ASCB COMMITTEE Reports

2011 International Affairs Committee
James A. Spudich,* Chair
Kirk W. Deitsch
Karen D. Dell*
Nina Dudnik, Associate
Cynthia G. Jensen*
Judith Kimble*
Deborah Lycan*
Vivek Malhotra
Satyajit (Jitu) Mayor*
J. Richard McIntosh*
John Mercer,* Associate
Mahasin A. Osman
Mark Peifer*
David S. Roos
Tim Stearns
Margaret A. Titus*
Shubha Tole
Ronald Vale*
Yixian Zheng*

*In attendance at December meeting

international graduate students and postdocs
- The International Research & Training Exchange Fair
- The ASCB India Young Investigator Meeting
- Year-round IAC activities that also further the Committee’s objectives include:
  - Offering workshops on cell biology to students in African countries
  - Identifying funding opportunities to offer workshops in Africa, South America, and Turkey
  - Partnering with other organizations
  - Soliciting frequent IAC columns for the ASCB Newsletter

Also of great value to the international community are the ASCB’s iBioSeminars, freely available talks by outstanding scientists that are designed to be accessible to nonspecialists and students. In addition, there is iBioMagazine, which features short 10- to 15-minute videos focused on behind-the-scenes issues of science.

IAC welcomes volunteers and comments and invites members to visit its website, www.ascb.org/IAC.html, or connect on Facebook or LinkedIn.

—Cheryl Lehr, Executive Assistant/Office Manager

2011 Minorities Affairs Committee
Renato J. Aguilera,* Chair
David J. Asai*
David R. Burgess,* MARC Grant PI
Andrew G. Campbell*
Franklin A. Carrero-Martinez*
Wilfred F. Denetclaw Jr.*
Deborah Harmon Hines*
Tama W. Hasson*
Michael J. Leibowitz*
Veronica Lopez,* Postdoctoral Fellow
Sandra A. Murray*
Sue Shafer
Winston E. Thompson*
Graciela A. Unguez*
Maria Elena B. Zavala*

*In attendance at December meeting

Minorities Affairs Committee Celebrates Growth of Programs
Minorities Affairs Committee (MAC) programs have continued to grow, and the 2011 poster presentations (most by travel awardees) were outstanding, noted Chair Renato Aguilera at the MAC meeting in Denver. Several ASCB members, including 2011 ASCB President Sandra Schmid, commented on the high quality of the poster presentations. MAC programs are funded by a Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. Annual funding is over $800,000.

Guests at the meeting included incoming 2012 MAC Postdoctoral Fellow member Michelle Juarez, University of California, San Diego; MAC Evaluator Joy Quill, Quill and Associates; and iBioSeminars Director Sarah Goodwin. Quill reported that MAC programs have a positive impact on decisions by undergraduate and graduate students to pursue science education and enter science careers.

The Committee discussed its ongoing and expanded programs: the MAC Visiting Professorship, Linkage Fellow, and Travel Award programs; the new MAC Mentoring program; and the Marine Biological Laboratory and Friday Harbor Laboratories Programs. The MAC also discussed the Junior Faculty and Postdoctoral Fellows Career Development Workshop and activities at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students and the meeting of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science. MARC Grant PI David Burgess reported that the MAC’s monthly financial reports are excellent.

The MAC also talked about the need to advertise its programs more and the need for new members and affiliates.

The MAC was pleased with its 2011 Annual Meeting programs and looks forward to planning more exciting programs for 2012.

—Deborah McCall, Senior Manager, Minorities Affairs

MBoC Board Commemorates the Journal’s 20 Years

Molecular Biology of the Cell (MBoC) is 20 years old, Editor-in-Chief David Drubin reminded members of the Editorial Board at its 2011 meeting, held in Denver in December. The Board discussed MBoC’s role in the scientific community and the ASCB, its recent accomplishments, and ways in which it might be enhanced. Drubin reviewed the goals he set when he became Editor-in-Chief:

- Make MBoC the best journal possible for serving the cell biology community
- Raise the journal’s profile
- Integrate MBoC as fully as possible with the ASCB

Drubin quoted from the journal’s philosophy statement: “At MBoC, active working...”
### ASCB 2012 Call for Nominations

