

## APS TASK FORCE ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT

### APS Focuses on Diversity and Inclusion Recommendations

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The APS Task Force on Sexual Harassment was established in the fall of 2018 to help solidify a culture of safety and mutual respect in the Society and create a deliberate set of principles to guide decisions on urgent matters such as harassment, diversity and inclusion, and the prevention of all types of discrimination. The Task Force was charged with developing recommendations for the APS Council to shape future Society policies on sexual harassment with respect to membership, conferences and awards. It was also charged with suggesting ways to improve diversity and inclusion, support civility and combat bullying within a scientific context.

Over the past year, we've been busy with activities that included the creation of the following policies, which have been approved by Council:

- Member Code of Conduct
- Diversity Statement
- Core Values
- Policy on Honors and Awards

Details about each policy, including information on how to make a report and how reports are investigated, can be found on the APS website at [www.the-aps.org/values](http://www.the-aps.org/values).

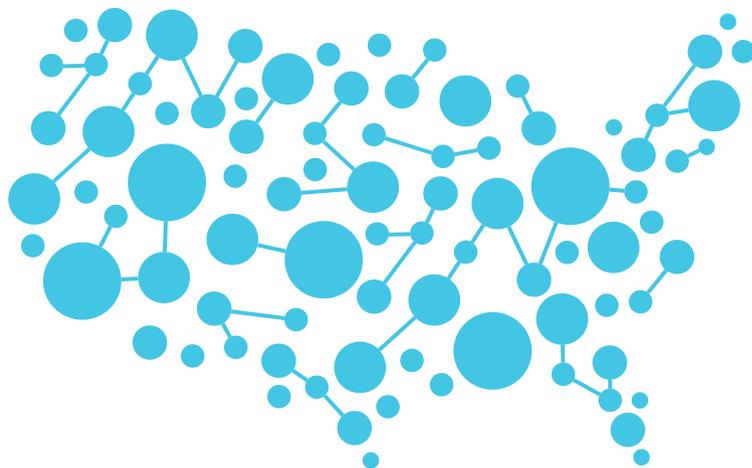
The Task Force was comprised of a diverse group of members from various committees and sections, backgrounds, geographical locations and career stages. Members were co-chairs TanYa Gwathmey, PhD, and Victor Convertino, PhD; Katherine Blackmore; Elisa Gonzalez-Rothi, PhD; Matthew Parmenter, PhD; Jennifer Pluznick, PhD; Maura Porta, PhD; Alicia Schiller, PhD; Annabell Segarra, PhD; Gary Sieck, PhD, FAPS; Ashley Stewart; Annelyn Torres-Reveron, PhD; Christopher Wilson, PhD; Lila Wollman, PhD; and Council liaison Timothy Musch, PhD, FAPS. The Task Force was supported by APS Science Division staffers Brooke Bruthers, director of education and member communities, and Rebecca Osthus, PhD, associate director for government relations and science policy.

Our activities concluded in December 2019, and we forwarded a final set of recommendations to the Diversity and Inclusion Committee (formerly the Porter Physiology and Minority Affairs Committee), which, in cooperation with the Women in Physiology Committee, will be actively working toward the long-term goal of improving the culture at APS.

APS staff will also continue to work with the Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment in STEMM to keep resources and policies up to date. This group of over 100 associations and societies is supported by the Education Counsel, a policy, strategy, law and advocacy firm. In addition, staff who attend Society meetings and conferences participated in training to learn how to enforce codes of conduct at Society-sponsored events and programs.

We'd like to thank the members of the Task Force for all their hard work to help make APS a more fair, equitable and inclusive community of researchers. 📧

## SECTION AND CHAPTER NEWS



### Keep Updated on Section News

Are you keeping up with the latest news in your APS section? Many of your section leaders have posted recent updates and newsletters on their section pages. Visit [www.the-aps.org/sections](http://www.the-aps.org/sections) to read the latest news about your discipline-specific communities, including available awards, information on section banquets and other ways you can get involved.

### Cell & Molecular Physiology Section



The APS Cell & Molecular Physiology Section is pleased to announce that Helle Praetorius Øhrwald, MD, PhD, is the Section's 2020 Hugh Davson Distinguished Lecturer. She is a professor of medical physiology at Aarhus University in Denmark.

Praetorius Øhrwald will present her talk "The bacteria and the host—a story for purinergic signalling in urinary tract infections" during the APS annual meeting at Experimental Biology on Sunday, April 5, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Room 27 of the San Diego Convention Center. 📧