

Human Diversity Committee

Committee Members: R. P. Anderson, L. D’Acunto, N. DeLa Sancha, L. J. Dizney, T. Giarla, J. D. Hanson, G. Hurtado, K. Mabry, H. Mutascio, A. Romero, K. C. Rowe, R.J. Rowe (Chair), B. Shaw, C. Welch.

Mission:

The purpose of the Human Diversity Committee is to ensure active participation in the ASM by all members, regardless of gender, race, ethnic background, age, physical disabilities, or sexual preference. Further, we remind all ASM members that our ombudspersons (R. W. Thorington and F. A. Smith) are available to listen, mediate, or advise on issues regarding discrimination, inappropriate conduct, or other unprofessional behaviors (see *Journal of Mammalogy* 78:268 [1997]).

Information Items:

(1) In support of the HDC mission, we implement activities and initiatives to make the Society more inclusive and welcoming. “*Increasing the Dimensions of Human Diversity*” remains our current theme.

(2) Under the guidance of Past President Eileen Lacey, the HDC worked in collaboration with the Ombudspersons to draft a Statement of Inclusion and Code of Conduct for the Society. We thank the Officers and the Board of Directors for their thoughtful review and consider the adoption of updated policies an important step forward.

(3) The HDC is developing a new initiative to increase the presence and participation of underrepresented groups in the Society. The program will cover the costs associated with bringing 3-5 undergraduate students to the Annual Meeting. A meeting mentor will help facilitate involvement and networking for the awardees. Next year an announcement about this program will coincide with the opening of registration. Please consider nominating a student from your institution.

(4) At our upcoming Committee Meeting we welcome feedback on current efforts and ideas for new initiatives. All ASM members are welcome to join in the discussion. We also encourage interested parties to join the Committee.

Action Items:

(1) The HDC requests that the \$10,000 from last year’s budget be rolled over to support the implementation of our new diversity initiative at the 2018 Annual Meeting. These funds will cover the costs for up to 5 students to attend the Annual Meeting. We estimate that airfare, lodging, registration, and food will cost between \$1,500 and \$2,000 per student.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Rowe, Chair
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