



Childcare Support for ASCB Annual Meeting Attendees

Dear Labby,

I have obtained some great data in my postdoctoral work and am on the job market for my first independent position. ASCB's Annual Meeting is the best place to present the data and also to network for a job. My PI has offered to pay for my travel and hotel, for which I am very grateful, of course.

But there is a major problem: I am nursing my six-month-old baby and my spouse's work schedule is designed to be reciprocal to mine so that we can share in baby coverage. But traveling will disrupt my time with the baby, and we can't afford to pay for extra daycare while I'm away. My mother-in-law is willing to come with me to the ASCB meeting to help, but we can't afford to pay her airfare to San Francisco.

Where can I find funding to cover my parental responsibilities while I attend ASCB's Annual Meeting?

—*Depressed Postdoc in New York City*

Dear Depressed Postdoc in New York City,

Be not depressed! ASCB's Women in Cell Biology (WICB) Committee has been on top of childcare issues for several years. In 2008 ASCB received a grant from Elsevier to launch a program of childcare awards to attendees at the Annual Meeting. The WICB Committee administers these awards and over the past four meetings has funded 92 applications, totaling approximately \$17,000. Approximately 85% of applicants have received funding. Now ASCB has secured funding from the Nature Publishing Group to ensure the continuation of these awards.

The expenses that can be covered by the ASCB WICB childcare awards are various and include your particular need. The award can cover the Annual Meeting-related expenses for a child caretaker at home, a relative or caretaker to travel to one's home, a child or children to travel to a relative, childcare at a location near the meeting, extended daycare hours, a caretaker (related or not) to accompany the parent (especially a nursing mother) to the meeting, or other creative solutions to the problem of childcare coverage during the meeting. All the details and the application form are on the ASCB website at <https://www.ascb.org/Meetings/Forms/WICB/wicbgrant.cfm>. The deadline for receipt of applications is September 4, 2012. You must be an ASCB member to receive a childcare award, and you must be giving a talk or presenting a poster at the meeting. Labby hopes that you will apply and wishes you success in obtaining an ASCB WICB childcare award, in your presentation at the meeting, and in your networking and job search. ■

—*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.