrics that would allow for individual sections to grow without exaggerated competition between sections.

Discussions for further advancement of programming, poster facilitation, and session allocation metrics will be topics to be discussed at the SAC Fall Meeting 2015. In view of the ongoing discussions regarding EB programing, it was felt useful for the Chair of the Joint Programming Committee to attend the SAC meeting on a regular basis, and the idea was discussed to make the JPC Chair an ex officio member of SAC.

D) FAPS Program

SAC noted that the FAPS program should have been developed with input from the sections since they are the long range planning arm of the Society, and discussed the fact that CVS has an existing program which might be confused with the Society-level program. Some SAC reps stated they are interested in developing a fellows program at the section level. Sections are free to have their own fellow programs but they cannot be called FAPS.

E) Development Officer

John Van Ness was introduced and welcomed as the recently hired APS Development Officer, and introduced revised Fundraising Guidelines. John Van Ness is working with Don Kohan/Renal Section on securing funds for Renal Section trainee initiatives. SAC would like a meeting dedicated to discuss fundraising with John Van Ness — ideally at the Fall SAC Meeting. Sean Stocker suggested forming a subcommittee to develop an agenda that will be effective for the Fall SAC Meeting since each section will have their own questions and unique requests. The meeting could be a workshop format where the broad group discusses generic points and then have individuals scheduled to meet one-on-one with John Van Ness. Sean Stocker and John Van Ness agreed to spearhead the planning for this workshop.

F) APS Website

SAC would like the APS website revamped to make it more attractive and readable; this will assist with fundraising and raising the level of awareness of APS and physiology as a discipline.

G) Awards

Most sections continue to see a continuous increase in applications for their awards. In response, several sections have created new awards from donations of section members and corporate sponsors, and several sections have established APS Endowed Matching Funds accounts to sustain the funding of existing awards or add additional numbers of awardees for established awards programs. The Beverly Petterson Bishop Award (endowment) to recognize a junior neuroscientist was inaugurated in 2014 and awarded for the first time at EB 2015. CNS supported 2 Van Harreveld Awards in 2015 (previously 1 Award); CaMP increased the number of Robert Gunn Awards to 3; CEP almost quadrupled their number of awards, in part due to the engagement at the Comparative Intersociety Meeting in October 2014; GIL increased the number of plenary abstract awards; RENAL is exploring the establishment of a new award that recognizes outstanding mentoring by a faculty member; NCAR provided a new award for best
poster selected from trainees who participated in the Data NCARnation session at EB; EM supported 2 new young investigator research awards; and RESP introduced a new Poster competition for which a total of 8 new awards were given out.

Notably and of potential interest for other sections, NCAR has streamlined the application process for their award program with a uniform formatted NCAR Biosketch for evaluation.

H) Engaging members in section operations:
Sections communicate with their members through Newsletters, ListServ emails, personal contacts, and increasingly, through social media. Most sections solicit nominations for positions on the Steering Committee, and actively contact members to apply for these positions to ensure succession planning. Several sections write to new section members personally to welcome them and indicate opportunities for them to become involved, and/or write to members who have dropped out in order to bring them back, and/or obtain information as to why they dropped out. In the past year, TEACH has also performed two membership surveys on programming and educational research clusters/mentoring communities.

Many sections are particularly engaged in growing participation by trainees in their section, and commonly use special events at EB such as Trainee Workshops, Trainee Mixers, or Trainee breakfast events. The Trainee Subcommittee of CEP maintains their own Facebook Page, and several sections have dedicated Trainee Sections in their Newsletter which are run by the Trainee Subcommittee. NCAR has established a new trainee session on the Saturday of the EB meeting called NCARnation which combines a social event with brief presentations of selected trainee posters.

I) Interactions with other sections
Interactions between sections are generally considered very good/excellent, and are particularly active between the various section programming representatives before JPC meetings to explore how sections could assist each other in programming, for intersectional featured topics and integrative symposia, and to avoid potential overlap in speakers, topics, or scheduling.

J) Interactions between sections and APS journals:
The interaction between the section and the APS journals is unanimously considered to be very positive. In addition, different sections and journals have established or utilized various mechanisms to further strengthen these links. The CV section has established an interface person (currently Jessica Bradley) between CV section trainees and AJP Heart. Jo Adams (Editor-in-Chief AJP-Cell) sends CaMP weekly emails with the AJP Cell “Image of the Week”. AJP Renal provided financial support for the Renal Section Awards Banquet this year.

Various sections also worked with their respective journals to facilitate additional symposia at EB 2015: For CNS, Kirsteen Browning (JPC Rep) and Sean Stocker (Chair) worked closely with Bill Yates (Editor-in-Chief, J Neurophysiol) to sponsor a 1-hour symposium that closely aligned with the CNS Distinguished Lectureship. The Journal of Neurophysiology also sponsored a special call for papers. Similarly, the Editor-in-Chief for AJP-GI (Kay Lund) sponsored an
abstract-driven plenary session, and the Editor-in-Chief for AJP-Lung (Sadis Matalon) sponsored an additional invited symposium that was developed in collaboration with RESP.

