

PROFESSIONAL ISSUES

FERB Needs Your Support: Awards Three Times the Scholarships

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Last year, an unprecedented number of students were given travel scholarships to attend the Association for Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback (AAPB) meeting in Portland and present their work. Forty students attended, three times the number in previous years. For the upcoming meeting in Savannah, students are again encouraged to apply for travel scholarships and research awards. However, to continue supporting students at this level, additional financial support is requested from the AAPB membership. Contributors will be acknowledged in the program brochure.

The Foundation for Education and Research in Biofeedback (FERB) requests membership contributions to cover the large outpouring of student interest in biofeedback and Association for Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback (AAPB) shown in our last meeting. FERB raises money primarily from AAPB's membership, awards travel scholarships to students attending and making presentations at AAPB meetings, and awards seed money to support student research projects. This past year, FERB very actively let students know about the availability of travel funds and received an unprecedented number of applicants. FERB funded 40 students at the 2013 Portland meeting, approximately three times the number of students at AAPB meetings in previous years. The FERB board interpreted this outpouring as a great success in generating student interest in biofeedback and AAPB, as very optimistic for the future of biofeedback as a discipline, and as the exact result intended by AAPB when FERB was established.

FERB was set up by AAPB as an independent agency to support student research and involvement in biofeedback and in the AAPB organization, as a commitment to ensuring the future of our field. Its purpose was to encourage interested students to devote their research energies to biofeedback and to become involved with like-minded professionals and researchers who come to AAPB's meetings.

In addition to awarding travel scholarships to students presenting their work at AAPB meetings, FERB also grants research awards to students. Each year, the FERB board has carefully reviewed research projects and makes awards to those likely to yield interpretable results, and it has awarded travel scholarships to all student applicants who present their work at an AAPB meeting.

Although no research awards were given this past year, the unexpectedly large outpouring of student travel scholarship aid caused a deficit of almost \$11,000. In accepting this deficit, the FERB board decided that the investment in students was worth the financial risk. However, although the FERB board assures the AAPB membership that this deficit does not risk FERB's survival or continued ability to support students, it recognizes that such deficits cannot continue indefinitely. This prompts the current appeal for funds.

In the forthcoming year, FERB plans to offer travel scholarships of \$300 to all students who make presentations at the AAPB meeting in Savannah, pending formal application to AAPB by the students. FERB also pays students' registration fees for the AAPB meeting. The Foundation plans to publicize these scholarships widely again this year and hopes that at least 40 students again will attend AAPB's meeting under its sponsorship.

FERB also will offer research support to student projects, of up to \$1,500 for each project. Unlike travel scholarships, however, research support will not be given to all applicants proposing biofeedback research. The student must complete an application form, in which they provide some details about their proposal (research question, measures, subject recruitment, hypotheses, statistics, etc.). Research support will be limited, based on the quality of the submissions and the amount of funding available. Up to two research awards will be earmarked for projects involving both biofeedback and neurofeedback, in collaboration with the International Society for Neurofeedback & Research foundation.

FERB Needs Your Support

To apply for the AAPB travel scholarship or research grant, students should visit the AAPB Web site at www.aapb.org, under AAPB Information in the left navigation bar, go to FERB, then click on Grants and Scholarships. Complete the appropriate form and follow the submission instructions.

To support their continued work, FERB requests financial support from the AAPB membership, as a sound investment in the future of the biofeedback field, and hopes that all members will contribute. All members of the FERB board are AAPB members and have contributed at the student sponsor level or higher. Contributors at the following levels will be acknowledged in the 2014 program brochure for the Savannah meeting:

- \$50–\$299, FERB contributor
- \$300–\$499, FERB student sponsor
- \$500–\$1,000, FERB patron
- \$1,000+, FERB benefactor

To make a contribution, please send a check made out to FERB, and send it to FERB, c/o AAPB, 10200 West 44th Avenue, Suite 304, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033.



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