

Membership & Professional Development Committee (MPDC)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Helen Fernandes PhD, Chair
Richard Press MD PhD, Vice Chair
Shuji Ogino MD PhD, Member / Incoming Chair
Robyn Temple-Smolkin PhD, Member

Early this year AMP council made the MPDC an official committee. The task of the committee is to help AMP respond to the needs of its members and facilitate the development of leaders in the field of molecular pathology. Over the past year the MPDC has surveyed the membership to determine the factors that contribute to sustained and increased membership in AMP. We strive to meet the needs to retain and increase the membership while facilitating the involvement of members with various AMP committees and workgroups.

AMP Volunteers: The MPDC assisted in selection of volunteers for the CPC and PRC. We maintain and update the database of volunteers who have applied for various positions. Requests for volunteers for specific projects and/or committees are solicited through CHAMP. Over the past year we have had more than twenty enthusiastic volunteers involved in AMP-related committees/projects.

AMP Awards- recognition of members: In addition to the awards given at the annual meeting, the MPDC requested council to approve a new "Meritorious service Award". This special award will be given to deserving recipient(s) at the AMP annual meeting. The MPDC is in the process of formulating a second "Research Award".

Geographic and Topical Interest groups: Several groups were initiated by enthusiastic AMP members. Unfortunately these groups have dwindled and several of them are dormant. We encourage AMP members to be proactive in this area and be involved in the formation & use of interest groups to further collaborations and discussions of interest.

International relationships:

International Affairs Working group http://www.amp.org/committees/membership_prof_dev/iawg/index.cfm :

This group headed by Patrik Vitazka has been instrumental in promoting visibility for AMP at the global level. The group consisting of seven members represents some of the breadth of the AMP membership. The group actively participates in the establishment of international guidelines for molecular testing and supports AMP members interested in organizing international meetings.

International meetings: Over the past year the MPDC has requested support and sponsorship from AMP for two international meetings (<http://www.amp.org/othermeetings/index.cfm>). The first one coordinated by Rami Mahfouz in Beirut is a Pre-Congress Molecular Pathology Workshop to be held on November 29-30, 2011 as part of the 23rd Congress of the IAP Arab Division. The second one organized by Bhiburanjan Das is an International Symposium on Molecular Pathology scheduled for January 28 7 29th in New Delhi, India. Requests for "Guidelines for AMP sponsorship at International meetings" can be directed to the chair of the MPDC.

Membership Grants: Seven international members were awarded membership grants for 2011. The recipients of these grants enjoy all of the privileges of an AMP member with online access to JMD. The complimentary registration at the annual meeting that is offered to the awardees has facilitated their attendance and participation at the AMP annual meeting.

AMP Liaisons: The MPDC maintains a list of liaisons that serve in various capacities in related organizations. If you serve as officer(s)/representative(s) for organizations associated with molecular pathology, please contact the Chair of the MPDC Helen Fernandes (fernande@umdj.edu) or Shuji Ogino (Shuji_Ogino@dfci.harvard.edu).