

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF AAPS FOCUS GROUPS**

AAPS members with a common interest in a specific discipline will be identified as a Focus Group. The creation of Focus Groups should be encouraged to promote emerging new areas of interest within AAPS. Focus Groups may also serve as a vehicle to determine the interest in a particular discipline, thus preventing the premature establishment of an AAPS section that would not have enduring interest. Individuals interested in organizing a Focus Group may petition the AAPS Executive Council for recognition as a Focus Group, provided that at least 50 AAPS members have expressed an interest in joining the proposed new Focus Group. Focus Groups will reapply to the Executive Council every three years with a list of at least 50 members and a Summary of the past three years' activity.

- Cross-sectional membership in Focus Groups will be encouraged.
- Focus Groups will have access to core and non-core programming, through the Annual Meeting Planning Committee.
- Focus Groups will not be represented on the Executive Committee of a Section or the AAPS Executive Council.
- Initially, the AAPS Executive Council will appoint the Chair of a Focus Group. Selection of a Chair after the first year will be by the members of the Focus Group.
- Focus Group Chairs will be listed in the AAPS Membership Directory. Funds to support programming and organizational functions by the Focus Groups will be requested through the AAPS office and approved by the AAPS Executive Committee.
- Focus Groups are encouraged to participate in regional meetings and to propose workshops.
- Focus Groups are encouraged to serve as point groups for science policy issues.
- All outside funding must receive approval of the Executive Council.