

AIBS News

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AIBS *news*

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AIBS Annual Meeting to Feature NAS Reception, Pennock Lecture

The 2009 AIBS annual meeting, “Sustainable Agriculture: Greening the Global Food Supply,” will be held 18–19 May at the Westin Arlington Gateway Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. The program chair is 2009 AIBS President May R. Berenbaum, of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Registration, poster submission forms, and the preliminary program are online at www.aibs.org/annual-meeting.

The meeting will bring together plenary speakers, panelists, and discussion groups from the basic and applied life sciences to examine food sustainability, supply, and security. The two-day program is geared toward the science-policy interface for an audience of scientists, educators, students, representatives from non-governmental organizations, members of Congress, and the media.

The rest of the meeting’s program will be rounded out by, among other events, a contributed poster session, AIBS awards, a teachers’ workshop organized by the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study and the National Association of Biology Teachers, and a workshop, led by the AIBS Public Policy Office, focusing on the AIBS publication *Communicating Science: A Primer for Working with the Media*.

As a special event, there will be a reception and lecture starting at 6:30 p.m. on 18 May at the National Academies’ Keck Center, in Washington, DC. The speaker will be Robert Pennock, of Michigan State University, who will give the talk, “Reason Enough for Scientific Researches: Darwin and the Scientific Virtues.” The evening will also include an after-hours tour of the Koshland Science Center. (The \$35 fee for the reception includes return bus transportation from the meet-

ing hotel and after-hours access to the Koshland Science Museum.)

The meeting is taking place during “Year of Science 2009,” a year of activities aimed at engaging the general public in the nature and value of the scientific enterprise. Year of Science 2009, which is co-organized by AIBS and the Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science, involves more than 500 organizations. Recordings of the plenary lectures from the annual meeting will be available online for free viewing in the AIBS Media Library (www.aibs.org/media-library) about two months after the meeting. The meeting’s confirmed speakers and the topics of their presentations, if available, are listed below:

- Bruce Alberts (Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, University of California, San Francisco); *Science* editor-in-chief
- May R. Berenbaum (Department of Entomology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
- Fred Gould (Department of Entomology, North Carolina State University): “From Transgenic Crops to Transgenic Pests: How Can AgBiotech Be Green?”
- Hans R. Herren (Millennium Institute, Arlington, Virginia): “Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security: The Wake-up Call for Change”
- Taylor Ricketts (Conservation Science Program, World Wildlife Fund–USA); agriculture and conservation
- Scott Swinton (Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource

Economics, Michigan State University); agriculture and ecosystem services

- Robert Tauxe (National Center for Zoonotic, Vectorborne, and Enteric Diseases; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention); foodborne diseases

Breakout discussion sessions

- Public understanding of agriculture, food supply, genetically modified foods
- Biofuels
- National Academies’ report on agriculture and undergraduate science education
- Year of Science 2009 information and planning session

Workshops

- National Association of Biology Teachers/Biological Sciences Curriculum Study

I N S I D E

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ASM-AIBS Graduate Student Public Policy Internship

Recent Executive Director’s Blog Entries Online at <http://blogs.aibs.org/richardogrady>

Recent Articles Online at www.actionbioscience.org

Recent Public Policy Reports Online at www.aibs.org

doi:10.1525/bio.2009.59.3.15

- AIBS Public Policy Office:
*Communicating Science: A Primer
for Working with the Media*

ASM-AIBS Graduate Student Public Policy Internship

AIBS and the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM) are pleased to announce the availability of an internship in the AIBS Public Policy Office in Washington, DC. The internship is open to ASM members who are currently enrolled in a graduate program and who are engaged in research that will contribute to our understanding and conservation of mammals. The internship is for three months during the fall of 2009, and carries a monthly stipend of \$2000. Selection criteria include a demonstrated interest in the public policy process, strong communication skills, and an excellent academic record.

