2020 AAP/ASCI/APSA Joint Meeting cancelled due to Novel Coronavirus

After careful consideration, the leaders of the AAP, ASCI, and APSA made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Annual Meeting. The 16th AAP/ASCI/APSA Joint Meeting was scheduled to take place in Chicago, Illinois, April 3-5, 2020. This annual meeting is the largest gathering of physician-scientists in the world, representing everyone from trainees to world-renowned clinical investigators. The decision to cancel this event was not taken lightly. After careful consideration of recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, and state and local governments, the three hosting organizations all agreed that cancelling this event is in the best interest of both attendees as well as the general public.

Although the 2020 Joint Meeting will not be rescheduled, APSA leadership is organizing a Virtual Annual Meeting that will take place on April 4-5, 2020. In particular, we wanted to give our accomplished travel award winners the opportunity to present their work. Award winners were invited to record their research presentations, which will be made available on APSA's YouTube channel. Everyone is invited to view these presentations and encouraged to provide feedback to those presenters who include their contact info. The 2020 Virtual Meeting will also feature several interactive sessions for physician scientists at all phases of the career spectrum, from aspiring undergraduates, to current trainees, residents, and fellows. "How to Support and Retain Early Career Physician Scientists," organized by the Resident, Fellow, and Jr. Faculty Committee, will take place on Saturday, April 4 at 2 PM EDT. World-renowned experts, including Director of the NIH Dr. Francis Collins, will discuss the current state of affairs for early career physician scientists and optimal ways to support this cohort throughout career transitions. They will also provide their insight on the impact of COVID-19 on this cohort. On Saturday at 4 PM EDT, four physician scientist training program directors will discuss "MD-PhD: Is It Right for Me?" Students will have the opportunity to learn about the physician scientist pathway and gather tips for preparing a competitive application. See the website for a full agenda and description of all events: bit.ly/APSA20VM
The APSA Policy Committee is investigating the prevalence and perceived efficacy of various clinical continuity methods in US dual-degree institutions.

One of the goals of APSA is understanding, enhancing, and improving the dual-degree training experience. Currently, there is no widely available data set detailing the various strategies different institutions employ to maintain clinical continuity or data on the efficacy of these strategies. In response to this gap in knowledge, Policy Committee Co-Chairs Samantha Spellicy and Elinor Mannon created and distributed a survey to investigate the specific ways different dual-degree granting institutions across the United States approach the problem of maintaining clinical continuity during the graduate years. Over 200 people responded to the survey, from more than 75 unique universities. 70% of respondents had finished all or at least some of their graduate training, and the data are well-represented in gender and race. The survey looked at various clinical continuity tactics such as clinical volunteering, journal clubs, medical grand rounds, review courses, mentored clinical experiences, and standardized patients. Respondents were asked whether these methods were offered by their institution, if they were required or voluntary, and at what point during graduate training do they take place. Finally, individuals rated how useful they felt it was to their training. Preliminary results will be presented at the 2020 APSA Virtual Meeting, with more conclusions to come as the data continue to be analyzed.
Challenges of the early career physician-scientist

By Jennifer M. Kwan, MD, PhD, Erin Wiedmeier, MD, MPH, and Evan Noch, MD, PhD

One of the core missions of APSA is to advocate for the entire spectrum of physician scientist training. Transitions through the resident, fellow, and junior faculty career stages are the leakiest part of the physician scientist pipeline. This group is faced with unique challenges such as pressures for clinical productivity, starting a lab/research portfolio in a challenging funding environment, competition with full-time PhD scientists, and difficulties negotiating protected research time in part due to mal-aligned economic incentives from the clinical world. The APSA Resident, Fellow and Junior Faculty (RFJF) Committee was created as a supportive community for physician scientists at these stages of training and to help address obstacles they may be facing. Accomplishments for the 2019-2020 year include hosting a career webinar, launching a research study, and presenting topics geared for RFJF at all of the regional meetings and annual meeting. The webinar topic, "Scientist Careers/Roles in Industry and Biotech," was a great success with more than 50 attendees and requests from attendees for additional webinars on this topic as well as developing a resource for opportunities in industry. Another way the RFJF Committee is committed to supporting and advocating for this cohort is by developing and implementing a research study to identify what resources are currently available. The ECAPs study, which is currently underway, was designed to target deans and department heads to identify good practices of institutions that support early-career physician scientists. Preliminary results will be presented at the 2020 APSA Virtual Annual Meeting. A second study is in development that will target RFJFs to evaluate factors that enable this cohort to remain in research careers versus factors that lead these individuals to "leak" out of the physician scientist pipeline (Prospective Longitudinal Study of Graduating Residents/Fellows and Jr Faculty). Chair members of the RFJF Committee were able to attend each of the APSA regional meetings. Discussion topics included contract/salary negotiation, grant writing, billing and conflict negotiation careers in academia, and careers in industry and government. Two RFJF sessions were planned for the in-person 2020 APSA Annual Meeting. The first was going to be an interactive career development workshop led by Dr. Rob Milner that would provide an opportunity for RFJFs to reflect on their career goals. The second, which will be adapted for the Virtual Meeting, will discuss the current state of affairs on supporting early career physician scientists as well as how COVID-19 impacts this cohort. Speakers include Francis Collins, MD, PhD; Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo, MD, PhD; Sindy Escobar-Alvarez, PhD; Nancy J. Brown, MD, and others.

