Trainee Advisory Committee

TAC TRAINEE SURVEY
A full analysis of the 2010 survey results, analyzed by educational level, was provided to Council last fall. A TAC subcommittee is working on a manuscript to publish the 2010 survey results. At the fall 2012 TAC meeting, the Committee will begin planning for the 2013 survey, including discussion of topics and objectives.

EB SYMPOSIA
The 2012 TAC Symposium was entitled, “E-media Tools for the Professional Scientist,” and was organized by Erica Dale and Jennifer Bomberger. It included presentations highlighting many new, exciting technologies in locating funding, teaching, online science communication, and communication with social media. It also included some of the ethical implications of social media including: scientific ghostwriting for Facebook, Twitter or blogs, getting paid for science writing in the social media, and ethical implications to consider when putting work online.

In 2013, the TAC symposium will focus on skills needed for translational research. Committee members Julie Rennison and Annie Whitaker are organizing the session which will include talks on what “translational research” really entails, funding opportunities for translational research, perspectives from established translational investigators, and a panel discussion with both invited speakers and new investigators.

TRAINEE WEB PAGE
The new APS website provides “front page” links for trainees, with separate pages for early career professionals, postdocs, graduate students and undergraduate students. Education Office staff have created basic information and links on each page. The Committee will continue to discuss further enhancements needed on these information pages.

APS TRAINEE FACEBOOK SITE AND TWITTER
(www.facebook.com/apstrainees, @apstrainees)
The APS Trainee Facebook page currently has 232 Facebook “Likes.” Postings come from staff, TAC members, and APS Twitter feeds, providing regular communication to the trainee Fans from the APS and the TAC. At the fall meeting, TAC establishes monthly topics relevant to trainees and assigns members responsible for posting materials.

DALE J. BENOS EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AWARD
The TAC received 17 completed and highly competitive applications for the 2012 award; this was a record number of applicants. The Committee selected Jennifer Uno, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Elon University, was the awardee. Dr. Uno has a remarkable level of service within the APS as well as with students at the graduate, undergraduate, and K-12 levels. Her service includes participating in institutional and APS policy and programming committees, teaching/mentoring, leadership and outreach. This service was visible during her time as a graduate student and postdoctoral fellow and
continues now as a faculty member. She will prepare an article for a future issue of *The Physiologist*.

**OUTREACH TO NEW APS TRAINEE MEMBERS**
TAC members have received numerous responses from new members asking how they can become more involved in APS. TAC is preparing a document to explain to trainees the opportunities for involvement in APS activities and governance and how to apply for them.

**OUTREACH TO UNDERGRADUATES**
TAC members continue to use social media tools (Facebook and Twitter) along with the APS website and newsletter to engage both undergraduate students and physiology trainees. TAC business cards were distributed again at EB 2012 to increase awareness of these social media websites. TAC members attended the EB 2012 Undergraduate Poster Session and engaged many of the undergraduate students in discussions of their research, encouraged them to become APS members, and promoted the APS social media sites. The Committee also collaborated with the Career Opportunities in Physiology Committee on the 2012 EB Undergraduate Orientation Session, presenting a portion of the orientation talk and interacting with undergraduate students at the session tables. The TAC plans to continue these activities in 2012-2013.

**COMMUNICATION WITH SECTIONS**
To gain a better idea of current Section activities related to trainees, the TAC did a brief survey of APS section chairs in April-June 2012. Responses were received from all sections. The most common trainee activities for sections were research awards for trainees and junior faculty, discounted banquet tickets for trainees, involvement of junior faculty as symposia speakers, and e-media (primarily listserv) use. About two-thirds of the sections have a trainee section in their newsletter and have trainees co-chair symposia or featured topics at EB. The remaining activities, including trainee-driven sessions and trainee subcommittees were less common among the sections. Some sections have activities in the planning stages but, unless they indicated that these would be implemented in 2012-2013, they were not counted as current activities.

**COMMUNICATION WITH APS COMMITTEE TRAINEE MEMBERS**
The inclusion of trainee members on APS committees and section steering committees provides an excellent opportunity for both the trainee and the committee to benefit from the perspectives of these new physiologists. Informal conversations by TAC members with trainee members on committees suggest that their role on the committees vary widely, from full committee member activities to primarily observation. Of course, the role of the trainee on the committee is influenced strongly by the committee chair. The TAC proposes several activities to promote “best practices” for trainee participation in APS committees. Specifically: 1) The development of a “best practices” document for trainees describing how to serve on an APS committee; 2) the development of a “best practices” document for committee chairs on working with trainee committee members; 3) establishment of a networking breakfast session at EB for all trainee members of committees, hosted by TAC, for the purpose of sharing what committees are doing and
how trainees can be involved; and 4) a brief survey of committee chairs and trainees to learn more about the role of trainees on APS committees and to identify effective models and methods to share with committee chairs and trainees.