



## Seminar on Sharing Strategies to Improve University Scientist Participation in K-12 Science Education

Bethesda, MD - The American Physiological Society (APS) hosted a seminar on *Sharing Strategies in K-12 Science Education* on June 29, 2009 on the campus of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). As the second seminar in the *Sharing Strategies Seminar Series*, four national program directors from locally-based professional scientific organizations presented their efforts in improving university scientist participation in K-12 science education.

**Jennifer Presley**, Director of Science and Mathematics Education Policy at the **Association for Public and Land-grant Universities** (APLU), introduced the landscape of challenges addressed by the 2007 National Academies report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*. Presley described APLU's Science and Mathematics Teacher Imperative to substantially increase the number and diversity of high quality mathematics and science teachers in middle and high schools. She identified key points in the academic pipeline where faculty can impact teachers. **Michael Dougherty**, Director of Education for the **American Society of Human Genetics** (ASHG), provided an example of a National Science Foundation (NSF) Math and Science Partnership, the Geneticist-Educator Network of Alliances (GENA) in partnership with the National Science Resources Center. Dougherty summarized that the GENA Project has catalyzed several organizational and institutional changes, including the adoption of a society-based statement on the importance of member scientist participation in K-12 science education and formal ASHG recognition of efforts by member scientists to departmental and university administrators.

**Katie Engen**, a Program Associate with the **American Society of Plant Biologists** (ASPB) and the ASPB Education Foundation, presented an overview of her organization's member-based volunteer and mentoring projects for students and the public, as well as workshops and exhibit booths at major science teacher conferences. Similarly, **Ida Chow**, Executive Officer for the **Society for Developmental Biology** (SDB), highlighted the availability of digital library resources for teaching, as well as outreach and workshop activities especially at SDB' regional scientific meetings.

In attendance were other education program directors and/or executive directors and program officers from the American Society for Cell Biology, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the NSF, and the American Physiological Society. Also represented were AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellows in the Office of Science Education and the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) program at the National Institutes of Health.

The seminar series is supported by an NIH NCRR SEPA ([www.ncrrsepa.org](http://www.ncrrsepa.org)) grant as part of the APS' Six Star Science Frontiers in Physiology program ([www.frontiersinphys.org](http://www.frontiersinphys.org)). Programmatic information for the seminar series and presentations are available at: [www.frontiersinphys.org/pages/page04g.shtml](http://www.frontiersinphys.org/pages/page04g.shtml).

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