

# Minorities Affairs

## MAC Busy in June!

Hosting its annual workshop, conducting its summer meeting, and running several programs—the ASCB Minorities Affairs Committee (MAC) was quite busy in June. MAC Chair Renato Aguilera stated, “Yes, the MAC is busy in the summer!” The MAC is committed to furthering career development for minority students and early-career scientists. Please see highlights below on these programs/meeting:

- MAC Summer Meeting
- MAC Mentoring Program (New)
- MAC Sixth Annual Junior Faculty and Postdoctoral Fellows Career Development Workshop
- Linkage Fellows
- Visiting Professors
- Marine Biological Laboratory Students
- Friday Harbor Laboratories Students

## MAC Summer Meeting

Ongoing activities and grant financial management were the focus of the MAC annual summer meeting, held this year in Atlanta, GA, on June 12. The Committee, under the leadership of Chair Renato Aguilera, discussed programs funded by a U.S. National Institutes of Health/National Institute of General Medical Sciences Minority Access to Research Careers (NIH/NIGMS/MARC) grant. The MAC discussed all of its programs and agreed that the MAC has to focus more on marketing and advertising its programs during the next fiscal year.

“MAC program evaluations for the past few years have been outstanding,” reported MARC Grant PI David Burgess. This shows that MAC programming is fulfilling the grant’s goals.

MAC ASCB Annual Meeting programs were discussed as the MAC gears up for the ASCB Annual Meeting in December. The MAC is expecting a great program, at least 100 travel awardees, and excellent evaluations!



MAC Chair Renato Aguilera at the Career Development Workshop

## Participants Selected for ASCB MAC Mentoring Program

Two junior scientists were selected to participate in the MAC’s new Mentoring Program. Tama Hasson, MAC Mentoring Program Subcommittee Chair, stated, “I am pleased that the program is under way as it has long been in the planning stages; and I am happy to announce that both mentees and mentors have been selected for our first application cycle.”

The objective of this program is to assist newly independent investigators from groups underrepresented in the sciences as they write their first research grant. This program includes \$1,000 funding for travel for the mentee to visit the mentor’s institution. Minority professors and professors in colleges and universities with a high minority enrollment are especially encouraged to apply for this program.

Participants selected and their mentees are listed below:

- Mentee: *Joaquin N. Lugo*, Baylor University  
Mentor: *Thoru Pederson*, University of Massachusetts Medical School
- Mentee: *Carlita Favero*, Ursinus College  
Mentor: *Anthony DePass*, Long Island University

The MAC would like to thank the mentors for volunteering their time to mentor!

The ASCB MAC Mentoring Program is supported by an NIH/NIGMS/MARC grant.

For more information on this program, please visit the ASCB website at [www.ascb.org](http://www.ascb.org) and click on “Committees,” then “Minorities Affairs.” The application deadlines are September 15, 2011, and April 15, 2012.

# MAC Sixth Annual Junior Faculty and Postdoctoral Fellows Career Development Workshop

“I think this is the best workshop ever,” stated Aguilera. MAC’s Sixth Annual Junior Faculty and Postdoctoral Fellows Career Development Workshop, designed to provide information on publications, grant writing, mentoring, time management, professional development, lab management, and other topics critical for junior faculty and postdoctoral fellows, was held in Atlanta, GA, June 10–11, 2011. There were 24 attendees. Based on evaluations, the Junior Faculty and Postdoctoral Fellows Career Development Workshop is one of the MAC’s finest programs.

Speakers and planners this year included Aguilera, Professor and Director of the Graduate Program in Biology, University of Texas, El Paso; Burgess, Professor of Biology, Boston College; Andrew Campbell, MAC member and Associate Professor of Medical Science, Brown University; Franklin Carrero-

Martinez, MAC member and Assistant Professor, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez; Anthony D. Carter, Program Director, Division of Genetics & Developmental Biology, NIGMS, NIH; Deborah Harmon Hines, MAC member and Vice Provost and Professor, University of Massachusetts Medical School; Michael Leibowitz, MAC member and Executive Director of Graduate Academic Diversity, University of Medicine and Dentistry, New Jersey Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences; Veronica Lopez, MAC member and Research Assistant, The Pennsylvania State University; Sandra Murray, MAC member and Professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine; Richard Rodewald, Program Director for Cellular Processes Cluster, U.S. National Science Foundation; and MariaElena Zavala, MAC member and Professor of Biology, California State University, Northridge.



