American Physiological Society

Cardiovascular Section Newsletter
Gerald A. Meininger, Ph.D., Editor
February 2007

Deadlines to Note:
The deadline for purchase of tickets for the Annual Cardiovascular Section Awards Banquet is April 6, 2007.
The deadline for proposals for Featured Topics and Symposia for Experimental Biology '07 is March 1, 2007.

1. Special News From the Chair:

This my last newsletter note as Chair of the CV Section. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve the section in this position the past three years. We have accomplished much. More importantly we have in place strong leadership for the future. Managing the Section requires effort from a number of individuals and we have a highly effective and energetic cadre of Section committee chairs who manage their individual activities and integrate CV section functions expertly. Here are some of their resulting achievements:

1. Membership in the section has grown significantly over the past 3 years. Our monthly update of new members within APS typically shows that we acquire more new members than other sections (we are already the largest in APS).
2. We added record numbers of new fellows in the past 3 years.
3. Attendance at the annual banquet has increased to the point that it is regularly sold out long before the EB meeting (take heed and buy your tickets now!),
4. We have engaged NIH more directly. We are regularly asked to suggest study section members. The NIH Liaison committee provides forums for interaction between our membership and NIH officials at EB, and we now have the Chair of our NIH Liaison committee on the APS Public Affairs Committee – we are the only section to have this arrangement.
5. Our Industry Liaison committee has been revitalized the past 3 years with monthly meetings, a marked increase in the number of active members, better fundraising, and direct involvement in programming at EB to link industry with academia.
6. The Awards committee has accomplished much. Our bylaws were overhauled to clarify the myriad of awards we have. As a result we have had greater numbers of applications and have increased the number of research recognition awards we can provide. The program has now been expanded to pre-doctoral fellows as well. Finally a new award for junior investigators in clinical and translational research in cardiovascular physiology has been established. This is a timely addition to the menu of awards we offer.
7. Our finances have continued to grow. I am proud to be able to announce that I will leave office with a greater positive balance than when I started. This is a rather new phenomenon begun with the “Chilian era.” Gerry Meininger is largely responsible for this growth which has made us the envy of virtually every other section. I was even asked to discuss our financial strategies with other sections at the Strategic Advisory Committee meeting 2 years ago.
8. Our nominations process has been streamlined and made more efficient over the past few years. The Nominations committee has spearheaded the transition to electronic voting,
and has been proactive in securing and selecting slates of candidates for all of our positions. Together with our representative to the Committee on Committees, we have been highly effective in securing representation on a broad variety of APS committees.

9. The relatively new Trainee Committee has been very successful. From our trainee mixer prior to the banquet to our representation at the Reis Memorial trainee award symposium, to the greetings that go out to all new trainee members each month, our pre- and post-doctoral fellows are becoming much more visible and active in the section.

10. We have created new links with our Journal. Now the theme of our distinguished Berne and Wiggers lecturers is captured in a review article published in Am. J. Physiol. Heart and Circ. Physiol.

It has been a great 3 years and the outlook for the future is even better. Be a part of the action and get involved. Here are just a few of the ways:
- Apply for membership on any of our section’s committees
- Nominate yourself for service on APS committees
- Suggest speakers and topics for Symposia and Featured Topics for the next EB meeting
- Nominate a colleague for the Berne or Wiggers lectureships
- Send in an item for the newsletter
- Honor a fellow member who has distinguished him or herself in cardiovascular physiology by nominating them for Fellowship in the section.

-David Gutterman

Other Business from the Chair:
The CV Section Annual Banquet and Business Meeting. Gerry Meininger has identified a terrific site for our banquet, at the Mansion on O Street. It is hard to imagine that he could match last year’s venue, but 2007 promises to be even more interesting. A portion of the interior of the Mansion on O Street House is shown below (for color and information go to: http://www.omansion.com/about/). The mansion is centrally located in the nation’s capital. For those of you who like to let your hair down the policy of the Mansion is “What happens at The Mansion stays in the Mansion”. The following description is excerpted from the website.

