

Handbook Proposal

Re: Travel Awards

The Awards & Membership Committee comes to the Histochemistry Society Council with the following proposal:

We propose that the requirement for **HCS membership** be removed from Travel Awards and be replaced with the addition of a complimentary year's membership into the Histochemical Society.

Justification

At the 2017 Annual Meeting, considerable discussion occurred regarding how to increase membership in the Histochemical Society and especially among young trainees and investigators. As Society membership ages, it is critical that younger members are brought into the Society to fill leadership roles and to maintain the goals and mission of the Society. Travel Awards are generally regarded as an effective tool to attract young members to the Society and, consequently, Council significantly increased the budget for Travel Awards. Current guidelines require that a Travel Award applicant first be a member of the Society. It is the opinion of the Awards & Membership Committee that this creates an unnecessary hurdle for applicants. By eliminating this hurdle and, indeed, providing a complimentary membership, we can more easily entice new members into the Society.

Costs

The 2018 budget provides for up to \$25,000 in awards. If the entirety of this budget was claimed for Travel Awards it would provide for a maximum of 25 awardees. An annual Regular Membership is \$100 for 2018 so the maximum cost of this proposal is \$2500 and is likely to be less.