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Dear Gary,

This letter reports participation of William Hendee and Gary Fullerton as delegates to the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering AIMBE annual meeting at the Washington Grand Hyatt, February 19-22, 2012 in Washington DC. The primary focus of the meeting was "Building a New Economy Through Medical and Biological Engineering: Improving Health and Creating Jobs. There were six major sessions: 1. The Impact of Medical and Biological Engineering on American Economy and Health, 2. Innovations in Medical and Biological Engineering, 3. Gender and Racial Disparities in the Pursuit of Health Care Equality, 4. Bench to Bedside Translations, 5. The Focus of NSF and NIH on Translation for Economic Development and 6. Engineering to Sustain the Environment. There were many examples of successful translation of discovery into innovative devices and methods to change the life of people. AAPM has examples of such innovative processes but there is need to bring them more to public visibility.

We also represented the AAPM at the meeting of the AIMBE Council of Societies COS. Under the leadership of COS Chairman, J. Paul Robinson activities of the COS <http://www.aimbe.org/membership/council-of-societies/> have focused on opportunities to provide interactions with congressional staff personnel on Capitol Hill to promote wise public policy <http://www.aimbe.org/public-policy/>. COS continued to sponsor briefings for congress on a regular basis in 2011 and plans briefings for March, June, September and November 2012. The AIMBE Board has indicated support for the growing importance of educating both staff support personnel as well as Representatives and Senators who are continuously in the process of preparing legislation of importance to the practice of medicine in the USA. The Chairman emphasized the importance of increasing the numbers of societies participating in these events.

The COS again devoted significant amounts of the meeting time to discussing means of improving communication with the member societies. Individual delegates were encouraged to implement programs to elicit more input from their society and the society memberships. Sean Gallagher, AIMBE Staff supporting Council of Society activities, has been sending monthly columns to member of the COS. **The need to educate Washington lawmakers about the potential of AIMBE member societies, fellows, academic partners and industrial partners to contribute to economic development and job generation was emphasized. The COS specifically requests:**

1. Increased society participation in the Federal Symposia at the time of the AIMBE Annual Meeting in February.
2. Increased society participation in writing policy statements. This will be achieved by allocation of an AIMBE Column in the AAPM Newsletter with a periodic quiz to request

member input on specific policy issues. Statistical information would be supplied to the AIMBE Board to modulate the creation of policy statements.

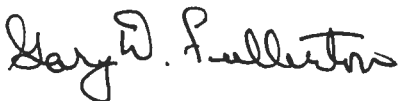
Under the topic of new business Gary Fullerton and Bill Hendee introduced the request that AIMBE focus attention to the need for better education of the public and congress on the need to balance risk and benefit from radiation, devices and pharmaceuticals. No action was requested or taken but presentations at the AIMBE Annual meeting indicate that excessive focus on risk is slowing the introductions of significant innovations in the USA. A number of member societies have problems that could be addressed by improved understanding of risk benefit discussions. *AAPM was asked to bring the topic to the next meeting with a more concrete proposal for action by the COS.*

It is worthy of note that both Subra Suresh, Sc.D, Director, National Science Foundation and Francis Collins, Director, National Institute of Health came to give extended briefings on the status of funding and activities in their institutes. From their comments they are continuing to push forward new programs but are seriously concerned about funding prospects for the coming year. The Obama budget proposed a 2.5% increase in NSF funding while NIH will suffer a slight loss. If more serious cuts are passed by congress the cuts in new research funding could be catastrophic because ongoing projects will consume most available funds for the coming year. Both Directors emphasized that AIMBE is empowered to address such concerns in a way that they cannot.

**Delegate Recommendations:**

1. That the AAPM EXCOM request the AAPM Editor of the Newsletter to work with the AIMBE Delegates to create an AIMBE Column in the newsletter for national policy topics. It is our understanding that AIMBE staff will coordinate the process of creating new items for consideration by the Editor.
2. That the AAPM EXCOM authorize AIMBE Delegates to extend participation in the AIMBE Annual Meeting to include participation in the Annual AIMBE Federal Symposia on Capitol Hill.
3. That following participation in the AIMBE Federal Symposium and preliminary training on communication with congressional staff personnel consideration be given to establishing an AAPM training course for productive congressional interactions by AAPM members to be implemented at the Annual AAPM meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



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