“The mansion is used as a private club, a small luxury hotel as well as an internationally recognized conference center and museum. Combining art, literature, and inspiration, The Mansion provides all its guests with an escape into the world as it should be; privacy, security and distinctive amenities as well as world class cuisine. The Mansion was featured in National Geographic Traveler’s Magazine (for website link go to http://www.omansion.com/about/nationalg.pdf).

The History of the Mansion The original Mansion was designed in 1892 and shared by the Clark Brothers: Alan, architect for the US Capital (and, of course, The Mansion); Champ, Speaker of the House during Teddy Roosevelt's presidency, and a third brother, known only as "the artist." The Mansion was originally connected through the basement and the main floor. At one time, there were plans to replace the side garden with an adjoining home for a sister. However, the plan was never carried out and in the 1930's, The Mansion was converted into three separate rooming houses for FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's G-men. Having hosted foreign dignitaries, business leaders, and members of the entertainment industry for over two decades, The Mansion staff provides privacy, security, distinctive amenities and world-class cuisine. (...in an environment that is nothing short of magical).

The Mansion has a collection of over 10,000 pieces of art and artifacts, providing a broad range of art-
related services by maintaining continuing relationships with emerging artists, major galleries, museums, publishers and consultants.”

The banquet will be held on Monday evening, April 30, it will begin with a social hour for trainees and students beginning at 6:00 pm followed by the general reception for the membership at 7:00 pm and then dinner. There will be time during the reception to tour The Mansion. At the banquet we will honor this year’s Berne and Wiggers awardees, as well as our young investigator and travel awardees. There will be no speaker this year (the Berne and Wiggers lectures will be accommodated within the scientific program this year), but there will be the traditional (short) business meeting with updates from Section leadership and by Dr. Alberto Nasjletti, Editor-In-Chief who will highlight exciting achievements and plans for the *American Journal of Physiology- Heart and Circulatory Physiology*.

Ticket prices this year will be $55.00 for regular members and $45.00 for postdoctoral fellows and students (a bargain price). Deadline for pre-meeting purchase is receipt is April 6, 2007. Please do not wait until the last minute to order your tickets. There will only be 190 tickets available. Last year it was very disappointing to turn people away.

Please send a check or money order written out to APS-CVS to Linda Allen at APS: APS Cardiovascular Section, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814-3991, Tel: 301-634-7172, Fax: 301-634-7264, Email: Lallen@The-APS.org. Credit Card payment is possible. Email Linda Allen or Gerry Meininger (meininger@missouri.edu) for the appropriate credit card payment form. Tickets can also be purchased using the Banquet Order Form that is attached below and is available on-line at:

http://www.the-aps.org/sections/cardio/index.htm

We have a number of supportive friends of our section to thank for helping to sponsor this year’s CVS Awards Banquet-2007. They will all be officially thanked and recognized in an upcoming newsletter and at the banquet. Be sure to thank them all!
**b. Keynote Lectures.** Please be sure to attend the “Robert Berne Distinguished Lecture” (Monday, April 29, 2007, 10:30 AM, Washington Convention Center, Ballroom B) and the “Carl Wiggers Memorial Lectureship” (May 1, 2007, 10:30 AM, Washington Convention Center, Room 146C).

This year’s Berne Lecturer is William Sessa, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmacology, Yale University School of Medicine, 295 Congress Ave, New Haven, CT 06536, Tel: 203 737-2291, Email: william.sessa@yale.edu

**Title of presentation:** "Regulation of endothelial nitric oxide synthase: cell biology to function"

Dr. Sessa has achieved national and international recognition for the development and application of basic cellular and molecular biological techniques to physiologically important questions in the cardiovascular system. The primary emphasis of his work focuses on post-translational modifications of endothelial nitric oxide synthase, molecular control and function of nitric oxide production in the vascular endothelium as it pertains to endothelial dysfunction, vascular remodeling and angiogenesis. In addition, he is recognized for his ground breaking work in the area of vascular cell biology and signaling.