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<th>Bruce Alberts Award for Excellence in Science Education</th>
<th>Public Service Award</th>
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<td><strong>Who is Eligible:</strong> An individual who has demonstrated outstanding national leadership in support of biomedical research. Nominators must be ASCB members. The award winner may, but need not, be a scientist.</td>
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<td><strong>How to Apply:</strong> Provide a letter of nomination, a maximum of three letters of support, and CV.</td>
<td><strong>How to Apply:</strong> Provide a letter of nomination with a description of the nominee's advocacy for, and promotion of, scientific research.</td>
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<td><strong>Awards:</strong> The winner is presented a plaque and will give remarks at the Annual Meeting. Expenses to attend the Annual Meeting are paid.</td>
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<td><strong>Deadline:</strong> March 30 (electronic submission preferred to Kevin Wilson at <a href="mailto:kwilson@ascb.org">kwilson@ascb.org</a>)</td>
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<td><strong>How to Apply:</strong> Provide a letter of nomination, a CV, and no more than five letters of support.</td>
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**Send mail to:**
The American Society for Cell Biology
8120 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 750
Bethesda, MD 20814-2762, USA

For names of prior awardees or more information, visit www.ascb.org and click on “Awards,” or contact the ASCB at 301-347-9300 or ascbinfo@ascb.org.
**Minorities Affairs Committee Events**

**Mentoring Program Keynote**
The Minorities Affairs Committee’s (MAC’s) Mentoring Keynote, delivered by James H. Wyche, Provost and Chief Academic Officer of Howard University, was inspiring. Wyche, a past MAC Chair, used Howard University programs and people as examples to illustrate his points. More than 200 people attended the Keynote talk.

Wyche encouraged attendees to believe in themselves and to strive for excellence.

—Deborah McCall, Senior Manager, Minorities Affairs

**Writing for Publication Workshop**
The Writing for Publication session offered words of wisdom for an audience of both young and experienced scientists. Michael J. Leibowitz, University of California, Davis, and David Asai, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, led the session and provided a blueprint for successful writing, revision, and review. The most striking message was to start writing early and often—avoid procrastination at all cost. Instead of waiting to write, write before starting experiments, and plan the experiments and desired figures for the paper.

Other suggestions included:
- Plan and decide authorship before submitting the final article to avoid conflict within one’s group.
- Contact the editor before submission.
- Be direct about what is new and significant about one’s work.
- Avoid making the reader hunt for the take-home message.

Be honest about the data that are represented in your results (very important).

The second half of the session focused on the review process. Asai reminded the audience that, when reviewing a paper, it is important to remain objective and focus on what is actually presented. He assured us that there are multiple ways to review a paper. To further convey his point, Asai polled the audience and asked each group to share which sections they believe are most significant when reviewing a paper. While most groups thought the figures and results section was most significant, other groups offered different answers. Ultimately, no matter what section of the paper is important to an individual reader, the best paper is well written throughout. After this session, we were all encouraged to raise our pens and to write for successful publication—a goal I am sure will be far more attainable after this enriching presentation.

—Teresa I. Shakespeare, MAC Visiting Professor, Fort Valley State University

**Undergraduate/Graduate Training Session**
This panel discussion for undergraduate and graduate students, entitled “New Challenges and Old Obstacles 101,” highlighted the various obstacles one can face at different points in a scientific career. The session’s moderator, Deborah Harmon Hines, University of Massachusetts Medical School, introduced three panelists at various professional levels in academia and one attorney: Michelle Juarez, University of California, San Diego; Franklin Carrero-Martinez, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez; Anthony DePass, Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus; and Stefan Kirchanski, Venable LLP.

Panelists shared experiences of trials and tribulations that could have derailed their
ANNUAL MEETING Highlights

2011 MAC Poster Award Winners

Undergraduates
First Place: Precious de Verteuil, Barry University
Second Place: Julia Omotade, The Catholic University of America
Third Place: Deforest Peterson, Prairie View A&M University

Graduate Students
First Place: Joseph Ramahi, University of California, Davis
Second Place: Natasha Gutierrez, Rutgers University, Newark
Third Place: Rashieda Hatcher, Baylor College of Medicine

Postdoctoral Fellows
First Place: Anthony Beas, University of California, San Diego
Second Place: Khameeka Kitt, Stanford University
Third Place: Alexis Tapanes-Castillo, St. Thomas University

Faculty
First Place: R.Claudio Aguilar, Purdue University
Second Place: Janet Rollins, College of Mount Saint Vincent
Third Place: Luis Vidali, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Panelists Michelle Juarez, Franklin Carrero-Martinez, Anthony DePass, and Stefan Kirchanski at the panel session, New Challenges and Old Obstacles 101

Poster presenter Veronica Segarra with Judge MariaElena Zavala at the MAC Annual Poster Competition

Careers and how they overcame those troublesome times. Challenges ranged from being the only person of color in their department to not getting authorship on their work. Some of these same obstacles are still being experienced by the new generation of scientists of color. Most panelists spoke of the importance of mentors throughout one’s career. In addition, they spoke about balancing one’s life and making time to enjoy life away from science through hobbies and other interests.