2019-2020 REGIONAL MEETINGS

TEXAS A&M COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
Bryan, TX
September 7, 2019

MIDWEST
MAYO CLINIC ALEX
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
ROCHESTER, MN
OCTOBER 5, 2019

SOUTHEAST
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
BIRMINGHAM, AL
OCTOBER 12-13, 2019

SOUTH ATLANTIC
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
GAINESVILLE, FL
OCTOBER 19, 2018

WEST
LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
LOMA LINDA, CA
NOVEMBER 17, 2019

NORTHEAST
BOSTON UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
BOSTON, MA
DECEMBER 7, 2019

• 6 REGIONAL MEETINGS
• 500+ TOTAL ATTENDEES
• 48% IDENTIFY AS FEMALE
• 20% UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITY
• 35% UNDERGRADUATES
In 2014, the NIH released the Physician Scientist Workforce Report showing glaring discrepancies between binary genders, races, and ethnicities. To address these issues, APSA formed a physician scientist trainee diversity working group (PST-DWG) consisting of key stakeholders in the wellbeing of the physician scientist community. These members include collaborative representatives from the Latino Medical Student Association, the American Medical Student Association, the American Medical Women’s Association, Building the Next Generation of Academic Physicians, the Student National Medical Association, and the Clinician Investigator Trainee Association of Canada, and several senior advising members from the educational research and medical scientist training community. As a result of the PST-DWG formation, APSA and the Burroughs Wellcome Fund (BWF) gathered an unprecedented group of 66 stakeholders in June 2019 for the first Physician Scientist Trainee Diversity Summit. Attendees including trainees, physician scientists, program directors, and representatives from organizations such as the NIH and the AAMC all came together to formulate joint initiatives to address issues pertaining to the diversity within the physician scientist workforce. This meeting featured several highly collaborative, strategic problem-solving sessions, with the solutions focusing on the participants. In an eight-minute brainstorming session, the group formulated hundreds of ideas, which were distilled and developed into several comprehensive strategic plans designed to answer the following question: “How do we develop a robust and diverse physician scientist workforce?” These plans address all areas of the physician scientist pipeline, including longitudinal components to increase awareness in school-age children; updates to MD-PhD admissions, training, and retention processes; mentoring and community building; and a well-designed study to better understand physician scientist success and the major barriers to achieving one’s personal success. APSA has taken the lead in testing these prototypes by creating the Diversity Ad Hoc Committee, to support these goals and ensure that diversity and inclusion are at the forefront when planning all of APSA’s programming. A few accomplishments from this past year include developing the Engagement Toolkit, a document that was curated by trainees and edited by diversity recruitment experts to encourage local chapters and members to engage with their local communities and enhance awareness of the pipeline. The committee also focused on building the online community by hosting the second #DoubleDocs Twitter chat and introducing the new hashtag #DiverseDoubleDocs, as well as by facilitating interactive sessions on topics such as “Diversity in the Physician Scientist Pipeline” and “Impostor Syndrome in the Physician Scientist Pipeline.”
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2019 - 2020 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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Events
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Memberships
Partnerships
Policy
Public Relations
Resident, Fellow, Jr. Faculty
Technology
Ad Hoc Committees

BE AN INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Serve as a liaison between the APSA Executive Council and physician scientist trainees at your institution. Let us know about the issues that are important for you and your colleagues, and vote in APSA elections

CONNECT WITH A LOCAL CHAPTER

Join one of APSA’s 30+ active local chapters or start one at your institution using our Local Chapter in a Box resource. Funding opportunities are available!

physicianscientists.org
for more information