

## Message From the President

I'd like to take this opportunity to report on the recent ASP Council meeting that was held on February 3, 2007 in Washington, DC. In the past year, there were some very positive achievements by the ASP Council and Business Office.

First, there was a major challenge in the way that ASP conducts its business operations. During the past year and a half, we have been undergoing an audit by the IRS. Our 501c status as a non-profit organization was at stake. Although we are still awaiting final word from the IRS, it appears that our non-profit status will remain intact. Losing our non-profit status would result in serious fines and would threaten the existence of the ASP. I hope that all members will appreciate the hard work of **Linda Hardwick** and her team at Allen Management and Marketing in getting us through this ordeal.

Another piece of good news is that for the first time in many years, our scientific meeting turned a profit! The lion's share of credit for this goes to the meeting co-chairs, **Tom Moore** and **Frances Noonan**. Also, Linda Hardwick and her team worked very hard to ensure the success of the meeting. This was an amazing accomplishment in light of the fact that registration was below expectations.

As most of you know, *Photochemistry and Photobiology* recently moved to Blackwell Publications. This move should result in a better presence on the web for our journal, as it will now be available to all subscribers of Blackwell Synergy. Blackwell will also help us to market our journal and society. **Lisa Kelly** and **John Simon** did most of the hard work required to make this happen and I'd like to thank them for all their efforts.

We also face some serious challenges in the future. The ASP budget was in the red last year, primarily because of printing costs associated with *Photochemistry and Photobiology*. Changing our business model from "self-publishing", to "revenue sharing" with Blackwell, should prevent this from happening in the future.

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*Hyatt Regency of Burlingame California, site of the 34<sup>th</sup> ASP Meeting (June 20-25, 2008)*

The decline in membership is currently our most serious problem. Most former members leave because of retirement or because they are no longer working in the field. Council has suggested two new initiatives to increase membership. First, we will work to bring new fields into our society. The Drug Photostability Group co-sponsored several sessions at our Puerto Rico meeting and we will definitely ask them to participate at our San Francisco meeting in 2008. We will also explore partnering with other small societies that share common goals and interests. This might include sharing membership lists, publicizing each other's meetings, offering members of "sister" societies a reduced registration rate for meetings or a reduced rate for membership. Of course we will make every effort

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to contact members who have left the ASP in an effort to entice them back.

Another challenge facing the ASP is that members in some of our Divisions are not actively involved. Members in Divisions 1, 4, and 5 are active participants in the meeting and in society governance, but members in Divisions 2 and 3 are less active. We are working to turn this around.

**Linda Jones**, our next President has worked hard to get members of Divisions 2 and 3 to run for Council.

**John Simon** is planning several "Symposium-in-Print" series for *Photochem Photobiol* that will feature topics of interest for members of Divisions 2 and 3. I would like to hear suggestions from members of Division 2 and 3 on how the ASP could help.

Another challenge is that we have a Division known as "Others", a very unsatisfactory name. Should we change it? What should we call it? Some suggest "Emerging Fields in Photobiology", which would cover new areas such as the Low Level Light Therapy. Alternatively, should we simply have two Divisions, "Photochemistry" and "Photobiology"? This brings us back to the membership issue. Do the Divisions -- as they currently stand -- interfere with the recruitment of new members and retention of current members? I would like to hear from ASP members on this topic, especially those who list themselves as "Other". The listserv would be a good place to have this discussion.

**Submit comments to ASP listserv**

[amsocphoto-list@mailman.stanford.edu](mailto:amsocphoto-list@mailman.stanford.edu)

Finally, I must relay the council's policy with regard to the listserv. We all agree that it is a wonderful instrument for discussion, but the opinions stated there do not represent official policy of the ASP. That is why a legal disclaimer was added to the listserv. Any official communication from the Council will come to you directly via the *ASP Newsletter*, US Mail, or e-mail from the Secretariat. We want to reserve the listserv for discussion, not official communications.

