Women in Physiology Committee

Bodil Schmidt-Nielsen Distinguished Mentor and Scientist Award
Ten nominations were received for the 2012 Bodil Schmidt-Nielsen Distinguished Mentor and Scientist award. Members of the Women in Physiology Committee reviewed the nominations and selected Kim E. Barrett, University of California, San Diego, as the awardee. Dr. Barrett received an honorarium of $1,000, a plaque, and reimbursement of expenses to attend the EB 2012 meeting. Dr. Barrett gave a talk on mentoring, entitled, “How to Believe in Others (and Other Musings on Mentoring.” The lecture was followed by a buffet reception to which APS Council members, former Schmidt-Nielsen Awardees, Dr. Barrett’s nominator, Declan McCole, her mentees, awardees of the various APS award programs (tum Sudan, Minority Travel Fellows, Porter Fellows, etc.), other trainees, and guests specified by the awardee were invited.

Professional Opportunity Awards: Caroline tum Sudan/ Frances Hellebrandt, Steven M. Horvath, Fleur L. Strand, and Gabor Kaley Awards
The Women in Physiology Committee received 123 applications for the 2012 Professional Opportunity Awards. The Committee was able to fund 38 tum Sudan Awards, two Horvath Awards (given to the top two underrepresented minority applicants), one Strand Award (given to the top applicant) and two Kaley Awards for a total of 43 awards (35% of applicant pool).

Career Mentoring Resources
The Committee developed five articles in 2011 and three articles thus far in 2012 for The Physiologist with related bulletin board discussion topics at the mentoring website.

MentorNet Mentoring Program
The Committee launched the APS MentorNet collaboration in October 2007. MentorNet is need of both mentors and mentees from APS. The Committee will continue to recruit students and mentors in the coming year and hopes for additional program growth as students become aware of the program. The Committee plans to increase the visibility of MentorNet by sending specific emails to APS members on APS listservs and suggesting additional links to the MentorNet website from specific APS web pages.

Experimental Biology Mentoring Workshop
For EB 2012, the workshop was entitled, “Conflict Resolution: How to Keep Everyone Happy!” Forty-nine attendees completed a survey. Based on survey responses, the audience was primarily postdoctoral fellows (24%), graduate students (20%), junior faculty (16%) and senior faculty (14%) The speaker presentations were rated highly, and the audience participation in the last thirty minutes was very dynamic. For EB 2013, workshop organizers Kathleen O’Hagan, Midwestern University and Anne Dorrance, Michigan State University will chair a session on “The Changing Face of Tenure.”

Representation of Women in APS and Scientific Community Leadership
In reviewing the membership of the APS Section Advisory Committee (SAC) and other Society committees, it was discovered that the representation of women on the Society’s committees continues to be very good. The WIP Committee commends the Committee on Committees for its ongoing attention to gender diversity on APS appointed committee positions. The WIP Committee is also pleased to note that, in 2012-2013, the APS Council has five women members out of nine (56%) as well as women in both the President and President-elect positions. Overall, seven (58%) of the 12 elected members of Council are women. This is a first for the APS and clearly reflects the increasing role of women in the Society as a whole and especially in both Section and Committee leadership positions.
which provide important visibility and service opportunities. Furthermore, it underscores the importance of encouraging all sections to involve women in their leadership positions. SAC has five women representatives (42%) and the new chair is Ann Schreihofer. Currently, all but three sections have steering committees where at least 25% of the members are women. Similarly, all but three APS committees are comprised of at least 25% women members.

**FASEB Excellence in Science Award**
For the 2013 award, Dr. Terry Orr-Weaver, from the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, MA, was selected. She is a member of the National Academy of Science (NAS), American Academy of Microbiology, and American Association for the Advancement of Science. Membership in the NAS is imperative in order to win this award. The WIP Committee thanks Tish Weigand, our previous trainee representative, for compiling statistics on NAS membership. She has determined that there are 255 women in the NAS. Only six are currently members of APS. The Committee has been discussing strategies to increase the number of APS women who are NAS members, as that is a critical element for successful candidates for this prestigious award. More importantly, the Committee is very concerned about overall APS representation in the Academy (both men and women physiologists).