American Association for the Advancement of Science
Congressional and Executive Branch Science & Technology Policy Fellowships

Application for Scientific Society Partnership
(please feel free to attach and refer to program documents)

Name of Organization: Biophysical Society

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NOTE: Organizations that intend to co-sponsor congressional or executive branch fellowships under an affiliation with AAAS must submit separate applications. The applications will be considered together by the AAAS Congressional Fellowship Advisory Committee.

Please provide information about your organization -- its mission, history, functions and activities:

The Biophysical Society is a professional association whose mission is to encourage development and dissemination of knowledge in biophysics. It does so through its many programs, including its meetings, publications, and committee outreach activities. The Society's members, now over 8,500, work in academia, industry, and in government agencies throughout the world. Each year, the Society holds an Annual Meeting, which brings together over 7,000 research scientists in the multidisciplinary fields representing biophysics. The Society also sponsors smaller thematic meetings each year. The Society publishes the Biophysical Journal twice monthly and a monthly Newsletter. Membership to the Society is open to scientists who share the stated purpose of the Society and who have educational, research, or practical experience in biophysics or in an allied scientific field. Categories of membership include student, early career, regular, and emeritus.

Which of the following categories best describes your organization: professional association, trade association, foundation, business/industry or other?

Professional Association

When was your organization founded?

1958

Does your organization have 501(c)3 status? If not, please indicate other status.
The Society has a 501(c)3 status.
Provide the name, mission, frequency and circulation of any professional journal(s) published by your organization:

The Society is the publisher of Biophysical Journal, which is published twice monthly. The Journal’s mission is to publish the highest quality work representing quantitative approaches to biological sciences. Biophysical Journal has 50,000 unique visitors to the journal website each month, is accessible online to all its 8531 members, and the content is licensed to 1100 institutions worldwide.

What is the total budget for lobbying for your organization, and what is the focus of your lobbying activities?

The lobbying budget is less than 1% of the Society’s annual budget. The Society works mostly through coalitions to influence Congressional decisions. The main focus of these efforts is federal funding for research.

Does your organization have one or more registered lobbyists? If yes, how many.

The Society has no registered lobbyists.

Is your organization 1) a membership association or 2) an umbrella organization of scientific societies? If the former, please indicate how many individual members. If the latter, please indicate how many society members.

The Biophysical Society is a membership organization with 8,513 individual members as of December 31, 2013.

If you answered #1 above, please provide the percentage breakdown of educational degrees of your individual paid members as a percentage of overall membership?

PhD (or equivalent, please clarify): 6543 individuals with a PhD or MD (80%)
Masters: 1,802 graduate students working on PhDs who hold BS degrees (22%)
Other, please explain: 181 undergraduate students (2%)

If your organization is an individual membership association, what percentage of your membership is involved primarily in:

Research and/or education: 88%
Clinical/Medical practice: 3%
Applied professional practice: 3%
Other, please explain: 9% did not indicate a category

Does your organization fund scientific/technical research or education initiatives or provide individual research or education grants/scholarships? If yes, please describe.

The Biophysical Society does not fund any scientific/technical research or provide education grants/scholarships. It does sponsor an 11-week summer program in Biophysics for minority undergraduate students through an NIGMS grant. This program provides funding for 12 students each summer to participate in the program. The Society also sponsors competitive travel awards to its Annual Meeting.

Please detail the source(s) of funding for your organization’s Congressional and/or Executive Branch Fellow(s). If the fellowship is named, for example in honor of an individual, please explain the connection and any role of the donor(s) in the fellowship (see the External Funding Policy to ensure compliance).
The Society will fund the Congressional Fellowship out of its operating budget. The fellowship is not named for anyone.

**Explain the mission and structure of your fellowships, including the relationship between your organization and the Fellow (see the Ethics Policy to ensure compliance).**

The Biophysical Society is applying to sponsor a AAAS Fellow because its leadership believes that the program creates a cadre of scientists who will either stay in policy and understand science or return to science and understand the political process, while also providing a path to a non-bench science-related career for Society members. The Society is also committed to educating the public and elected officials about the importance of science research, and this fellowship program meets that goal as well.

The Fellow will be a free agent while serving in Congress and will not be expected to work in any specific office or on any specific issues. The Society will require the fellow, both midway through and upon completion of the fellowship, to provide a written summary of his/her experience, what he/she learned, and the impact of that experience on his/her career. The Fellow will also be expected to attend the Society’s Annual Meeting in February 2015 to report on the experience thus far and assist with recruitment for future BPS Congressional Fellows.

**Describe how your organization recruits and selects Fellows. Please include details on the minimum qualifications, components of the application, criteria that will be used to evaluate applicants, and composition of the selection committee.**

The Society will recruit applicants for the fellowship from its membership, using the Society’s monthly newsletter, social media outlets, website, Annual Meeting, and email to publicize the fellowship. The selection process will be handled by a committee of 5-8 members assembled by the Society’s Public Affairs Committee. The selection committee will include representation from that committee, BPS members working in the federal government, and past AAAS fellows when possible.

The Fellow must meet the following minimum qualifications to be eligible for the Society’s sponsored AAAS fellowship program:

- Hold a PhD or MD prior to the start of the fellowship
- Be a current member of the Society and have maintained membership for at least the two years immediately preceding the application.
- Adhere to the general principles and purposes and all policies and ethics guidelines of the AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowships.
- Have solid scientific and technical credentials and the endorsement of three references
- Show a commitment to serving society
- Exhibit good communication skills, both orally and in writing, and the ability to engage with non-scientific audiences
- Demonstrate integrity, problem-solving ability, good judgment, flexibility, and leadership qualities
- Hold U.S. citizenship (dual citizenship from the United States and another country is acceptable)
- Federal employees will not be eligible for the fellowship

The application will require:

- a CV
- proof of PhD completion
The selection committee will select finalists from among applications. Finalists will be required to complete a second writing exercise. In addition, face-to-face interviews will be conducted for finalists at the Society’s Annual Meeting in February. (Note: If the Society is approved to partner with AAAS and moves ahead with a fellow for 2014-15, the timeline will be adjusted accordingly.)

**Does your organization ascribe to the free-agent concept for Fellows (allowing Fellows to determine their placement of choice, not directing Fellows to any particular office(s) or committee(s), not mandating an emphasis on any particular issues)?**

Yes.

**Does your organization have a code of ethics for your Fellows? If so, please attach.**

The Society will abide by the code of ethics set by AAAS for its fellows.

**Please attach a copy of your fellowship contract or memorandum of agreement (a draft document is acceptable).**

Attached.

**Is your organization an affiliate (through the Executive Office) of AAAS?**

Yes

**If selected as a partner scientific society, will your association/fellowship program agree to abide by the free agent rule and the ethics policies of the AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowships (see the AAAS Fellowships website at fellowships.aaas.org)?**

Yes.

**Will any other organization(s) co-sponsor the fellowships? If so, please provide the name of the organization(s) below. Each co-sponsoring organization must submit a separate partnership application, unless you are an umbrella entity consisting of other scientific societies. If the latter, please list your member societies.**

No.