

INFORMATION REGARDING AWARDS

Best Student Poster Competition - **Current** SDB graduate and undergraduate student members in good standing (2009 membership dues paid at least 2 business days **before** abstract submission so to be included in the membership database) who wish to participate in the Best Poster Competition must check the appropriate box on the online abstract form. Late Abstracts are **not** eligible for poster competition.

Student/Postdoct Travel Awards - This is for **current** (2009 membership dues paid **before** abstract submission and meeting registration) **student** (undergraduate and graduate) and **postdoctoral** members of SDB who wish to request funds to offset their travel expenses. The number of awards and the amount for each award will depend on the number of applications received and available funding.

Any candidate must be the first and presenting author of an abstract submitted for the SDB 68th Annual Meeting. Completed [application form](#) must be emailed or FAXed to SDB by the close of business **May 4, 2009** (5 PM East Coast Daylight Saving Time). Notification of awards will be given in June.

Latin American-Caribbean Student and Faculty Scholarships - This merit-based Latin American-Caribbean Scholarship Program was established in 2000 for students and faculty members who are currently at institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean. Membership in SDB is not a requirement, but all other things being equal, preference will be given to SDB members over non-members. Any candidate for either of the two types of scholarships must be an author of an abstract submitted for the Meeting. Student applicants must be the first author of the abstract. Faculty applicants may be the senior author of an abstract.

Selection criteria for both scholarships are based on: (1) scientific soundness of the study as described in the abstract, (2) financial need, including availability of other support, e.g. from the advisor and/or institution.

Teaching Faculty Travel Grants - This newly instituted program aims to provide modest travel assistance for faculty at primarily teaching institutions or teaching departments at research universities to present their research and/or education papers. Applicants must be **current** SDB members (2009 membership dues paid **before** abstract submission and meeting registration) and authors of a submitted abstract. This may be of their own or their student's work. Completed [application form](#) and a copy of the abstract must be emailed (sdb@sdbonline.org) or FAXed (301-634-7825) to SDB by the close of business **May 4, 2009** (5 PM East Coast Daylight Saving Time). Recipients will be notified in June.

FASEB/MARC Program Travel Awards for Faculty and Students

The FASEB/MARC (Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology / Minority Access to Research Careers) Program provides funding for travel awards to support the participation of Faculty/ Mentors and Students, and Poster/Oral Presenters at SDB Annual Meetings. For eligibility, application forms and deadlines please go to: <http://marc.faseb.org/pages/page2a.htm>.

INFORMATION REGARDING BEST STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION

Eligibility requirements:

1. The **first/presenting** author must be a **current SDB member** and be an undergraduate or a graduate student.
2. The author must check the Best Student Poster Competition box on the online abstract submission form when submitting the abstract. This box is only available to student members who are on the membership database.

Guidelines for evaluating the posters:

Depending on the number of submissions, the judges may need to do a preliminary selection based on the quality of the abstracts. It is thus highly recommended that the abstracts be as informative and with as much data as possible (Statements such as "data to be presented and discussed" will not score high.). Below are criteria for evaluating the posters which may be helpful in preparing your presentation.

1. Quality of Science:
 - Logic and motivation for study
 - Documentation of results
 - Quantification
 - Conclusions appropriate from the data
 - References cited where necessary
2. Impact on the field
3. Innovativeness of approach
4. Usefulness of a new technique

5. Appropriateness of the study organism for addressing the questions
6. Clarity of presentation and ease of reading
7. Number of authors on the paper
8. The intellectual input of the first author (judged in part by talking to the author and in part by analysis of other posters from the same laboratory).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EFFECTIVE POSTER PRESENTATIONS

1. The poster board size is approximately 4 ft (height) by 6 ft (width) or 1.2 m by 1.8 m.
2. A label with the abstract program number (to be provided on the program assignment email at a later date), title, authors, and affiliations should be posted at the top of the poster board.
3. Charts, drawings, illustrations and text should be easy to read from about a 3 ft (1 m) distance.
4. Check spelling and abbreviations.
5. Post a copy of your abstract (original or corrected, as appropriate).
6. Do not overload the poster board.
7. If necessary, use numbers, letters or arrows to direct sequence of panels on the board.
8. Do not draw or write on the poster boards.
9. List the funding sources that supported the study.

References:

“How to create a poster that graphically communicates your message”–

<http://www.bio.miami.edu/ktosney/file/PosterHome.html>

“Combating Poster Fatigue: How to Use Visual Grammar and Analysis to Effect Better Visual Communication.” John D. Woolly. *Trends in Neuroscience* 12 (9):325-333, 1989.