*Attendees, speakers, and staff at the ASCB MAC Sixth Annual Junior Faculty and Postdoctoral Fellows Career Development Workshop in Atlanta, GA*



*Workshop attendees participated in group discussions throughout the two-day workshop.*

## What Some Attendees Thought about the MAC Workshop



Raphyel Rosby

“The ASCB MAC 6th Annual Junior Faculty and Postdoctoral Fellows Career Development Workshop was excellent in every aspect. I assumed there would be some things that I would know already. However, even when presenting information that I was familiar with, the presenters often gave alternative approaches that I found extremely useful. The workshop gave insight into aspects of getting a faculty job and the tenure process that I had never heard. The networking opportunities were very helpful in that the group had a focused interest. In the end, I am very glad that I was able to attend, and have already recommended it to several of my peers.”

—*Raphyel Rosby*, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Brown University

“As a result of attending this workshop, I am better prepared to successfully transition into a junior faculty position. Not only am I better informed about the challenges involved in joining the professoriate and attaining tenure, but I now have access to strategies and advice to tackle them. Furthermore, when a difficulty arises that I do not know how to overcome, I now have new contacts and colleagues who are willing and able to provide good advice and support.”

—*Veronica A. Segarra*, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Miami



Veronica A. Segarra



Nelson Nunez-Rodriguez

“The 2011 MAC workshop provided me an opportunity to reinforce my professional priorities by sharing experiences with minority faculty from other institutions. It was a mentoring experience providing useful tools to manage the daunting task of devising teaching, research, and service duties in my teaching-intensive institution. Overall, this workshop has empowered my commitment to integrate scholarship work with my teaching duties. I look forward to participating in future MAC opportunities.”

—*Nelson Nunez-Rodriguez*, ASCB MAC Linkage Fellow, Hostos Community College, CUNY

## MAC Linkage Fellows Selected

The MAC is pleased to announce that 10 scientists have been selected to serve as Linkage Fellows for 2011. Funding for this program is provided for Fellows to support outreach and activities that promote cell biology at their home institutions. The major goal of this program is to increase participation of faculty from minority-serving institutions to “serve as a link” between the institution, its students, faculty, administration, and the ASCB MAC. The Linkage Fellows Program is supported by an NIH/NIGMS/MARC grant.

The Linkage Fellows Program acknowledges all past Fellows as alumni/alumnae. Alumni/alumnae are encouraged to remain in the MAC community and continue to serve as that important link between their institutions and the MAC. Alumni/alumnae are also eligible to apply for MAC Travel Awards to the ASCB Annual Meeting.

The 10 scientists selected for 2011 funding are:

- *Manuel A. Barbieri*, Florida International University
- *Tracie Gibson*, University of Texas of the Permian Basin
- *Triscia Wharton Hendrickson*, Morehouse College
- *Lalitha Jayant*, Borough of Manhattan Community College
- *Patrick Martin*, North Carolina A&T State University
- *Fran Norflus*, Clayton State University
- *Nelson J. Nunez-Rodriguez*, Hostos Community College, CUNY
- *Janet Rollins*, College of Mount Saint Vincent
- *Ohuseyi A. Vanderpuye*, Albany State University
- *Velinda Worlax*, University of North Carolina, Pembroke

Applications for the 2012 MAC Linkage Fellows Program will be available on the ASCB website in January 2012.

