



Seminar on Sharing Strategies in Convincing Universities to Care About Science Education

Bethesda, MD - The American Physiological Society (APS) hosted a third seminar in its series on *Sharing Strategies in K-12 Science Education* on September 24, 2009 on the campus of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). The presentations and discussions were facilitated by **Gina Schatteman**, APS member and Associate Professor in the Department of Integrative Physiology at the **University of Iowa**. She is currently an **AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow** in the Office of Science Education at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Debra Felix, a Science Education Program Officer with the **Howard Hughes Medical Institute** (HHMI), shared her organization's challenges in their Precollege Science Education award program. Surprisingly in a recent competition, more than half of the nearly 300 invitations to biomedical research institutions to submit a proposal did not apply for the \$14 million available. Feedback from those institutions were identified as lacking interest, resources, or capacity for creating outreach programs.

Schatteman then asked the group to identify ways that universities can be enticed to support K-12 education. The group discussed messages could be used to help universities recognize that supporting K-12 education was in their own best interest. They also considered what small first steps universities could be asked to take to help faculty outreach efforts. Finally the group discussed how university cultures at the level of the faculty inhibit K-12 outreach. Schatteman plans to use the ideas discussed to develop a framework for a larger discussion with university leaders. A summary of many of the ideas discussed at this and related forums can be found at <http://science.education.nih.gov/SciEdNation.nsf/Partnership3.html?OpenPage>. Comments or suggestions can be addressed to schattemangc@od.nih.gov.

The attendees represented other education program directors and/or executive directors, program officers, or university faculty from the APS, American Association of Immunologists, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, American Society for Microbiology, American Society of Plant Biologists, Carnegie Academy for Science Education, Catholic University, FASEB, and the Society for Developmental Biology. Representatives from the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute at the NIH were also in attendance.

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

The next seminar will be scheduled in January 2010 as a roundtable discussion on sharing K-12 outreach programs at annual or regional scientific meetings.

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