Finally, several journals worked closely with sections to publish individual presentations or symposia presented at the EB meeting. For CEPS, Willis Samson (Editor-in-Chief for AJP-RIC) invited the symposia organizers for the Comparative Intersociety Meeting to submit reviews of the symposia for publication in the journal. In addition, each year the Journal’s Editor-in-Chief invites the recipient of the Krogh Distinguished Lectureship to publish his/her lecture in the journal. Willis Samson also invited review articles from the Carl Ludwig Distinguished scientist and New Investigator Awardee to AJP RIC. Jo Adams (Editor-in-Chief AJP-Cell) and Martha O’Donnell (Section Chair) invited the 2015 CaMPS Hugh Davison Distinguished Lecturer, Anita Aperia, to write an article for AJP-Cell. Sadis Matalon (Editor-in-Chief AJP-Lung) invited the organizers of the RESP symposium on contextual biology to publish a comprehensive summary of the symposium in AJP Lung.

K) How can SAC and APS better serve your section?

Overall, the sections feel very well supported by both APS and SAC. Areas identified for potential further improvement relate to better communication between SAC and Council as well as between members of SAC to foster continued dialogue outside the spring and fall SAC meetings, and more diversity and representation of smaller sections on committees and in APS governance. The need for a long term strategic plan for the EB meeting was stressed. Several sections also asked for an improved (more appealing and user friendly) web presence including a central record of EB awardees (as sections find it hard to distill this information from the current EB program for their individual section members) and a directory type page that would help to identify key investigators within the various areas of physiology (with contact information and publications).

Fund raising is another important area where sections feel they need help/support from APS. The recruitment of the new APS Development Officer, John Van Ness, was welcomed, and sections look forward to working with him, including training sessions specifically devoted to fundraising and one-on-one interactions.

L) Section Finances

The majority of sections identified the rising costs associated with their social and trainee events during the EB meeting as the major threat to their financial stability, with ticket fees frequently generating only about 50% of the actual costs for these events, and fundraising from industry sponsors commonly proving difficult. The recent doubling of the Distinguished Lecture Ancillary Funds (see below) was seen as a big help in order to cover these increasing costs, but sustainability of the current events and awards programs remains a major concern for most sections.

Distinguished Lecture Ancillary Funds

When agreeing to the recent doubling of the Distinguished Lecture Ancillary Funds from $4,000 to $8,000, Council had requested a report regarding how additional funds were used to facilitate
the interaction between the Distinguished Lecturer and the trainees. Over the past year, all sections used these additional funds to cover or expand existing social events at EB 2015. CNS expanded their social event which was well attended (>150 individuals) and provided extensive interaction between trainees and distinguished scientists. CEP is planning to use the additional funds for more trainee-focused activities that would enhance both science and interactions. TEACH started their new research clusters initiative which will require some additional expenses during the EB meeting, which is expected to be met with the increased allowance via the Distinguished Lecture Ancillary Fund. NCAR used the funds to host the NCAR Awards Recognition Reception on Monday evening of EB, where the Carl Ludwig lecturer, Dr. Mitchell, was recognized and the NCAR young investigator awards were formally presented. Dr. Mitchell and the 7 award winners were hosted to a dinner after the awards presentation to allow the distinguished lecturer and young investigators to socially interact. Part of the funds was also used to provide food and beverages for the Data NCARnation Session on Saturday afternoon, in which young investigators from NCAR presented preview of posters and interacted socially with those who attended the session. The remainder of the funds will be used to provide travel support for trainees who participate in the Carl Ludwig minisymposium.

APS Matching Funds Initiative

More sections are developing matching-funds endowment programs. CNS established a Trainee Endowment Fund in 2014, and raised >$6,000 to yield a total account value over $13,000 within the first 6 months. CaMPS and TEACH established a Trainee Award Endowment Fund and the William Galey Fund, respectively. RENAL established a matching endowment fund and raised $5,914 in member donations so far (prior to matching by APS). RESP was the first to establish a Trainee Endowment Fund in 2010, which is now nearing completion of its $50,000 goal.

2) ACTION ITEM REQUESTS FOR COUNCIL

Action Item 1: Future polls for Joint SAC-Council meetings

As a result of scheduling conflicts for the Fall 2015 Joint SAC-Council meeting, the following motion was unanimously supported by members of SAC:

“SAC requests that all members of Council and SAC are polled for future dates for Joint SAC-Council meetings and that the meetings will only be held on a date in which there will be an overwhelming majority of members present.”