Our Wiggers Awardee and lecturer this year is Charles Antzelevitch, Ph.D., Executive Director, Masonic Medical Research Laboratory, 2150 Bleecker St, Utica, NY 13501-1787, Tel: 315 735-2217, Email: ca@mmrl.edu

**Title of Presentation:** "The Role of Spatial Dispersion of Repolarization in Inherited and Acquired Sudden Cardiac Death Syndromes"

The principal focus of Dr. Antzelevitch’s research program has long been to understand the mechanisms responsible for the development of cardiac arrhythmias, particularly those associated with sudden cardiac death in infants, children and young adults. In recent years, the goal of his laboratory has been to delineate the mechanisms and to develop therapeutic approaches for inherited channelopathies as well as to provide new insights into the genetic predisposition to sudden death following a myocardial infarction and other cardiomyopathies, and thus to provide an better understanding and approach to diagnosis, prognosis
and treatment of these acquired ailments. Intensified focus on molecular genetics has better enabled the identification and formulation of gene-specific therapies using an approach that generates and integrates data at multiple levels and across disciplines bridging basic and clinical science.

Sincerely,

David Gutterman
Chairperson

2. Election Results 2007:

The Fellows of the CV Section have elected:

Gerald A. Meininger of the University of Missouri, Columbia as our sections next CV Section Chair.

Frank Faraci of the University of Iowa, Donna M. Van Winkle of the Portland V.A. Medical Center and David C. Zawieja of Texas A&M University were elected to CV Section Nominating Committee.

3. Joint Programming Committee (Ron Korthuis, PhD and David Lefer, PhD):

Joint Programming Committee (JPC): We wish to encourage all Cardiovascular Section members to consider submission of proposals for Featured Topics and Symposia for Experimental Biology '08.

The forms for submission can be found at [http://www.aps.org/meetings/eb.htm](http://www.aps.org/meetings/eb.htm), are very easy to complete, and should be submitted to our section's representatives by 1 March 2007:

Ron Korthuis Korthuis (korthuisr@health.missouri.edu)
David Lefer (dlefer@aecom.yu.edu)

It is not necessary to confirm participation of suggested speakers before this date. The American Physiological Society provides complimentary meeting registration and $4,000 to support travel expenses for symposia participants and $2,000 for Featured Topic participants, distributed at the discretion of the organizer(s). The Cardiovascular Section programs 5 symposia and 7 featured topics for the Experimental Biology meetings.

As new discoveries create emerging areas of research interest, we also seek suggestions for future emphasis regarding Topic Category designations for abstract submission. Current Topic Category designations for our section are listed in the Preliminary Program and Call for Abstracts that each of you received for Experimental Biology '07. Please send your suggestions for new Topic Categories designations to our section's JPC representatives: Ron Korthuis or David Lefer (email addresses above) by 1 March 2007.

Finally, we want to remind everyone that the APS Conferences provide the ultimate in programming opportunities, with the organizing committee selecting the theme, meeting format, abstract categories, method of presentation, and duration of the meeting. The APS provides up to $30,000 toward reimbursement of invited speaker direct costs and registration. Proposals are reviewed by the Joint Programming Committee for potential recommendation to APS Council, as they are received, so there is no due date for submission. Specific guidelines and forms are available at [http://www.aps.org/meetings/aps/conf-proposal.htm](http://www.aps.org/meetings/aps/conf-proposal.htm). Any questions regarding the organization of such meetings
should be directed to Curt D. Sigmund, PhD, Chair of the Joint Programming Committee or Linda Allen, in the APS meetings department.

4. **Industry Liaison Committee of the CV Section (Adrienne Zion, PhD):**

From the APS Liaison With Industry Committee (LWIC)
(Section representative: Adrienne S. Zion)

The LWIC is sponsoring a Symposium entitled "Stem Cells in Physiology and Drug Discovery" at EB2007 on Sunday, April 29th from 10:30 – 12:30. This symposium will describe latest research on stem cells expansion, use of stem cells in target identification and understanding of signaling pathways, as well as its use in Neurodegeneration diseases. LWIC is also organizing a Translational Symposium entitled “Drug Discovery Efforts for Pain Indications: Ion Channels and GPCRs” at EB2007 on Tuesday, May 1st from 8:00 – 10:00 AM. This symposium will describe novel ion channel and GPCR targets for treating chronic pain. The mechanistic rationale for the target as well as the drug testing strategies to identify novel therapeutics will be discussed.

Look for the full program in the Spring.

You're invited! Come meet and eat with your fellow physiologists who are working in the corporate sector. The 7th Annual Liaison With Industry Committee Mixer is on at EB2007. Look for details in the Spring newsletter.