**Steve Ullrich**  
ASP President

## Letter From the Editor

This issue of the newsletter begins with **Steve Ullrich**'s summary of the progress made during the recent ASP winter Council meeting. One important issue addressed by Council is the under-representation of Division 2 (Photosensory and Circadian Biology) and Division 3 (Photosynthesis) in our society. There are also some members who, somewhat disconcertingly, place themselves in a Division called "Other". The few members who are in these Divisions are certainly engaged in exciting research. For example, later in this issue of the newsletter, you will see an article featuring a recent book, *Handbook of Photosensory Receptors*. This important book was edited by two ASP members, **Winslow Briggs** (charter member) and **John Spudich** (former President). Since one of the main goals of the ASP is to "promote integration of different photobiology disciplines", the Council would like your suggestions on how we can bring in more members from Divisions 2 and 3. Please send your suggestions to the ASP Listserv:

[amsocphoto-list@mailman.stanford.edu](mailto:amsocphoto-list@mailman.stanford.edu) .

Also in this issue of the newsletter, I have included brief introductions to two recent publications that should interest our Associate members. First, there is a National Science Foundation publication entitled "US Doctorates in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century". This 146-page report documents the astonishing growth in postgraduate education during the past 100 years. The nearly exponential growth rate during this period surely will not continue in the coming 100 years. But what will the next 100 years bring? The declining growth rate of postgraduate education will likely change the nature of the relationship between postdocs and mentors. Thus, this issue of the newsletter also includes an item about "The Compact Between Postdoctoral Appointees and Their Mentors", a document recently published by the Association of American Medical Colleges.

### ASP News

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[www.photobiology.org](http://www.photobiology.org)

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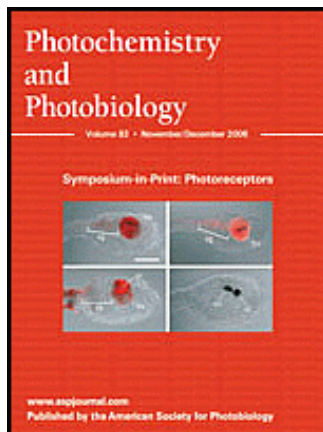
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# A Call to Pens!

## *Photochem Photobiol* Publications



Council has asked the Publications Committee to encourage ASP members to publish papers in our journal, *Photochemistry and Photobiology*. Upon comparison of the list of corresponding authors of journal articles and a list of ASP members for the years 2004-07, we found ourselves in “shock”

rather than “awe.” Nonmembers author the vast majority of papers in our journal. The papers authored by members are mostly by those who serve on the Editorial Advisory Board or as Associate Editors. *Photochemistry and Photobiology* is a solid journal and is nationally and internationally respected in the fields of photobiology and photochemistry.

We believe that there are several reasons why our members publish so few papers in our journal. First, students finishing up their advanced degrees and preparing to move on, look to so-called “high profile journals” to make a better impression. Second, high profile journals are equated (rightly or wrongly) to journals with high “impact factors”. Third, researchers at universities trying to make an impression on Rank and Tenure Committees also look to hoist their flags by publishing in well-known journals. Finally, all of us understand the process of competitive federal funding and the almost silly over emphasis on using the “impact factor” as a first-tier selective criterion for evaluating and funding applications.

The point here is very straightforward. If we wish to make our journal better known, more prestigious, and more attractive to our members and those outside the ASP, then we must publish some of our very best papers in our journal and we must cite papers published in *Photochem Photobiol* in other publications. Doing so will raise the status of *Photochem Photobiol* and in turn, the visibility and vitality of the ASP.

With regard to impact factors, you might be interested to know that when **Linda Jones** and I attended the last Blackwell Seminar series

(December, 2006), one presentation included a stinging critique of the impact factor. Most impressive was the prediction of the diminution in influence (or demise) of the impact factor within 10 years. This was music to my ears! I suspect that most of us agree that the impact factor is over-rated and misused. We have to live with the current importance of the impact factor, but should be aware that its influence should wane in the coming years.

