

### *Background*

One of the benefits the Society provides to its members is support for conferences and meetings in the area of biological inorganic chemistry. We are especially interested in the importance of such support in encouraging participation by early-career scientists and in broadening participation geographically. As an international society, we have an obligation to provide balanced support of conferences in all areas of the world.

The Society will only consider support of conferences that are organized by not-for-profit groups or organizations. The policies in this document are meant to provide guidance to those wishing to request Society support. The Society is open to any proposal for partnerships that achieve the Society's general goals. It is the sole purview of the Society to decide whether to provide support for a conference, based on evaluation of the impact of the conference on Society membership.

### *Types of Support*

The Society enters into two basic types of arrangements with conference organizers. The first consists of a simple grant provided by the Society to the conference organizers. This may or may not be targeted to a specific purpose (e.g., support for a particular group of participants, a particular activity, etc.).

The second arrangement is considered an effective partnership between the Society and the conference organizers. This is most common for international "BIC" meetings, especially ICBIC, but perhaps also EuroBIC, AsBIC, etc., and usually involves discounted registration for SBIC members in exchange for Society support.

### *Level of Support*

For straight conference grants, a good rule of thumb is that the Society is willing to provide a grant based on expected attendance at approximately the level of US\$5 - \$10 or equivalent per attendee. The actual level will depend on the Society's evaluation of the breadth of impact of the conference on Society membership.

For partnership arrangements, discounts to registration fees should be designed to encourage registrants to become Society members; a mechanism must be provided for registrants to become Society members during the registration process. The Society will provide support at a level equivalent to 50% of the expected total discount based on a reasonable estimate of Society membership attendance. Conference organizers are strongly encouraged to design conference budgets based on *most* registrants paying the Society-discounted registration. Non-Society registrants are considered to be paying *additional* registration fees (a "penalty" for *not* being a Society member).

### *Criteria/Requirements*

Any request for support must describe the type of support being requested and propose a level of support. Conference organizers may request targeted support (e.g., for early-career participants, for poster prizes, for specific programs within the conference). Depending on how such requests fit with Society emphases, such targeting may influence the Society's decision.

Partnership requests must specify what discount will be offered, how it will be advertised, how Society membership will be encouraged (including the mechanism for application associated with conference registration), and provide the basis of the estimate of how many registrants will take advantage of the discount.

Conference organizers must agree to (1) return any net proceeds from the conference to the Society pro-rated based on the Society's share of total external support; (2) provide a post-conference one-page report of the use of the Society's funds. Any future support for a conference depends on the receipt of this report.