

Message From the President



First, I would like to thank **Frances Noonan** and **Tom Moore** for organizing the recent ASP meeting in Puerto Rico and all the program chairs who worked so hard to make the meeting a scientific

success. The site was delightful, the drinks at the bar were refreshing, the meeting was scientifically invigorating and all in all it was a very successful endeavor. I also want to extend my thanks to the many sponsors (listed below) who supported our meeting with financial contributions and exhibitions. Their help went a long way in making the meeting successful. The nuns at St Pat's (my old grammar school) would admonish you to "keep them in your prayers"; I'll modify that to say "keep them on your purchase orders." In addition, a special acknowledgement must go out to the *Photostability for Drug and Drug Products* group, who bought new faces and a different point of view to our meeting. I hope that we can continue to collaborate and meet together far into the future.

Lisa Kelly and I are now in the early stages of planning the next scientific meeting, which will be in San Francisco, California, at a date to be determined in 2008. We have the flexibility to move the meeting to early June, which may allow us to get a better rate. As soon as we have the exact data and location finalized, we will post it on the ASP web site. Please do us a favor now. If you have a suggestion for a symposium, if there was a topic that was not covered sufficiently at Puerto Rico, or one that should be discarded, please let us know. We are anxious to hear from the members.

One more quick note on meetings. As you all know, one of the reasons the ASP went to a biennial meeting schedule was so that the ASP and ESP meetings would not conflict. We believe that it is in the best interests of both societies to cooperate and try to support each other's meeting. The 2007 ESP meeting

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will be in Bath in September, and **Rex Tyrrell** will be organizing it. If you are interested, look at their web site for details: <www.esp-photobiology.it>.

Another exciting bit of news is the change of publishers for *Photochemistry and Photobiology*. As most of you know, we are moving to Blackwell Publishing in January 2007. We believe that Blackwell will give us increased visibility in the web and help us deal with the challenges of publishing a scientific journal in the electronic age.

Finally, the winter council meeting will be held some time in January 2007. One important piece of business is the nomination of new council members. Please take a few moments to think who you would like to represent you on council or if you would like to serve. Being on council is a rewarding experience and you have real input into the future of our society. I especially encourage new members of ASP to consider running for council. Send me an e-mail if you have any questions.

Steve Ullrich
sullrich@mdanderson.org

Sponsors and Exhibitors at 33rd ASP Meeting

The ASP would like to thank all the sponsors and exhibitors for their support of the ASP meeting in Puerto Rico. We look forward to continued support in the coming years.

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Letter from the Editor Upcoming Photobiology Meetings

In this month's newsletter, **Steve Ullrich** announces that the next ASP meeting will be in San Francisco sometime in spring or summer of 2008. As the ASP seeks to maintain its relationships with other photobiology societies, I should also mention the upcoming meetings of our "relatives". The *Third Asia and Oceania Conference on Photobiology* will be in Beijing from November 17-20, 2006 and the *European Society for Photobiology Congress* will be in Bath, England from Sept 1-6, 2007.

All photobiology-related events are listed on the last page of the newsletter and at www.pol-us.net/meetings.html. But what if you want to look for photobiology events based on geography? Now there is a solution! Go to the ASP homepage, www.photobiology.org, and click on "Photobiology Events" at the bottom of the left column.



Upcoming Photobiology Events

You will see an interactive map (technically, a "Google Maps mashup") that shows the locations of upcoming photobiology events. Just click on a marker for more information about a particular event, zoom in or zoom out (click + or -), or click-and-drag to re-center the map.

Now that you are familiar with Google Maps and you know that the ASP will be meeting in San Francisco, check out beermapping.com/maps/sanfranbeer.html for an interactive map of places to get a beer in San Francisco. You may also want to check out the map of public restrooms in San Francisco: paul.kedrosky.com/publicloos/.

ASP News

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Financial Update

As presented in previous newsletter articles and business meeting discussions, ASP's traditional sources of income (journal subscriptions, membership dues, and meeting registrations) have each experienced long trend declines. Even as spending has come under ever-greater scrutiny and restriction, our budgets consistently closed out the fiscal years in the red. On an operating basis, ASP has run a deficit in 9 of the last 11 years. The causes of these income declines are many, with more being external than internal. It is likely that many science societies are confronted with similar financial issues. The changes to the "rules" of financial viability have occurred in a slow evolution, and adaptation will not be quick or without sacrifice. Nonetheless, ASP is adapting, as goals are clearly defined, and plans are implemented.