5. **NIH/NHLBI Liaison Committee (Virginia Miller, PhD):**

Meet the NIH Officials 2007: NIH and NHLBI Funding and Review
(Mark these Dates and Times)

**Monday, April 30, 12:00 pm**
Meeting Room 6, Renaissance Hotel

**Tuesday, May 1, 1:00 pm**
Meeting Room 6, Renaissance Hotel

For further information concerning confirmed NIH participants please contact Virginia Miller, Email: miller.virginia@mayo.edu

**Executive Summary of the NIH Survey conducted by the CV section of APS**

**December 1, 2006- January 16, 2007**

**Purpose:** To evaluate CV section participation in NIH study sections and to collect information regarding how to improve the grant review process.

**Survey style:** The electronically administered survey consisted of 5 multiple-choice questions with sections to solicit write-in comments.

**Results:** The response rate was 10% (155 from a total of 1554 members of the CV section of APS). Of those responding, about 88% were not currently serving on a study section and 45% had served on a
study section within the last five years. Most members who served on a study section served as an ad hoc reviewer and no member indicated having served as a chair of a study section. Of those who responded, 75% had not been asked to serve on a study section and for those who were asked to serve the major reason given for turning down the request was “too much work/not enough time” (52%). However, 64% of respondents were interested in serving on a NIH study section and 89% of respondents provided information and permitted sharing of contact information with other granting agencies.

Comments regarding the review process: Only three persons, of the 155 respondents, providing written comments thought that the system was fine as it is. Alternatively, consistent with the concern regarding workload for reviewers, the majority of responders were positive or neutral regarding reducing the page size of the grant (about 59% of respondents). About 70% of responders included written comments about the review process. These could be generally grouped into larger sections related to workload, bias, re-submission process, triage system and other.

Workload: Most of the written comments related to workload. Not all respondents were in favor of reducing the grant size to 10 pages and 15 pages seemed to be the preferred size. Suggestions of placing methods into appendices, reducing the “non-science” sections of the grants, and placing emphasis on feasibility rather than preliminary data were all suggested as possible ways to reduce the grant size. Increasing the size of study sections, with fewer grants/reviewer was suggested as opposed to have one reviewer review more shorter grants. The idea of having two rosters/section was suggested with serving twice rather than three times a year. There were suggestions to either pay reviewers or to provide them with 5 years of funding for serving.

Bias: The second largest number of written comments related to real or perceived bias in the current review system. Respondents indicated that reviewers should be at least an Associate Professor with a funding history, or have a special study panel to review proposals from junior investigators. Several indicated a need to better match scientific expertise of reviewers with grants. Training reviewers and placing less emphasis on “nit-picking” details at the expense of innovation was another repeated theme. Considering not only score but variance of score may provide clues to how innovative or controversial a proposal might be. Several comments related to having the entire process be anonymous or alternatively, to disclosing the identity of reviewers. Not asking for priority scores to be announced or discussing a rank order of scored grants were suggested as ways to distribute scores.

Re-submission process: The third category with write-in comments related to the re-submission process. The most repeated theme was concerned a recommendation to shorten the turn around time for grant reviews. Clear guidelines were requested for review of re-submissions with recommendations that reviewers be the same for the re-submission as on the original grant. Recommendations for an improved appeal process were mentioned at least five times.

Triage: Comments concerning the triage system ranged from eliminating it altogether to at least providing the applicant with the scores. The idea was presented that triage is used reduce work load rather than eliminate bad grants. Reviewer expertise and bias were concerns raised about this system.

Other: Several mentioned the need for less risk aversion on the part of reviewers, the need to emphasize feasibility at the expense of preliminary data as a negative result is also needed in hypothesis testing. There were also recommendations for broader themed study sections to better review interdisciplinary grants and that a limitation should be placed on the number of grants awarded to a principal investigator.

