



ACNP Bulletin

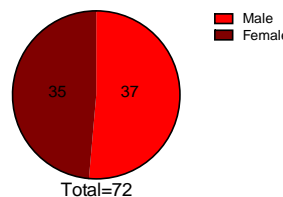
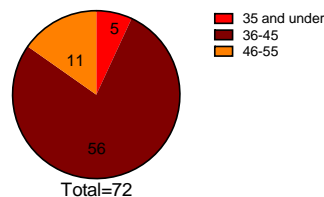
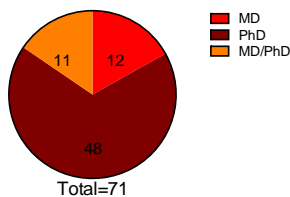
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Summary of Membership Advisory Task Force Annual Survey 2017

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS SURVEY RESULTS:

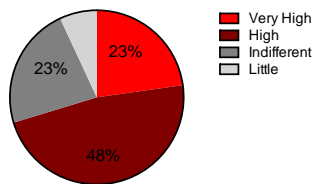


Demographics

Overall, 48% of Associate Members responded to the survey request. Approximately equal numbers of male and female Associate

Members responded, with the majority of respondents having Ph.D. only degrees and being between 36 and 45 years of age. 69% of respondents have children. 13% self-identified as a member of an underrepresented minority. These findings are similar to those observed in previous surveys (2013-2016), except that in 2013 and 2014 the proportion of female respondents was significantly lower.

How Welcoming is ACNP for early and mid-career members



Culture

In general, 71% of respondents rated ACNP Very high, or High, in terms of being a welcoming society for early and mid-career investigators. Similarly-positive results were obtained when asking if respondents felt comfortable asking senior members about promotion and if they knew who to contact for questions about ACNP, while only 56% felt strongly that the web site was useful in answering questions regarding promotion. When asked what aspects of the meeting were unappealing or diminished value of the ACNP, a few respondents noted a continued (but improving) lack of diversity and “elitist milieu” at the annual meeting.

Membership

88% of Associate Members applied only once, while 13% applied twice, which is generally similar to previous years (2013-2016). None of the respondents have applied for full membership, but 87% plan to in the future. Only 24% anticipate they will achieve full membership the first time they apply, but 75% believe they will eventually obtain full membership. The majority of respondents (66%) indicated they feel they are currently too early in their career to apply for full membership or only recently became Associate Members. This is an interesting shift from previous years, in which the vast majority of respondents (63, 40 and 81% for 2013-1016, respectively) indicated the reason they have not applied is that they were not confident they would be accepted for full membership. This year, membership dues did not seem to significantly affect desire to acquire full membership, but in previous years >40% indicated membership dues would influence their decision. In fact, this year, 94% of respondents thought dues were reasonable, which is higher than in previous years. The top three reasons cited that would make membership more appealing included not making attendance mandatory, more transparent membership application process, and decreasing dues and cost. Lastly, only 60% of respondents indicated that the value of ACNP membership to their home institution was Very High or High.

Annual Meeting

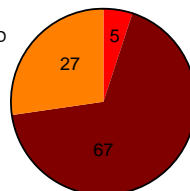
In terms of meeting location, 39% of respondents preferred the Florida, followed by Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and California locations. Only 1.5% preferred the Arizona location. As noted above, 69% of respondents have children, but only 6% bring them to the meeting, while 40% indicated subsidized child care would affect their decision to bring children to the meeting. Networking, access to senior researchers, and access to most recent research and methods were cited as the most common reasons for interest in the ACNP Annual Meeting. Several respondents noted increased emphasis on career development and networking opportunities for women would strengthen their interest in the meeting. A desire for a more diverse array of venues for the annual meeting were also noted by many respondents.

PAST TRAVEL AWARDEE SURVEY RESULTS:

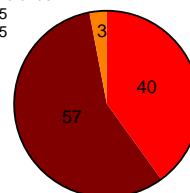
Demographics

Overall, 45% of Past Travel Awardees (PTAs) responded to the survey request. Approximately equal numbers of male and female Associate Members responded, with the majority of respondents having Ph.D. only degrees and being between 36 and 45

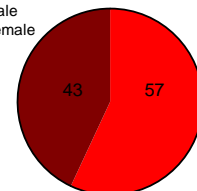
■ MD
■ PhD
■ MD/PhD



■ 35 and under
■ 36-45
■ 46-55



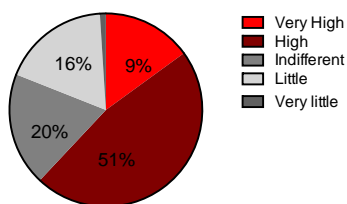
■ Male
■ Female



years of age. 47% of respondents have children. 22% self-identified as a member of an underrepresented minority. These findings are similar to those observed in previous surveys (2013-2016).

Culture

How Welcoming is ACNP for early and mid-career members



Overall, 60% of respondents rated the ACNP Very High or High in terms of being a welcoming College for potential members. The remaining 40% rated ACNP as indifferent, little, or very little in this regard. 75% of respondents rated their comfort level with regard to being able to ask more senior members about ACNP membership and participation as Very High or High. 66% rated the web site highly as a place to find information about the College. Several respondents commented that the ACNP seemed “exclusionary” and “too selective”, and that the application process was difficult to navigate.

Membership

Only 3% of PTAs had applied for Associate Membership, while 85% plan to apply for full membership in the future. The majority of PTAs are unsure if they will achieve full membership the first time they apply. The vast majority of respondents that had not applied for Associate Membership indicated that they have not done so because they are too junior to apply, 37% also indicated they were unsure if they could pay the dues, and 24% indicated they were not confident that they would be accepted – this response has trended down from 44% and 60% in 2013-14. For those PTAs who have not applied for membership and *do not* intend to, the primary reason given was that respondents were not confident they would be accepted, while other important factors included being unable to commit to attending the meeting annually, and the high costs of membership and meeting attendance. The most common answers given to the question “What would make ACNP membership more appealing”, were 1) decreasing dues and registration costs, 2) more transparent membership process, 3) increased likelihood of acceptance, and 4) not making meeting attendance mandatory.

Annual Meeting

47% of respondents have children, but only 8% bring them to the meeting, while 46% indicated subsidized child care would affect their decision to bring children to the meeting. PTA’s interests in the ACNP Annual Meeting were driven primarily by opportunities to interact 1:1 with more senior scientists, access to latest scientific and methodological presentations, networking, and mentorship on scientific work, grant funding, and career development. Lastly, only 31% of respondents indicated that the value of ACNP membership to their home institution was Very High or High.

Summary and Discussion

Approximately 50% of those asked completed the survey. Associate Members were more likely to view the ACNP as welcoming relative to PTAs, and PTAs were more likely to comment on the perceived exclusivity of the ACNP. Associate Members and PTAs in this cohort generally considered themselves too early in their career to apply for full/Associate Membership, but the vast majority planned to apply and were relatively confident in their chances of eventually obtaining full membership or Associate Membership, respectively. Cost of the ACNP meeting and annual dues seemed to be more of a deterrent for PTAs than Associate Members. Both groups felt reducing the mandatory meeting requirement and dues/meeting costs would increase their interest in the ACNP. Both PTAs and Associate Members indicated that 1:1 interaction with senior colleagues, professional networking, and access to high-quality scientific presentations were the major draw to the Annual Meeting. Interestingly, only 60% of Associate Members and 31% of PTAs indicated that the value of ACNP membership to their home institution was high or very high, suggesting the ACNP needs to increase efforts to inform a broader base of the value of membership and attendance at the ANCP Annual Meeting.