

Ombudspersons

Ombudspersons: Erika Barthelmess, John Koprowski, Jessica Light, Marjorie Matocq.

Charge: The members of the Office of Ombudspersons are appointed at the discretion of the President to hear and respond appropriately to complaints of unprofessional behavior by any member of the ASM at its annual meeting or in the governance of the ASM through its committee structure. All issues brought before either (or both) of the appointed individuals are resolved as discreetly as possible. The Ombudspersons are entrusted to deal with each situation as they best see fit.

Information Items:

(1) Prior to the 2019 meeting in Washington, D.C., the Office worked extensively with the President and President-Elect to update to the ASM Code of Conduct for ratification by the Board. The Office subsequently ensured widespread circulation of the revised Code on the ASM website, the ASM meeting website, and at the meeting itself. Prior to and during the 2019 annual meeting, the Office met with several ASM members and others interested in safety and professional conduct. During the meeting itself, the Office, ASM leadership, and several other ASM committees provided opportunities for multiple forums and discussions regarding safety and professional conduct in ASM.

(2) The Office has continued to be active since the D.C. meeting. Reflecting this workload, the Office expanded to four people in summer 2019 (now includes Erika Barthelmess and Marjorie Matocq in addition to John Koprowski and Jessica Light).

(3) The Office of the Ombudsperson continued to be an active member of the Societies Consortium, using Consortium materials to propose updates to the Code of Conduct (which continues to be updated as needed, subject to approval by the Board).

(4) Jessica Light participated in a Societies Consortium Webinar as a representative for ASM.

(5) The Office of the Ombudsperson continued to contribute to proposed edits to the Code of Conduct (e.g., adding statements about revocation of awards and honoraria) as well as the ASM Bylaws, both of which are to be discussed at the 2020 Board meeting.

(6) The Office communicated to ASM officers guidance to committees soliciting ASM awardees and honorees regarding expectations of professional conduct.

(7) The Office continued to discuss the need for ASM to receive professional conduct training at (or prior to) annual meetings.

(8) The Office of the Ombudsperson met once by video chat in November, and remained active via email all year.

Action Items:

(1) The Office of the Ombudsperson (primarily John Koprowski), in collaboration with other ASM members, has developed a proposal for a new award, *The J Mary Taylor Award for Diversity and Inclusive Excellence*, which we will bring to the Board for consideration in June.

(2) We request funds for professional conduct training before and during the 2021 annual meeting. Our total request is a minimum of \$5,000 to be allocated to two events. First, we request \$2,000 for a 90-minute live webinar, to be held well in advance of our 2021 meeting, on “Staff/Leadership Training for Code of Conduct Implementation and Enforcement”. We propose that this webinar should be attended by all ASM Leadership, including the Board of Directors, Office of the Ombudsperson, and relevant Program Committee Members. Second, we request \$3,000 for a 90-120 minute webinar, to be held either just before or during the meeting, on “Conference Allies Training”. All training will be provided by Smarts Consulting (<http://smartsconsulting.com/>). We note that our request is for a minimum of \$5,000 because prices may increase slightly in 2021. We have provided a quote to President Kelt for distribution to the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

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