

## **Trainee News**

4 April 2005

As another annual meeting approaches, our program for the trainees advances to its final stage. Beside being a distinguished scientific meeting, the annual meeting provides a trainee-friendly atmosphere and numerous opportunities to meet with your colleagues and fellow trainees, and make new connections. If you are the presenting author and planning to apply for the Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund, please contact with Kathrin Dunlap, Texas A&M University. Katie will coordinate the LEMTTF applications for this year's meeting. Trainee membership is open to all other trainees and I strongly recommend viewing the membership benefits on the SSR homepage (<http://www.ssr.org/Membership.html>).

This year's activities for the Quebec City meeting will include the Trainee Forum, the Trainee-Mentor Luncheon, the Trainee Affairs Committee Meeting and the Placement Service. The forum topic is "Writing Winning Grants". We are very excited to invite Dr. Mark Mirando, National Program Leader for Competitive Programs, USDA. Dr. Mirando has significant experiences in educating young scientists for grant writing programs including NIH and USDA as part of his Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Services. Increasing number of graduate schools implement grant writing part of their training program. Apparently, even simplest mistakes can cause your grant fail. We are hoping that this topic will guide junior and senior trainees as well as new investigators for successful grant writing.

Jessica Schrunk, Colorado University, Health Science Center, will coordinate the Trainee-Mentor luncheon in Quebec City meeting. She will contact the trainees with a list of the mentors and their research interests. This is a good occasion for the trainees to actually meet with their choice of mentor and talk about various topics while having their lunch. Since six or seven seats will be assigned per mentor based on the order they are received, please make sure that you reply as soon as you decide with whom you want to have lunch.

There have been some changes in the Trainee Affairs Committee as I mentioned on the October Newsletter. We will get together to meet the new committee members and discuss about trainee related issues. The meeting time and place will be announced later. Trainees and their suggestions are welcome to this meeting.

I have volunteered for the Placement Service for years and actually had a chance to organize it for the Vancouver meeting. I'd like to emphasize here again; it is a unique opportunity for trainees to respond to job announcement instantly and interview with their future mentor right next to the Placement Service room. Please submit your form in advance and bring your CV to the meeting. Interestingly, there are usually more announcements for job openings than trainees looking for a job. In other words, the Placement Service has been a favorite job-posting place for the Institutions and mentors for years. Please take advantage of this service and also volunteer to keep the service open during the meeting. Kimberly Barnett ([kbarnett@epi.umaryland.edu](mailto:kbarnett@epi.umaryland.edu)) will be

sending e-mail messages to request volunteers. By sparing one or two hours, you will be helping us keep the Placement Service functioning throughout the meeting.

If you have any questions about the Quebec City meeting or other trainee related issues, please contact me ([usalli@psu.edu](mailto:usalli@psu.edu)) or Kimberly Barnett ([kbarnett@epi.umaryland.edu](mailto:kbarnett@epi.umaryland.edu)).

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