After sharing their individual experiences, the panelists gave advice about critical aspects of a professional science career. These interconnected aspects range from communication skills and social/interpersonal skills to integrity and entitlement. In summary, the panelists encouraged us to be well read in our field of study as well as other areas, because this will help in making connections and expanding our network. They reminded us that we do indeed represent our communities and should be aware of our environment in any professional setting. Additionally, no matter how far we advance in our careers, no one owes us anything and we should be thankful and appreciative of the opportunities that come our way.

—Natasha Gutierrez, MAC Travel Awardee, Rutgers University, Newark

MAC Poster Competition

A distinguished panel of judges reviewed over 70 posters at the 2011 MAC Annual Poster Competition. Poster presenters, judges, the MAC, MAC Visiting Professors, Linkage Fellows, and other attendees enjoyed interacting and networking. MAC member and Poster Competition Chair Tama Hasson stated, “This year we had a particularly enthusiastic group of judges, and those that commented felt that many of the posters were particularly exceptional this year. The MAC continues to support the best and the brightest minority cell biologists.” Poster award winners (see box) were notified of their winning status during the annual MAC Awards Luncheon. Winners receive a cash award as well as a certificate.

—Deborah McCall, Senior Manager, Minorities Affairs

MAC Awards Luncheon

Once again, the MAC hosted its annual MAC Awards Luncheon where poster award winners were announced, the previous year’s MAC activities were reviewed, and members of the MAC community and others had the opportunity to network and share experiences.

Over 130 people attended the 2011 event. The luncheon is supported by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund.

—Deborah McCall, Senior Manager, Minorities Affairs

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2011 MAC Poster Award Winners

—Deborah McCall, Senior Manager, Minorities Affairs

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—Deborah McCall, Senior Manager, Minorities Affairs
ANNUAL MEETING Highlights

Educational Resources/MAC Booth and MAC Welcome Suite

Again in 2011, the Educational Resources/MAC Booth, which was always busy with networking, presentations, and information dissemination, served as the “official hangout” for the MAC Community. All MAC travel awardees were required to be at the booth for at least one hour during the Annual Meeting. Many stayed much longer and came back day after day.

The MAC Welcome Suite was also quite popular among attendees. Now in its fourth year, this event, supported by the Burroughs Welcome Fund, is held for three days during the Annual Meeting. The MAC Welcome Suite continues to receive high ratings on evaluations. Several travel awardees noted that they were able to network and nab positions they were searching for in this informal setting.

—Deborah McCall, Senior Manager, Minorities Affairs

E.E. Just Lecture

This year’s E.E. Just Lecture was presented by Jerry C. Guyden of the City College of New York (CCNY). Guyden is Director of CCNY’s Center for the Study of the Cellular and Molecular Basis of Development, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health’s Research Centers in Minority Institutions program. As Director of the Center, Guyden has had a long-standing and transformative effect by vastly enhancing his institution’s research infrastructure.

Guyden presented his long-lasting and pioneering research on the interaction of thymocytes with thymic nurse cells (TNCs), which are a unique cellular subset of the thymic microenvironment. His work has contributed unique reagents for the characterization of TNCs and has led to the elucidation of the role of these cells in both positive and negative T-lymphocyte selection. Guyden was presented with the E.E. Just medal and a plaque at the beginning of his talk. Guyden attended other MAC-sponsored events such as the MAC Poster Competition and the MAC Welcome Suite, where he interacted with MAC members and MAC travel awardees.

Guyden’s research has been continuously funded by various federal agencies; his lab provides a nurturing training environment for minority and nonminority students. Over the past 25 years, he has trained and mentored more than 70 students, several of whom have gone on to pursue advanced graduate degrees at a variety of institutions.

An ASCB Award Essay by Guyden was published in Molecular Biology of the Cell (22, 3926–3928).

—Renato Aguilera, Chair, Minorities Affairs Committee

Attendees at the MAC Awards Luncheon