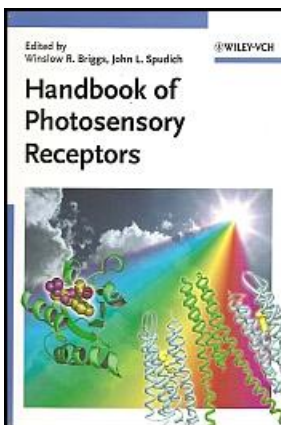
The Publications Committee will be discussing various ways to reach out to our membership and encourage publication in *Photochemistry and Photobiology*. We hope to hear from you with your own ideas as well. Together we can continue to improve the high standards of scientific quality that our journal already enjoys.

**Edward C. De Fabo**

Chair, Publications Committee

## New Photobiology Books

### *Handbook of Photosensory Receptors*



*Handbook of Photosensory Receptors*, is a recently published book edited by **Winslow R. Briggs** (ASP charter member) and **John L. Spudis** (former ASP President). This book is published by Wiley.

From the Back Cover ...

"Animal vision, the flowering of plants, and light-seeking movement of microbes are all

examples of light-controlled behavior mediated by photosensory receptors. Upon illumination, these specialized pigment-containing protein receptors trigger physiological responses. Understanding their molecular function is the basis for the dissection of higher-level processes, such as biological rhythms and the sleep-wake cycle, plant development, and microbial ecological organization."

"This is the first comprehensive resource on photosensory receptors from archaea, bacteria, plants and animals. It compiles the data on all known classes of photoreceptors and will be a must-have reference for students and researchers for many years to come. Each of the molecular mechanisms of light perception is systematically covered, with emphasis given to the pri-

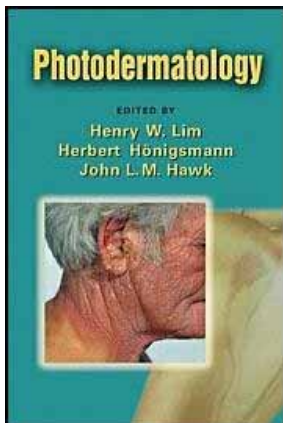
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mary photoreceptor pigments, their photochemistry, and regulation. As such, this is the first resource to compare the different types of photosensory receptors found in different organisms, as well as their role in cellular physiology."

## Photodermatology

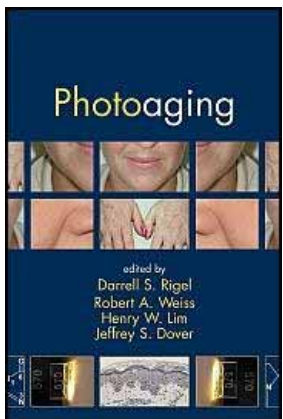


*Photodermatology*, a recently published book edited by ASP members **Henry Lim**, **Herbert Honigsman**, and **John Hawk**, covers the entire array of photodermatological topics. It includes the history of photodermatology, basic photobiological principles, normal cutaneous photoreactions, photoimmunology, sunburning, photocarcinogenesis, and patch and photopatch

testing. Chapters offer recommendations and guidelines from opinion-forming international experts. The book reviews the entire range of photodermatoses, as well as the management, treatment, and identification and assessment of these conditions. The book also includes discussions of narrow and broadband UVB, PUVA, photopheresis, UVA-1 therapy, photodynamic therapy, the principles and medical and cosmetic uses of lasers and similar sources. There are numerous appendices.

This book is available from CRC Press. ASP members are eligible for a 20% discount. E-mail the webmaster for the discount code.

