**TAC Trainee Survey**
The Trainee Advisory Committee (TAC) began planning for next year’s survey and has decided to follow the lead of Council and the strategic planning process and to incorporate the goals and interests of the Society and how they may best serve the trainee community. The survey is not limited to APS members but casts a broader net to solicit information from many trainees who are involved in APS activities and meetings. Since there has been a change in timeline for APS strategic planning, the TAC has put the finalization of the survey on hold in order to coordinate with Council planning activities.

**EB Symposia**
The EB2016 TAC Symposium was entitled, “Now Hiring Ph.D.s: Post Doc Not Required” and was organized by Angelina Hernandez-Carretero and Brendan Dougherty. The presentations focused on exposing trainees to the diverse career paths available in today’s job market for those with Ph.D.s. Those presentations were then followed by a panel discussion with the invited speakers (Drs. Philip Clifford, Sonia Zarate, Jeremiah Mitzelfelt, Carrie Wolinetz, Maria Urso, and Andrea Gwosdow). Attendance at this morning session was impressive and peaked at over 200 people. The speakers also received very high ratings from the attendees.

The EB2016 Trainee Cross-Sectional Featured Topic was entitled, “Sex Differences in Health and Disease” and encouraged submissions from all sections. The session was well attended and gave trainees a chance to showcase their work.

The EB2017 TAC Symposium is entitled, “Kick start your funding: looking beyond NIH and NSF” and is being organized Jennifer Steiner and Kristi Streeter. The goal of this symposium is to help trainees and early career scientists identify additional funding opportunities to support their research as well as provide them with information on how to apply and write successful applications. There will be a speaker from the following four categories: 1) Private foundation, 2) Military, 3) Crowd sourcing/kickstarter, and 4) Industry.

**Career Webinar Series**
The Career Webinar subcommittee (Brendan Dougherty and Christopher Banek) is working closely with Aaron James Polichnowski from the Porter Fellowship committee and Seth Fairfax of COPC to move the project forward. They have identified Dr. Rudy Ortiz at UC-Merced as the first Webinar participant. We anticipate launching this webinar series in 2016 and are exploring options for creating a permanent home for the webinar series on the APS website.

**APS Trainee Facebook Site and Twitter**
The APS Trainee Facebook page currently has 1984 Facebook “Likes,” (a 19% increase from 2015) and the Twitter account has 192 followers (a 22% increase from 2015). 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 7 completed applications for the 2016 award. The Committee was extremely pleased to select Keisa Mathis, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC). Dr. Mathis showed a remarkable level of professional service, outreach, and mentoring/teaching activities with students at the graduate/professional, undergraduate, and K-12 levels, as well as with members of her community. She had been nominated for or won awards for both her mentoring and research throughout her career to date. The Council approved this selection and Dr. Mathis received the award at EB 2016. She will also prepare an article for a future issue of the Physiologist. The TAC has begun 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. The first recipient of this award was surveyed at the end of 2013, and the fourth recipient will
be surveyed this year.

**TAC Outreach**

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 2016 to increase awareness of these social media websites. TAC members attended the EB 2016 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.). The TAC also collaborated with the Career Opportunities in Physiology Committee on the 2015 EB Undergraduate Orientation Session, with Angelina Hernandez-Carretero presenting a portion of the orientation talk.

**Undergraduate Research Advisory Board**

In order to gain a broader perspective of the involvement of undergraduates in APS, the TAC sent a survey to all undergraduates that submitted an abstract to a physiology topic at the EB2016 meeting. As an incentive to increase participation, the undergraduates were given the opportunity to receive a certificate recognizing them as members of the Undergraduate Research Advisory Board. Almost half of the undergraduate students presenting at EB2016 responded to the survey. Results will be discussed by TAC at the fall meeting and presented to Council. A manuscript has been prepared on the first two years of results and will be submitted soon for publication.

**APS Graduate Student Ambassador Program**

The GSA subcommittee (Kristi Streeter, Jennifer Steiner, and Steven Copp) is working with APS staff to finalize the GSA application and launch the website. Suggestions from Council, for including appropriate metrics for success, were included in the revisions for this new program. The goal is to start advertising for applications at the end of the summer/early fall 2016. The subcommittee will also be working this summer to develop an online training webinar.

**Communication with Sections**

TAC representatives updated their section activity information in 2015-2016 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.

**Communication with APS Committee Trainee Members**

Council has approved funding for a breakfast meeting at EB for all trainees who are members of the APS standing committees and APS Chapter Steering Committees. The idea of this breakfast is to maintain contact with these trainees to understand their needs and concerns in regards to committee service. Attendance at these meetings has steadily climbed each year. In addition, the TAC has begun to develop a survey to be distributed to trainees on APS committees which will be sent this summer.