Trainee Advisory Committee

TAC Trainee Survey
At the fall 2012 TAC meeting, the Committee began planning for the 2013 survey, including discussion of topics and objectives. The design of the survey will be completed this fall, and the 2013 survey will be distributed in November-December 2013. Special efforts will be made to reach out to HBCUs and HHCUs and to undergraduate physiology departments. The survey will include few questions from the previous surveys so that we can continue to track responses over time.

EB Symposia
EB13
The 2013 TAC Symposium was entitled, “Translational Research: From Bench to Bedside.” It included presentations to define translational research, discuss the opportunities available through the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCAT), and provide examples of laboratories that have been successful in establishing a translational research program. The presentations were followed by an open forum discussion panel with the invited speakers, as well as several early career investigators who have recently incorporated translational science into their newly established laboratories. Attendance at this Wednesday morning symposium was excellent and the speakers received high ratings from the attendees.

EB14
In 2014 the TAC symposium will focus on how to review manuscripts for scientific journals. This symposium is co-sponsored by the APS Publications Committee, and these presentations will address APS Strategic Plan Priority: Develop strategies to strengthen the Society’s publications in a changing world. The session will include talks on how to become a reviewer; what are the responsibilities of a reviewer; and what is included in a review.

Future Experimental Biology Planning
As part of ongoing strategic planning discussions, TAC has discussed possible new session types at EB. The TAC plans to discuss these ideas with JPC and SAC to develop specific recommendations for future EB meetings. These include Trainee Cross-Sectional Symposia and Early Morning Career Development Sessions.

APS Trainee Facebook Site and Twitter
The APS Trainee Facebook page currently has 347 Facebook “Likes,” and the twitter account has 78 followers. 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 applications for a 2013 award. The Committee selected Erica A. Wehrwein, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Physiology, Michigan State University as the 2013 awardee. Wehrwein has a remarkable level of teaching, service and mentoring with students at the graduate/professional, undergraduate and K-12 levels, as well as with members of
her community. She has won many awards for both her teaching and research throughout her career to date. This service was visible during her time as a graduate student and postdoctoral fellow and continues now as a faculty member.

The TAC is planning to follow up with past award winners to determine whether they have continued their service activities and to ask about the impacts of receiving the award on their careers and professional activities.

This spring, the TAC unanimously voted to change the eligibility requirements for the award for previous TAC members in order to avoid the appearance of conflict of interest. TAC members have never been eligible for the award during the term of service on TAC, and now members will not be eligible until 2 years after their TAC service is completed.

**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 2013 to increase awareness of these social media websites. TAC members attended the EB 2013 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 (Facebook, etc.).

**Undergraduate Focus Group**

Because of the growing involvement of undergraduates in APS, the TAC feels it is important to have undergraduate input into TAC activities. At the 2012 APS Council meeting, it was suggested that summer undergraduate research fellows would be a good target group from whom to gain insights into the undergraduate population regarding their needs and their impressions of the APS and EB. A TAC subcommittee developed a list of questions, and a Focus Group meeting was held at EB2013 with five undergraduates who participated in APS Summer Research programs and attended the Undergraduate Orientation Session on Saturday afternoon.

**APS Graduate Student Ambassador Program**

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in benefits and awards available to student members offered by the APS however, many student members (and their advisors) are not aware of these opportunities. Thus, the TAC seeks to recruit a dedicated group of graduate students to serve as Graduate Student Ambassadors (GSA). The GSAs will serve as liaisons between the APS (TAC and APS Chapters) and local undergraduate and graduate students. The primary goal of the GSAs is to increase the number of students becoming and maintaining active membership in APS, particularly underrepresented minority students, and increase students’ awareness of the benefits of APS membership, including the many resources that the Society provides.

**Communication with Sections**

Each TAC representative updated their Section activity information in 2012-13 and shared information with their Section Steering Committee. 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 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, and some sections also include trainee-driven sessions at EB, trainee subcommittees within the section, and awards for undergraduate students.