ASPET was excited to introduce the newly formed Young Scientists Committee (YSC) at EB2016. The mission of the YSC is to support the development of future pharmacologists and ASPET members, and to provide leadership experience to trainees in ASPET. ASPET has a long and successful history of recruiting and training young pharmacologists, and the goal of the YSC is to further support these efforts by expanding representation of trainees in committees, unifying trainees among divisions, and communicating with senior ASPET officers.

During the YSC’s inaugural year, the committee had a number of accomplishments. The YSC worked with the Science Policy, Mentoring and Career Development, and Program Committees to have a YSC representative on each. The YSC also submitted two postdoc-chaired symposia proposals for EB2017, and all were highly ranked in their respective divisions. It is the committee’s goal to continue these efforts, and the YSC welcomes ideas for future symposia. Members of the YSC also proposed and staffed the photo booth at EB2016. They got the word about YSC out to the 70 people who stopped to get their pictures taken. Everyone who participated had a great time, and the 17 YSC members hope to see more attendees stop by next year!

Highlights of YSC member involvement at EB2016 include:

- 5 members earned ASPET travel awards
- 4 members were selected for the new Mentoring Network: Coaching for Career Development program
- 11 posters were presented
- 1 poster won an award
- 9 members served as poster competition judges
- 5 members were division platform speakers and 4 were presentation winners
- 8 members served as ASPET/Division committee representatives
- 2 members received other societal (non-ASPET) awards
- 2 members served as division symposia co-chairs

In the first face-to-face committee meeting at EB2016, many new, exciting ideas were discussed for the upcoming year. The YSC’s visions include developing a mentoring system for junior students and first-time attendees at EB, performing community outreach in Chicago for the 2017 meeting, spearheading a trainee-centered symposium at EB2018, and implementing an easy way to help trainees identify career opportunities at the meeting. Senior leadership at ASPET is excited about the committee’s efforts, and the YSC hopes to have their continued support for its activities moving forward. Stay tuned for further details!

Next year at EB2017 in Chicago, a planned effort between the YSC and the Mentoring and Career Development Committee will focus on community outreach to foster communication between scientists and the lay public. This activity is still under development, but the YSC welcomes participation and suggestions from all ASPET members in this effort. YSC members encourage the involvement of all who are interested!

The YSC will be recruiting interested graduate students and postdocs for the committee in 2017. Please share your thoughts, enthusiasm, and ideas for the YSC by contacting Karen Tonsfeldt, YSC chair, via info@aspet.org.