



Getting a Pre-Tenure Talk

Dear Labby,
Next January (2012) is the beginning of my tenure review year, meaning that letters and other materials for my dossier will begin to be collected at that time. My institution employs a mini-tenure review conducted at the midpoint of the 5th year. Mine was very favorable except in the area of giving talks at major meetings, which I have not yet done. My chair strongly encouraged me to try to present at least one by the time my tenure review package is assembled. Since I am a cell biologist, I am, of course, thinking of the 2011 ASCB Annual Meeting. Is it prudent to contact the appropriate Minisymposium organizers and alert them to the tenure review-enhancing potential of me getting a talk? Or would this maybe turn them off?

—Anxious

Dear Anxious,
Once the co-chairs are announced for the most appropriate Minisymposium you can make direct contact and let them know about your forthcoming submitted abstract, mentioning your upcoming tenure review. There is certainly nothing untoward in doing this, but the degree to which it will be a factor obviously depends on the number and perceived quality of all the abstracts under consideration. If you are fortunate in having your abstract strike the co-chairs' fancy scientifically, the tenure issue may not even come into play.

There is a second possibility that might not only get you a talk but could impress your Chair and tenure review committee even more. This would be to submit a proposal for a Special Interest Subgroup session at the ASCB Annual Meeting. These are held concurrently on Saturday afternoon before the Keynote, and are extremely popular. You may have attended one or more of these at previous meetings, and you could look at the programs from recent years to see typical formats. Were

your proposal to be accepted, it would display to your department and tenure committee your initiative and organizational skill. In addition, it would certainly meet the criterion of giving a talk at a national/international meeting. You should also still submit an abstract for possible Minisymposium or poster selection. Preserving all possible venues for presentation is just a smart proactive measure. Labby wishes you luck! ■

—Labby

Direct your questions to labby@ascb.org. Authors of questions chosen for publication may indicate whether or not they wish to be identified. Submissions may be edited for space and style.

P-1000 Next Generation Micropipette Puller



The next generation in micropipette pulling is here NOW!

FEATURES

- Color touch-screen interface
- Safe heat mode to protect and extend filament life
- Pipette Cookbook program directory
- Line repeat mode simplifies programming
- Glossary with micropipette and puller terminology
- Copy & Paste function for writing new programs
- Two symmetrical pipettes with each pull
- Memory storage for up to 100 programs

NEW

SUTTER INSTRUMENT

PHONE: 415.883.0128 | FAX: 415.883.0572
EMAIL: INFO@SUTTER.COM | WWW.SUTTER.COM

ASCB Minorities Affairs Committee (MAC) Looking for New Members

The ASCB MAC is looking for hardworking, dedicated ASCB members to join its very busy Committee. If you have experience working with training grants, please consider joining the MAC.

The MAC has a Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences that funds a variety of ASCB MAC programs.

If you are interested, please forward your CV and a statement that describes your mentoring support of underrepresented minority students and scientists to MAC@ascb.org. Please respond by April 1, 2011. ■