

## APS Specialty Meetings

For several years the American Physiological Society has been transforming its Fall Meeting from one encompassing all aspects of physiology to one embracing selected themes. From 1985 through 1987 the meetings had multiple themes, and in 1988 the Program Advisory Committee endorsed a program with a single theme. The 1989 meeting offers the most focused program to date, featuring the theme "Mechanisms of Smooth Muscle Function." It will be held in Rochester, Minnesota on October 14-19, 1989.

The format of the Fall Meeting continues to evolve. In fact, what was once a single meeting designed for all Society members with annual Society events (Bowditch Lecture, Past President's Address) will become multiple meetings for "specialized groups." The Bowditch Lecture and Past President's Address will be held during the Spring FASEB Meeting.

The specialty meetings of the Society will be held anywhere from August through February and will be organized by the different Sections of the Society or by small groups of Society members. Moreover, beginning in 1992, all specialty meetings will be managed by the APS central office staff rather than by FASEB. This means that the organizing committee of a specialty meeting will have the opportunity to participate in the selection of the meeting site. These meetings offer the Society membership the ultimate in programming opportunities. In general, the organizing committee will select the theme, format, abstract categories, method of presentation (slide/poster), and duration of the meeting. The APS office will be responsible for negotiating the site and space allocation for the meeting, advertising the meeting, and managing all financial and logistic aspects of the program. In essence, the Society is simply asking you to help organize a program that presents the best science and it will provide the space and resources to support you. What more could you possibly ask?

Listed below are more specific guidelines to follow in organizing a specialty meeting of the APS. Any questions regarding the organization of such a meeting should be directed to Dr. Carl V. Gisolfi, Physiology & Biophysics Department, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 55242, or to Martin Frank at the APS Office.

### Scope

These meetings should focus on a circumscribed area of physiology. A concerted effort should be made to achieve as much integration as possible, not only between overlapping fields of study but also levels of investigation, i.e., from molecular biology through systemic physiology.

### Organizing Committee

The Program Committee should provide direction and assign each section of the Society the responsibility of organizing a specialty meeting. A section may refuse its responsi-

bility or be allowed to organize a meeting during a year that it is not assigned. Each section will form an organizing committee, and the chairperson of that committee will work with the chairperson of the APS Program Committee to develop the framework of the meeting. The chairperson of the APS Program Committee or a small group of members that cross different sections may also organize a specialty meeting. The organizing committee will be responsible for providing APS with 1) a list of potential meeting sites, 2) contacts from other societies who may wish to participate in the meeting, and 3) sources of outside funding.

### Abstracts

Submission of abstracts will be left to the discretion of the meeting organizer. There should be a format that provides graduate and postdoctoral students the opportunity to present their data if the material falls within the scope of the theme. Abstracts will be accepted without evaluation and published by the Society. The organizing committee will be responsible for generating a list of topic categories that fall within the scope of the theme.

### Location

This will be flexible. Generally, the Society requires at least two years advance notice of proposed meeting sites to book meeting space.

### Duration

The meeting should be scheduled for two to three days, preferably over a weekend to take advantage of travel costs.

### Management

The APS staff will be responsible for booking site selection, advertisement, setting the registration fee, attracting exhibitors if desired, and solicitation of supporting funds. These meetings will probably require additional staff.

### Program Advisory Committee

The PAC will evaluate and contribute to the framework of the meeting. PAC representatives may take basic ideas back to their section membership to ascertain their interest in participating. The PAC will not be allowed to change the primary theme of the meeting.

### Publication Policy

Any plan for possible publication should be included by the meeting organizer.

### Endorsement Approval

Once the PAC has had the opportunity to evaluate and contribute to the meeting and the Program Committee has