## Photoaging



*Photoaging*, edited by ASP members **Darrell Rigel**, **Robert Weiss**, **Henry Lim**, and **Jeffrey S. Dover**, covers the effects of UV exposure on aging. This is an increasingly critical issue in clinical practice. Sun exposure and other sources of UV radiation play a major role in the early appearance of fine and coarse wrinkles, roughness, laxity, irregular pigmentation, and rough-

ness of the skin. This clinical guide is the first of its kind to describe the vast array of treatment options available for the minimization and repair of the effects of photodamage. The book will prompt clini-

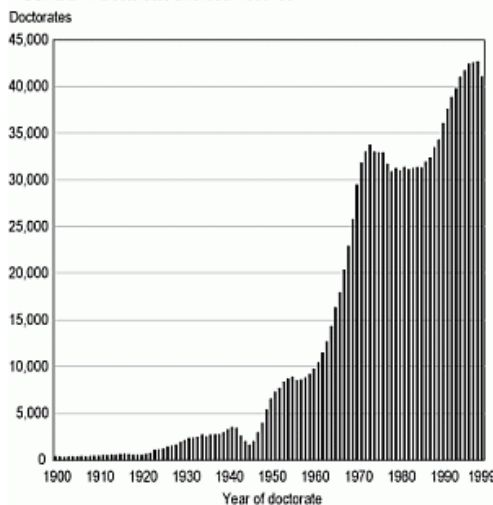
cians to tailor therapeutic regimens to individual components of aging and balance the risks and benefits of each treatment against patient expectations.

This book is available from CRC Press. ASP members are eligible for a 20% discount. E-mail the webmaster for the discount code.

(reprinted with modification from the ASP web site)

## US Doctorates in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

FIGURE 2-4. Doctorates awarded: 1900-99



SOURCES: NSF/NIH/USED/INEH/USDA/NASA, Survey of Earned Doctorates and Doctorate Records File (1920-99); U.S. Office of Education annual reports (1900-19).

The National Science Foundation recently published "US Doctorates in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century", a detailed report that describes the history and growth of post-graduate education in the United States during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This publication extends the 1978 publication, entitled "A Century of Doctorates: Data Analyses of Growth and Change".

The entire report is available in electronic form on the NSF web site at [www.nsf.gov/statistics/nsf06319/](http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/nsf06319/).

-PAE



## Jack Myers (1913 to 2006)

Former ASP President



Jack Myers (Photo by Govindjee)

Jack Myers was born in Boyds Mills, Pennsylvania in 1913. His high school teachers stimulated an interest in science and he received an undergraduate degree in chemistry from Juniata College (Huntington, PA) in 1933. He earned a Masters degree from Montana State University and a doctorate from the

University of Minnesota (1939), where he began to specialize in photosynthesis research. In 1937 he married **Evelyn DeTurck** and they lived on a combined monthly income of \$99. He joined the faculty of the University of Texas in 1941, where he remained active in teaching and research until 1999. The Myers had four daughters and took in five additional children when his brother and sister-in-law were killed in a plane crash.

Myers was the oldest son of *Highlights for Children* founders **Dr. Gary Cleveland Myers** and **Caroline Clark Myers**. He was the senior science editor of *Highlights* from 1958 until his death in 2006. A 2000 press release from the University of Texas said, “he is Mr. Rogers, without the cardigan sweater,” a “science teacher extraordinaire.” Myers wrote seven books for children. His most recent latest book was entitled *What Happened to the Mammoths? and Other Explorations of Science in Action*, published in 2000 by Boyds Mills Press.

Myers was president of the South-Central Photobiology Group serving Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. This group, founded in 1969, was one of the forerunners of the ASP. He was a charter member of the ASP and served as president from 1975 to 1976. He was named to the National Academy of Sciences in 1975 and won the Charles F. Kettering Award from the American Society of Plant Physiologists. In 1998, he was awarded the Founders Award from the American Society of Gravitational and Space Biology for his work with algae as a source of food in space. Myers was recognized for a career that “shows in an exem-

plary manner how wide ranging scientific achievement can be combined with humanism, modesty and wisdom.”