The AIBS Public Policy Office focuses on science and science education public policy (e.g., federal research and development funding policy). Additional information about ASM and AIBS can be found on their Web sites (www.mammal.society.org, www.aibs.org).

The ASM-AIBS public policy internship is an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in public policy at the national level. By working with the AIBS Public Policy Office, the intern will learn how scientific societies, nongovernmental organizations, executive branch agencies (e.g., the National Science Foundation, US Geological Survey), and the legislative branch interact to craft science policy. Duties include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Attending science coalition meetings, congressional and agency briefings, hearings, press briefings, and other relevant events
- Assisting with tracking and analysis of relevant issues
- Assisting with planning Capitol Hill briefings or press events
- Preparing a written report on the internship experience

How to Contact Us

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Application requirements:

- A letter of application describing the applicant's interest in science policy issues and detailing how this fellowship would enhance his or her professional goals. The applicant should include the names of two individuals other than his or her adviser from whom recommendations can be requested. These individuals should be able to address the candidate's leadership, interpersonal, and communication skills.
- A two-page résumé that demonstrates the applicant's leadership and communication experience. It should include education (including relevant law or policy courses), work experience, honors and awards, memberships, presentations, and publications.
- A statement describing the importance of federal support for fundamental mammalian research (500 words maximum). The statement should draw on the applicant's own experience or research area, and should illustrate how the applicant would try to convince his or her own congressional delegation to support federal research funding programs and agencies.
- A letter of support and recommendation from the applicant's academic adviser.
- Copies of transcripts from each college or university from which the applicant received a degree and/or in which the applicant is currently enrolled.

Applicants are not required to be ASM members at the time of application, but if selected must join the society before starting the internship. All application materials must be received by 1 May 2009 and should be sent to Alicia V. Linzey, Evaluation Committee Chair, 148 Double Brook Drive, Weaverville,

NC 28787. Questions about the internship can be addressed in an e-mail to Linzey at avlinzey@verizon.net.

Recent Executive Director's Blog Entries Online at <http://blogs.aibs.org/richardogrady>

- Biology summits aplenty, looking for focus
- Everyone's a scientist/engineer when drawings come to life
- The best darn animated graphic on how science works

Recent Articles Online at www.actionbioscience.org

Original article in English

- "The Legacy of Charles Darwin," by Tim M. Berra, professor emeritus in the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology at Ohio State University

"Technology: An Educational Issue?" blog post

- The Year of Science 2009

Spanish translation of a previously posted article

- "Nanotecnología: Es un mundo muy, muy, muy, muy pequeño" [Nanotechnology: It's a Small, Small, Small, Small World], by

Ralph C. Merkle, executive editor of the journal *Nanotechnology*

Recent Public Policy Reports Online at www.aibs.org

Public Policy Report for 2 February 2009

- Report outlines status of federal science collections
- New NRC report identifies opportunities for biology
- Stimulus package passes House
- Texas Board of Education rejects creationist phrasing in state standards
- Science committee to investigate Bush appointees
- Gore testifies before Senate on climate change
- Interior could receive \$50 million to mitigate environmental impacts from US–Mexico border fence
- New in *BioScience*: "On Moral Grounds: Bioethics Training for Scientists"
- Graduate student opportunity: 2009 AIBS Emerging Public Policy Leadership Award
- From the *Federal Register*

Public Policy Report for 22 January 2009

- Congress moves forward on economic stimulus
- Cabinet taking shape
- The National Science Foundation announces senior leadership changes
- Leadership changes at US Geological Survey
- Congressional committees taking shape
- Employment opportunity: AIBS Public Affairs Associate
- Graduate student opportunity: 2009 AIBS Emerging Public Policy Leadership Award
- Applications now available: 2009 ASM-AIBS graduate student policy internship
- From the *Federal Register*
- Now in the AIBS Bookstore: *Communicating Science: A Primer for Working with the Media*