Comments regarding the survey: This survey was constructed by the NHLBI/NIH Liaison subcommittee of the Cardiovascular Section of APS. This is the second survey that this group has conducted in the last two years. Response to the first survey was 15%, slightly better than this survey. Timing of distribution may have been an issue because the survey overlapped winter break for academic institutions; the last survey was conducted after the winter break in January thru February, 2006.
General frustration on the part of the membership may also have influenced responses, given the discouraging funding level at NIH. However, some respondents seem to think the system worked just fine. Although there was not a specific question related to age, based on some of the write-in information, the age-range of respondents seemed to span junior investigators to retirees. Based on the write in responses, the section has a basis to develop a data base of potential and willing reviewers. The sub-committee will work with Council and the Public Affairs committee as to how best organize and distribute this data base and for recommendations as how best to relay this information to the Center for Scientific Review at NIH. Comments from the CV section are welcome and can be emailed to miller.virginia@mayo.edu.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia M. Miller, PhD
Chair, NHLBI/NIH Liaison sub-committee

Miscellaneous Committee Information:

Cardiovascular Section Awards Committee

Descriptions of all our awards can be found on-line at the web link below. All applications for Awards will be handled on line and can be accessed at:

http://www.the-aps.org/meetings/eb06/awards/cv.htm

If you experience any problems please contact Steven S. Segal, Chairperson of the Awards Committee.

Steven S. Segal, Ph.D., Chairperson
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Columbia, MO 65212

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Fax: (573) 884-4276
E-mail: segalss@health.missouri.edu

APS Committee Service/Nominees Needed

Any one interested in serving on an APS Committee for 2007, please contact David W. Busija at the address below. The APS web site has a complete listing of Committees and their responsibilities.

http://www.the-aps.org/committees/index.htm

David W. Busija, PhD
Bowman Gray School of Medicine
Dept Physiology & Pharmacology
Medical Center Blvd
Cardiovascular Section Committee Nominees/Volunteers Needed

The Cardiovascular Section has openings for members interested in serving the Section. If you are interested or if you have a colleague you would like to nominate please send a completed nomination form (attached) to Chair of the Nominating Committee, Michael S. Wolin, Ph.D. Email: mike_wolin@nymc.edu.

Committees with openings include: Nominating Committee, Fellowship Committee, Awards Committee and Industry-Foundations Liaison Committee.

Nominees must be members with a primary or secondary affiliation with the Cardiovascular Section. The February 10, 2007 deadline is passed for submitting nominations for members of the following CV Section committees listed below that have terms that expire in 2007. However, If you have nominations that think should be considered, please contact Mike Wolin:

- Awards Committee (1 position)
- Industry-Foundations Liaison Committee (5 Positions)
- NIH-NHLBI Liaison Committee (3 Positions)
- Trainee Committee (1 Position)

The CV Section Nominating Committee recommends up to three individuals for each open position for subsequent selection by the CV Section Steering Committee at the EB'07 meeting. Self nominations and simultaneous consideration for multiple committee positions are encouraged. Individuals with expiring terms (See the CV Section Steering Committee link in the APS web site) can be re-nominated. PLEASE RESPOND TO GEORGIA STINE (Gstine@the-APS.org).

Nominations should include the following supporting material:

A) A filled out CV Section Nomination form (See the CV Section Summer 2006 Newsletter available on the APS Web site)
B) A 4-page NIH style biosketch or 4 page CV of the applicant, and
C) Acknowledgement that the nominee is willing to serve, if this is not a self-nomination.

Michael S. Wolin, Ph.D.
Chairperson, CVS Nominating Committee
Tel: 914-594-4093
Fax: 914-594-4018
Email: mike_wolin@nymc.edu

Cardiovascular Section Fellow Nominees Needed

Nominations for fellowship should be submitted to the Chair of the Fellowship Committee, Akos Koller, M.D., and should include the candidate's curriculum vitae and letters of nomination from 2 Cardiovascular Fellows. Please email the materials to koller@nymc.edu.
Prospective fellows must (1) be regular members of APS; (2) have their primary or secondary affiliation with the Cardiovascular Section; (3) publish meritorious physiological research in the cardiovascular field; and (4) be an established investigator. The deadline for this year has passed but it is not too late to be thinking about colleagues who should be nominated next year.

Thank you for taking the time to ensure that deserving CV scientists are acknowledged.