## MAC Summer Visiting Professorship Awardees Selected

The MAC is pleased to sponsor six scientists for collaborative research with host scientists this summer. The MAC Visiting Professors program is supported by an NIH/NIGMS/MARC grant. The program's major purpose is to provide research support for professors at minority-serving institutions to work in the laboratories of members of the ASCB for an eight- to 10-week period during the summer.

The six 2011 Visiting Professors and their Host Scientists are listed below:

- Visiting Scientist: *Oluwole Ariyo*, Allen University (2nd year)  
Host Scientist: *Lewis Bowman*, University of South Carolina
- Visiting Scientist: *Jacqueline Jordan*, Clayton State University (2nd year)  
Host Scientist: *Gary Miller*, Emory University
- Visiting Scientist: *Kenneth Ndebele*, Jackson State University (2nd year)  
Host Scientist: *Roya Khosravi-Far*, Harvard Medical School
- Visiting Scientist: *Thomas Onorato*, LaGuardia Community College/CUNY (2nd year)  
Host Scientist: *Gary M. Wessel*, Brown University
- Visiting Scientist: *Teresa Shakespeare*, Fort Valley State University (1st year)  
Host Scientist: *Sandra Murray*, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
- Visiting Scientist: *Caroline Telles*, Southern University and A&M College (1st year)  
Host Scientist: *M. Mitchell Smith*, University of Virginia Health System

Applications for the 2012 MAC Visiting Professors Program will be available on the ASCB website in January 2012.

## MAC Awardees Supported at Marine Biological and Friday Harbor Laboratories

Supporting participants in programs at the Marine Biological (MBL) and Friday Harbor Laboratories (FHL) is an important aim of the ASCB MAC. The MAC works with the MBL and FHL to strengthen the training of underrepresented minorities and provide valuable networking opportunities. These opportunities frequently translate into future professional opportunities, including postdoctoral fellowships, career positions, and scientific collaborations. The MAC MBL and FHL programs are supported by an NIH/NIGMS/MARC grant.

The 12 students selected for funding in 2011 are:

### Marine Biological Laboratory

- *Evan Archer*, University of Texas-Austin (Methods in Computational Neuroscience)
- *Oscar Cabrera*, Florida State University College of Medicine (Physiology)
- *Victor Cazares*, University of Michigan (Neurobiology)
- *Sindy Chaves*, University of Nevada, Reno (Molecular Mycology)
- *Bianca Jones*, New York University School of Medicine (Neural Systems and Behavior)
- *Aracely Lutes*, University of Kansas Medical Center (Embryology)
- *Mitra Miri*, Yale University School of Medicine (Neural Systems and Behavior)
- *William Munoz-Miranda*, New York University School of Medicine (Neural Systems and Behavior)
- *Valerie Virta*, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, NIH (Embryology)
- *David Vuono*, Colorado School of Mines (Microbial Diversity)

### Friday Harbor Laboratories

- *Kristin Andrykovich*, Carleton College (Genomics)
- *Paul Hausch*, Ripon College (Genomics) ■

—Deborah McCall

## ASCB Highlights Positions: Have One To Fill? Want One?

Did you know that the ASCB Online Job Board offers a variety of options for those recruiting or seeking postdoctoral fellowships and academic and industry positions? You don't have to be an ASCB member to take advantage of these opportunities, but ASCB members do enjoy significant discounts. Visit the ASCB Online Job Board at <http://jobboard.ascb.org>.

### For Job-Seekers

- Post your résumé/CV at no charge, search job announcements, apply for jobs listed, and receive email alerts when jobs matching your criteria are posted.
- Currently, 304 active CVs/résumés are available for viewing.
- In 2011, the ASCB job postings have received 13,818 page views to date.

### For Employers

- Post your position and receive emails daily with qualified candidates.
- Increase your exposure with Featured Job and Featured Employer options.
- Receive a 50% discount for job postings if you're an ASCB member.

Write [careers@ascb.org](mailto:careers@ascb.org) if you have any questions. Consider expanding your search with ads in the *ASCB Newsletter*. Contact [enewman@ascb.org](mailto:enewman@ascb.org). ■