
Integrative Study Group to Meet

A few years ago the Long-Range Planning Committee of the American Physiological Society suggested that the next revolution in biology would be in the integrative domain. They stated that physiology "needed to become identified as a unique branch of biology which deals with synthesis and integration, and ultimately seeks to understand the functioning of whole organisms..." (Giebisch et al., *The Physiologist* 33: 161-180, 1990).

To facilitate steps in this direction, a study group, "Integrative Study" (previously "Integrative Study in Physiology and Medicine"), was formed by members of the APS at the Experimental Biology '94 meeting held in Anaheim. At the upcoming Experimental Biology '95 meeting in Atlanta, the Integrative Study Group has scheduled five meetings. These meetings will be open to all scientists with an interest in integrative dimensions of physiology and biology. An organizational meeting will be held Sunday evening, 7-9 PM. A series of integrative study dialogues (no lectures) are scheduled Monday through Thursday from 7:30 to 8:30 AM.

Sunday	Introductions; the many meanings of integrative study
Monday	On the nature of integrative study
Tuesday	On the integrative matrix of the cell and multicellular organism: what binds the parts into wholes?
Wednesday	On the cell as an integrated system
Thursday	On principles of organization: feedback cycles, hierarchies, etc.

Because of the nature of integrative study, participants can attend any of the meetings without feeling the necessity of attending all of them. We hope that you will come on Sunday evening and to as many of the mornings as possible. For further information, contact the group chairman, Roger Thies, Department of Physiology, University of Oklahoma Health Science Center, Oklahoma City, OK 73190; phone: 405-271-2226; FAX: 405-271-3181.

Education

APS Participates in Seek Out Science Contest

The Seek Out Science Contest, aimed at children in grades 4-8 in the Washington, DC, area, was recently sponsored by AAAS, WJLA-TV's "We're On Your Side for Education" campaign, and several local businesses. The competition was developed to encourage children's interest in and knowledge about science and technology occupations.

Students were asked to form teams, interview a person who worked in a science and/or technological field, and write a project paper. Students' papers had to address a variety of issues—what the interviewee does in his/her job, what makes the job fun, why he/she chose the particular job, and why the work is important. The APS acted as one of eleven contact societies for the contest; children contacted the APS Education Department to help them identify a local physiologist who would be willing to be interviewed for the report.

The grand prize for the students with the best report is an all expenses paid trip to Hawaii. While there, winners will watch scientists set up the international broadcast of the 1995 JASON project. Following the tour, the winning team will make a presentation at school discussing their experiences on the trip and present the sponsors of the Seek Out Science Contest with a formal report. Other prizes include computers, technical tours of Washington's Kennedy Center and the WJLA-TV studios, tickets for a special family science night

at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, and gift certificates.

A national outreach project with a similar objective that is also coincidentally called "Seek Out Science" (SOS) is being spearheaded by WGBH Television, the Boston-area PBS affiliate. The project is not a contest but an educational tool designed to generate interest in science occupations at the middle and high school levels. SOS particularly focuses on women in science. In the spring of 1995, WGBH will air a new six-part series on notable women scientists called "Discovering Women." An instructional *SOS Activity Guide* for teachers and students has also been compiled as a supplement to the television series, and it provides information on how to implement the SOS project. The guide is available around the country through local PBS affiliates or WGBH.

Students involved in the WGBH SOS project will research and interview women scientists in all fields. In this process, they will be exposed to a variety of experiences and personal stories, which will broaden their concepts of science, give them an idea of what such careers entail, and break down stereotypes. Women working in the sciences can make lasting impressions on students, promoting their interest in science and in related careers. APS members who are interested in participating should contact their local PBS station for information or contact WGBH directly at 617-492-2777.