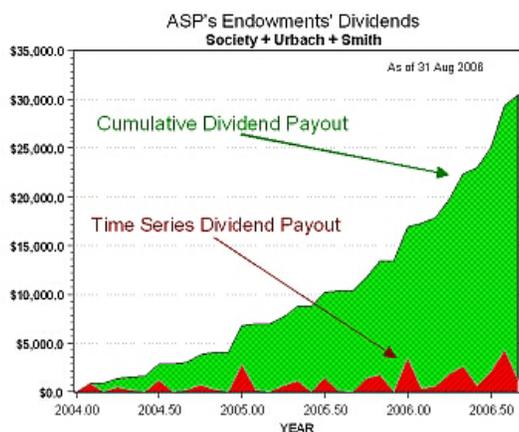


Figure 1. Dividends of ASP Endowments

As President **Steve Ullrich** affirmed in the last newsletter, Council now considers the financial ramifications of every item in our budget. ASP's Council recognizes the changing economic landscape that confronts our society, and has taken specific actions to redirect our operations so we can successfully engage these challenges. Some initiatives have already been implemented and positive results have been realized. Cases in point: holding electronic Council meetings have saved about \$16,000 per meeting; and dividend income from our endowments has provided a cumulative income in excess of \$30,000 into our operations account in less than 3 years (Fig. 1).

Larger initiatives are only now reaching implementation. For example, we now hold our congresses on a biennial schedule and hope that biennial meetings will operate profitably. This format will allow the planning efforts of two past presidents. We also look

forward to partnering with the meetings of other organizations (e.g. the Pharmaceutical Photostability Society) and a greater cooperation with the ESP. Another example is just reaching implementation. ASP has signed a revenue sharing contract with Blackwell to begin publishing *Photochemistry and Photobiology* in January 2007. Journal operations under this business model are expected to produce a more stable profit, with 10% of gross journal income being paid to the ASP, while the expenses of producing, printing, and mailing the journal, as well as operating our editorial office, are to be paid by Blackwell.

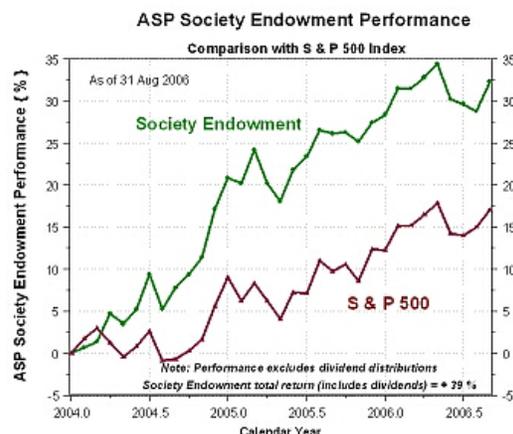


Figure 2. ASP Society Endowment Performance

Despite past operating losses, we have maintained a consistently strong financial position through capital appreciation of our investments (Fig. 2) and donations from our members. Both are "nonrecurring" sources of income from an accounting standpoint. Clearly it would be foolhardy to depend upon generosity or favorable stock markets to sustain ASP in the future. There is no substitute for living within one's means. But it would be irresponsible, too, to ignore the potentially important role that donations and investments can - and must - play in financial strength and viability. Beyond securing the profitability of *Photochemistry and Photobiology*, and requiring that our congresses break even, we are perhaps within a decade of seeing our investment income be comparable to our membership dues. Well before then (perhaps by 2010), our member's dues together with our investment income should be able to cover the expenses of our Secretariat along with the Society's administrative expenses. At that point, ASP should be able to operate sustainably (at break even or better), even in this challenging new economy.

The financial viability of science societies will in-

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creasingly depend on their ability to raise money and manage saved assets to create a reliable investment income stream. We have seen examples of tremendous generosity from our members recently. I appeal to our emeritus members particularly, to demonstrate leadership as you are called upon to further strengthen ASP's financial position. With respect to the financial vehicles that generate the investment income stream, we have now three endowments supporting various aspects of our operations: the **ASP Society Endowment** (multipurpose), the **Urbach Endowment** (student travel), and the **Kendric Smith Endowment** (supporting symposia on interdisciplinary topics in photobiology; inaugural year, 2008). Donations to our endowments are invested, not spent. Only proceeds from the investments (dividends and/or interest) will be spent toward the endowment's stated objective. A sustainable ASP is within reach. With resolve by Council on budget issues, and the support of our members, ASP will continue to provide the forum for scientific communication and collaboration that kindles creativity and fosters progress.

John Streicher
ASP Treasurer

ASP Award Winners



Professor Thomas Ebrey (University of Washington, Seattle), 2006 ASP Research Award winner.

Professor Thierry Douki (CEA-Grenoble, France) 2006 ASP New Investigator Award winner.



Promotion for Gary Schuster

ASP member **Gary B. Schuster** was recently appointed Provost at Georgia Institute of Technology. Gary received a BS in chemistry from Clarkson College of Technology in 1968 and a



doctorate from the University of Rochester in 1971. His research interests include cationic anthraquinone derivatives as photocatalytic DNA cleavage agents and transitions in liquid crystals initiated with circularly polarized light. He has published several hundred research papers and holds 12 patents.