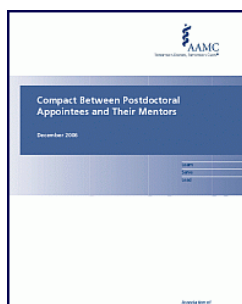
### Linda Jones

ASP President-Elect

References:

- [http://obit.wcfish.com/obit\\_display.cgi?id=367344&listing=All](http://obit.wcfish.com/obit_display.cgi?id=367344&listing=All)
- <http://www.bio.net/bionet/mm/photosyn/2007-January/001899.html>
- [http://www.utexas.edu/opa/news/00newsreleases/nr\\_200008/nr\\_meyers000824.html](http://www.utexas.edu/opa/news/00newsreleases/nr_200008/nr_meyers000824.html)

## Postdocs and Mentors



The American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) has recently published “The Compact Between Postdoctoral Appointees and Their Mentors”.

The purpose of this document is initiate discussions about the relationship between postdocs and their mentors and about the

postdoctoral experience. The AAMC Group on Graduate Research, Education, and Training (GREAT) and its Postdoctorate Committee wrote the document. It is based on the previous AAMC report, “Compact Between Resident Physicians and Their Teachers”.

According to the report, “the compact is intended to provide postdoctoral program directors, administrators, faculty, postdoctoral appointees, and other institutional leaders with a model document that might be used as is, or as modified in accordance with local circumstances.”

The document is available from: [www.aamc.org/research/postdoccompact/](http://www.aamc.org/research/postdoccompact/)

-PAE

## ASP Homepage Usage Statistics

**Counter Dates:** Dec 20, '06 to Feb 25, '07 (67 days)

**Total page views:** 2767 (avg of 41.3 per day)

Avg of 49.3 on each weekday

Avg of 22.5 on each weekend day

**Total unique visits:** 2077 (avg of 31.0 per day)

Avg of 31.1 on each weekday

Avg of 30.8 on each weekend day

## Upcoming Events

### March 28-31, 2007

*11th World Congress of the International Photodynamic Association*

Shanghai, China

E-mail: [lasercenter@163.com](mailto:lasercenter@163.com)

Website: [www.ipa2007-shanghai.com](http://www.ipa2007-shanghai.com)

### April 23-24, 2007

*Revealing How Nature Uses Sunlight to Split Water*

The Royal Society

6-9 Carlton House Terrace

London SW1Y 5AG UK

Tel: +44 (0)20 7451 2213

Fax: +44 (0)20 7930 2170

E-mail:

[discussion.meetings@royalsoc.ac.uk](mailto:discussion.meetings@royalsoc.ac.uk)

Web site: [www.royalsoc.ac.uk/events](http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/events)

### May 3-4, 2007

*Journées Francophones de Photochimie, Photocatalyse et Catalyse Environnementale*

Saint-Avold, France

E-mail: Dr Didier,

[drobert@iut.univ-metz.fr](mailto:drobert@iut.univ-metz.fr)

### May 6-11, 2007

*CLEO/QELS 2007*

Baltimore, MD

Web site: [www.cleoconference.org](http://www.cleoconference.org)

### June 3-8, July 8-13, July 22-27, 2007

*Protein Purification: Principals and Practice*

Center for Research and Education in Bioluminescence and

Biotechnology (CREBB)

Rutgers University

New Brunswick, NJ

E-mail: [crebb@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:crebb@rci.rutgers.edu)

Web site: [www.rci.rutgers.edu/~crebb/protein.html](http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~crebb/protein.html)

### June 9-16, 2007

*Graduate summer school: Biophotonics '07*

The Island of Ven

Backafallsbyn, Sweden.