Akos Koller, M.D.  
New York Med Coll  
Dept Physiology  
Valhalla, NY 10595  
914 594-4085  
fax: 914 594-4018  
koller@nymc.edu

Cardiovascular Section Symposium Programming

Please submit your applications for Symposia and Featured Topics for consideration for Experimental Biology 2007. Forms can be obtained at:

http://www.the-aps.org/meetings/eb.htm

Please copy Ron Korthuis and Dave Lefer co-chairs of our Programming Committee with your submissions. They would also be happy to respond to any questions.

Ronald J. Korthuis, Ph.D.  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Medical Pharmacology and Physiology  
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Future News Items:

Do you have any items of interest you would like included in a future CVS Newsletter? If so, send them to the attention of Gerald A. Meininger, Ph.D., Secretary and Treasurer, meiningerg@missouri.edu.
EB 2007—APS CARDIOVASCULAR SECTION BANQUET
TICKET ORDER FORM
APS Cardiovascular Section, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814-3991
Phone: 301-634-7172 FAX: 301-634-7264 email: lallen@the-aps.org

The CVS Banquet will take place Monday evening at 7:00 PM, April 30, 2007. The Mansion's address is 2020 O Street NW, Washington DC 20036 Tel: 202.496.2020 (http://www.omansion.com/about/)
DEADLINE FOR ADVANCE PURCHASE IS APRIL 6, 2007

_______(#) Member/Nonmember Tickets @ $55.00
_______(#) Student/Postdoc Tickets @ $45.00

PLEASE MAIL MY TICKETS TO:
Name: ____________________________________________________________
Mailing Address for Tickets: __________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Email Address: ____________________________________________________

PAYMENT INFORMATION:
CHECK ENCLOSED in the amount of $________. To pay by check: Complete form and mail with check payable to APS (CVS Banquet). Mailing address: APS, Linda Allen, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814-3991. All checks must be drawn on a US bank.

CREDIT CARD ORDERS (fax to 301-634-7264):
I authorize APS to charge my: ___ VISA ___ MasterCard ___ American Express
in the amount of $_________ USD for the number of CVS Banquet tickets listed above.
The Credit Card Number is: ____________________________________________
Expiration Date of the credit card is: _________ (month) _________ (year)
Name of Cardholder: ________________________________________________
Billing Address of Cardholder: ________________________________________
Telephone: _____________ FAX: _____________ Email: _________________

SIGNATURE OF CARDHOLDER:

Tickets ordered after April 6 will be sold onsite on a space-available basis at an elevated fee ($5.00 more/ticket). 
ORDER TICKETS BY April 6, 2007!
Questions? Call us at: 301-634-7172
APS Cardiovascular Section
Current Committee Membership

The Section Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, APS Committee on Committee Representative, ex officio AJP: Heart & Circulatory Physiology Editor, ex officio Section Chair and the Chairs of the standing committees serve as official CVS Steering Committee members.

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STANDING COMMITTEES ROSTERS (with term expiration)
Only the chairs of the standing committees serve as official steering committee members.

Awards Committee
Steven S. Segal, Ph.D., Chair (2007)
Shawn E. Bearden, Ph.D., (2008)
George Cooper, MD. (2009)
Robert L. Hester, Ph.D. (2009)
Brandon T. Larsen, BS (2009)
Janna Morrison, Ph.D. (2008)
Patrick J. Pagano, Ph.D. (2009)
David W. Stepp, Ph.D. (2009)
Suresh C. Tyagi Ph.D. (2009)
Cuihua Zhang, MD, Ph.D. (2008)

Banquet Committee
Gerald A. Meininger, Ph.D., Chair (2009)
Ronald J. Korthuis, Ph.D. (2008)
Hua “Linda” Cai, MD., Ph.D. (2009)
Adrienne S. Zion, Ph.D. (2007)

Conference Committee
David R. Harder, Ph.D., Chair (2009)

Fellowship and Membership Committee
Akos Koller, Ph.D., Chair (2007)
Hangjoong Jo, Ph.D. (2009)
Dale D. Tang, Ph.D. (2009)  
Sarah Y. Yuan, MD, Ph.D. (2008)

**Industry-Foundations Liaison Committee**

Adrienne S. Zion, Ph.D., Chair (2007)
Igor R. Efimov, Ph.D. (2009)
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