Gary B. Schuster, newly appointed Provost at Georgia Institute of Technology.

Research by ASP Members

Symposium-in-Print

The current issue of *Photochemistry and Photobiology* features a special symposium-in-print entitled "UV Effects on Aquatic and Coastal Ecosystems". **Maria Vernet** (Scripps Institution of Oceanography) wrote the "Introduction" for the sixteen articles in this series. This series is especially significant because of its multidisciplinary nature and the geographic diversity of the ecosystems that are covered. These ecosystems include lakes in Patagonia, tropical to sub-Antarctic South America, and phytoplankton communities in Rimouski Canada.

Sea Squirt Vision

Sea squirts (Ascidians) are the closest living chordate relatives of vertebrates. These organisms have an eye spot (ocellus) that controls swimming behavior in response to light. In a forthcoming paper in *Photochemistry and Photobiology*, **Takehiro Kusakabe** and **Motoyuki Tsuda** (University of Hyogo, Japan) present their study of the photoreceptive systems of sea squirts. They suggest that the ocellus of sea squirts is homologous to the photosensitive pineal glands of vertebrates and that the most recent common ancestor of sea squirts and vertebrates may have had molecular precursors of the paired eyes of vertebrates.

(reprinted with modification from the ASP web site)

ASP Officers and Councilors

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Message from the Associate Councilor



Hello ASP Members!
My name is Jennifer Greene and I am the new Associate Council Member for the 2006-2008 term. I am originally from the District of Columbia, received my BS in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) and am currently entering my 2nd year in the Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics Department at the Univer-

sity of Pennsylvania. I work in the lab of **Jane Vanderkooi** and am currently using fluorescence as a probe to elucidate the mechanism of proton transfer within heme proteins.

I had a very informative and enjoyable time at our conference in Puerto Rico this past July. I hope that those of you who were fortunate enough to attend also took full advantage of a wonderful opportunity to connect with other old and new members of the photobiology community.

On several occasions during the conference, I had a chance to meet with other associate members. We were able to discuss our research and share experiences on what it is like to be at our institutions as well as the specific situations in our own labs. I'm here to let everyone know that although the conference has

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ended, these types of discussions and exchanges of ideas should not end. We are in the process of developing a more user-friendly and informative web site that we hope will encourage more participation among the members of this society.

Although I am going to try my best and work my hardest to give a voice to our associate members, it definitely is not a job that I can do alone. So please do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns, ideas, questions, or anything that you would like to see happen with ASP. Have a wonderful fall!

Jennifer Greene

Photobiology Jobs

Do you have or will you have an opening for postdocs or other positions in the field of photobiology, photochemistry, photophysics, or related areas? If so, please consider posting it to the jobs section of the photobiology on-line website: <www.pol-us.net/jobs.html>.

Remember that our associate members possess a wide diversity of expertise and may be suitable for employment in areas tangential to photobiology. Thus, if any of your colleagues or peers are looking for someone, please spread the word. This is a useful way to tap into a pool of appropriately trained scientists who are associate ASP members. Members and non-members alike can use this service free of charge.

This is part of our effort to enhance the benefits and opportunities of ASP associate members. We hope to help associate members easily find appropriate jobs that enables them to apply their training, stay in the field of photoscience, and eventually move on to full member status in the ASP.

Send your job posts to the webmaster: **Peter A. Ensminger**, ensmingr@twcny.rr.com

Janet Morgan, Lisa Kelly

Travel Grants

Grad Students & Postdocs

The *New Grant Info eNewsletter*, <www.newgrantinfo.com>, is a free monthly publication that provides scientists with access to scientific and research grant information from foundations and nonprofit organizations. The September issue announced travel grants for graduate students and postdocs. Applications are due **October 31, 2006**.

Further information is available on their web site: <www.newgrantinfo.com/2006_Newsletters/2006_SeptUS.htm#tg> or from Brittany Harte: bharte@escienceinfo.com

Janet Morgan

ASP Mentoring Committee

John Daniel Spikes (1918-2006)

John D. Spikes, PhD died in June at the age of 87 from Parkinson's disease. He was a founding member of the American Society for Photobiology and served as its third president. He was secretary-treasurer of the Society in 1974-75, and received the Lifetime Achievement Award in 1992.

John received his BS, MS, and PhD degrees from the California Institute of Technology. He was a professor at the University of Utah for more than 50 years and helped develop the Department of Biology there. His research covered chloroplast photochemistry, photodynamic inactivation of enzymes, and mechanisms of photosensitization. Ultimately, his interests turned toward the application of these studies on fundamental biologic mechanisms to cancer and antibacterial therapies.