Web site: [www.biop.dk/biophotonics07/](http://www.biop.dk/biophotonics07/)

### June 10-15th, 2007

*4th International Conference on Advances Vibrational Spectroscopy*

Corfu, Greece

Web site: [icavs.info/corfu2007/](http://icavs.info/corfu2007/)

### June 17 - 22, 2007

*World of Photonics Congress*

International Congress Center,

Munich, Germany

Web site: [www.global-electronics.net/id/35070](http://www.global-electronics.net/id/35070)

### June 18-24, 2007

*6<sup>th</sup> Congress of Russian Society of Plant Physiologists*

Syktyvkar, Komi Republic, Russia

Web site: [www.ib.komisc.ru/add/plant\\_phys2007/indexeng.html](http://www.ib.komisc.ru/add/plant_phys2007/indexeng.html)

### July 7-11, 2007

*Plant Biology 2007*

American Society for Plant Biology  
Chicago, IL

Web site: [www.aspb.org/meetings/pb-2007/index.cfm](http://www.aspb.org/meetings/pb-2007/index.cfm)

### July 8-13, 2007

*Gordon Research Conference*

*Photochemistry*

Bryant University

Smithfield, RI

Website: [www.grc.org/07sched.htm](http://www.grc.org/07sched.htm)

### July 23-27, 2007

*Photosynthesis 2007*

Society for Experimental Biology

Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre

Glasgow, Scotland

Web site: [www.sebiology.org/Meetings/pageview.asp?S=2&mid=84](http://www.sebiology.org/Meetings/pageview.asp?S=2&mid=84)

### July 25-31, 2007

*25<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Photonic, Electronic and Atomic Collisions*

Freiburg Germany

Web site: [www.mpi-hd.mpg.de/ICPEAC2007/index.php](http://www.mpi-hd.mpg.de/ICPEAC2007/index.php)

### July 29-Aug 3, 2007

*23rd International Conference on Photochemistry*

Cologne, Germany

Web site: [www.icp2007.net/](http://www.icp2007.net/)

### September 1-6, 2007

*12<sup>th</sup> ESP Congress*

Bath, United Kingdom

Web site: [www.esp-photobiology.it/congresses/conference2007.html](http://www.esp-photobiology.it/congresses/conference2007.html)

### September 1-6, 2007

*12th European Conference on Spectroscopy of Biological Molecules*

Bobigny (Paris region), France

E-mail: Dr. Mahmoud Ghomi

[ecsbm\\_07@smbh.univ-paris13.fr](mailto:ecsbm_07@smbh.univ-paris13.fr)

Web site: [www.ecsbm.eu/](http://www.ecsbm.eu/)

### December 9-14, 2007

*7th International Conference on Tetrapyrrole Photoreceptors in Photosynthetic Organisms*

Kyoto, Japan

Web site: [park.itc.u-tokyo.ac.jp/masuda\\_lab/7th\\_ICTPPO/index.html](http://park.itc.u-tokyo.ac.jp/masuda_lab/7th_ICTPPO/index.html)

### Feb 2-6, 2008

*16th IUPAB Congress*

Long Beach, California, USA

### June 20-25, 2008

*34th ASP Meeting*

Burlingame, CA USA

### June 18-23, 2009

*15th International Congress on Photobiology*

Duesseldorf, Germany.

#### Upcoming Events for Plant Biologists, 2007-08

*American Society for Plant Biology*

Web site: <http://aspb.org/calendar/listall.cfm>

#### Upcoming Events for Chemists, 2007-2008

*American Chemical Society*

Web site: [www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acdisplay.html?](http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acdisplay.html?)

# American Society for Photobiology



Lux et Vita since 1972

Thank you for your interest in joining the **American Society for Photobiology**. Please print this page, fill out the form, and send it with payment to:

**American Society for Photobiology**  
**PO Box 1897**  
**Lawrence KS 66044-8897**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership type:

\$45/yr Associate Member (student/post-doc; online access to *Photochem Photobiol*)

\$120/yr Member (online access to *Photochem Photobiol*)

\$228/2-yrs Member (online access to *Photochem Photobiol*)

\$140/yr Member (printed version and online access to *Photochem Photobiol*)

\$266/2-yrs Member (printed version and online access to *Photochem Photobiol*)

\$60/yr Emeritus (printed version and online access to *Photochem Photobiol*)

\$10/yr Emeritus (online access to *Photochem Photobiol*)

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Visa      Credit Card Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

AMEX      Signature \_\_\_\_\_