John is survived by his wife **Anne**, known to many of us as his traveling companion at recent ASP meetings. Three children, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren also survive him. As important to us, many students and trainees who benefited from his rigorous scientific standards, patience, and humor survive him.

I first met John Spikes when I arrived at the University of Utah School of Medicine Department of Pathology in 1972, as a newly appointed assistant professor. I had gone there to take over a project addressing the role of immune suppression in skin carcinogenesis. One of the mouse models under investigation involved the induction of skin cancers by UV radiation, and John was serving as a photobiology consultant for this project. Although John knew little about mice, skin cancer, or immunology, he knew a great deal about UV radiation. He knew important things like dosimetry, photosensitization, tissue penetration, wavelengths and energy, about which I knew nothing at that time! Needless to say, we got along wonderfully and learned much from each other.

In 1974 when I was defining the unusual antigenic properties of UV-induced skin cancers (a minor by-product of the main study), John suggested that I send

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an abstract of this work to the ASP meeting and offered to sponsor it. Attending this meeting opened up a whole new world for me. John was careful to introduce me to other members of the ASP, people like **Fred Urbach, Don Forbes, Kendric Smith, John Epstein, John Jagger, and Angelo Lamola**. Within this Society, I found a highly supportive group of mentors, entirely new areas of science, and lifelong friends. In his own quiet way, John had a major influence on the direction of my work and on my scientific career. I am certain that many others feel the same way. So the next time you raise a glass of Hanky Bannister or other beverage of your choice, make a toast to the memory of a great figure in photobiology – to John Spikes, an outstanding teacher and scholar, and a true gentleman.

Margaret L. Kripke

ASP Homepage

Usage Statistics

Visits to the ASP homepage, www.photobiology.org, are being monitored by bravenet.com. A "page view" (or "hit") is recorded every time there is a visit to the homepage. A "unique visit" is recorded every time a visitor has not viewed the homepage in the previous 24 hours. Visits by the webmaster (PAE) were excluded from all statistics.

Counter Dates: June 15-Sept 23, 2006 (100 days)

Total page views: 4304 (avg of 43.0 per day)

- Avg of 52.5 on each weekday
- Avg of 19.7 on each weekend day

Total unique visits: 2664 (avg of 26.6 per day)

- Avg of 32.5 on each weekday
- Avg of 12.2 on each weekend day



Upcoming Events

September 18-22, 2006

14th International School on Quantum Electronics: Laser Physics and Applications
Sunny Beach, Bulgaria.
Web site: www.sqe2006.dir.bg/

October 10-14, 2006

6th International Symposium on Photodynamic Diagnosis and Therapy in Clinical Practice
Brixen/Bressanone, Italy
Web site: www.uibk.ac.at/neurochirurgie/PDT2006.html

October 15-19, 2006

14th International Symposium on Bioluminescence and Chemiluminescence
Paradise Point Resort and Spa
San Diego, CA
Web site: www.blcl14.org/

November 17-20, 2006

3rd Asia and Oceania Conference on Photobiology
Beijing, China
Web site: www.aosp2006.org.cn/

January 20-25, 2007

SPIE International Symposium on Biomedical Optics 2007
San Jose Convention Center, San Jose, CA, USA
Web site: spie.org/Conferences/calls/07/pw/

March 3-7, 2007

2007 Biophysical Society Annual Meeting
Baltimore, MD
Web site: www.biophysics.org

March 28-31, 2007

11th World Congress of the International Photodynamic Association
Shanghai, China
Website: www.ipa2007-shanghai.com
E-mail: lasercenter@163.com

June 9-16, 2007

Graduate summer school: Biophotonics '07
The Island of Ven
Backafallsbyn, Sweden.
Web site: www.biop.dk/biophotonics07/

June 17 - 22, 2007

World of Photonics Congress
International Congress Center,
Munich, Germany

July 7-11, 2007

Plant Biology 2007
American Society for Plant Biology
Chicago, IL

Jul 8-13, 2007

Gordon Research Conference Photochemistry
Bryant University
Website:
www.grc.org/07sched.htm

July 23-27, 2007

Photosynthesis 2007
Society for Experimental Biology
Glasgow, Scotland
Web site: www.sebiology.org/Meetings/pageview.asp?S=2&mid=84

July 29-Aug 3, 2007

XXIII International Conference on Photochemistry
Cologne, Germany
Web site: www.icp2007.net/

September 1-6, 2007

12th ESP Congress
Bath, United Kingdom
Web site: www.esp-photobiology.it/congresses/conference2007.html

Feb 2-6, 2008

16th IUPAB Congress
Long Beach, California, USA

June 18-23, 2009

15th International Congress on Photobiology
Duesseldorf, Germany.