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NPG and ASCB support scientists with young families

PRESS RELEASE FROM NATURE PUBLISHING GROUP
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Starting in 2011, a grant from Nature Publishing Group (NPG) will underwrite childcare expenses for researchers attending the American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) Annual Meetings. NPG is pleased to announce its five-year support for the ASCB Childcare Awards.

The NPG-funded childcare grants can be used by scientist-parents to cover costs related to participating in the ASCB Annual Meeting, such as airfare, hotels, meals, and fees for children and care providers. NPG's $60,000 contribution is expected to help with the childcare costs for 20 scientists a year from 2011 to 2015.

"The ASCB's Annual Meeting is pre-eminent in the field of cell biology, and yet many skip the meeting because they can't afford the extra childcare expense to participate," notes Sandy Masur, ASCB Women in Cell Biology (WICB) Committee Chair. WICB will help administer the awards. "This grant from NPG can make participation possible."

"The expense and logistics of childcare during professional meetings too often sideline many young women at a critical moment in their research careers," says ASCB Executive Director Joan Goldberg. The ASCB Childcare Awards help free scientist-parents to present their own work, hear cutting-edge talks, and network with peers at what is the world's largest yearly gathering of research cell biologists.

Steven Inchcoombe, Managing Director at NPG, said: "We are delighted to be contributing towards this important initiative that supports ambitious scientists with younger families. NPG promotes flexible working conditions for its employees with families and this program reflects the values of our organization."

NPG publishes high impact scientific and medical journals including *Nature Cell Biology*, *Nature*, and *Nature Reviews Molecular Cell Biology*. Sowmya Swaminathan, Chief Editor of *Nature Cell Biology* says: "This meeting serves as a catalyst for launching young researchers onto the international stage and then offering significant opportunities for collaboration, recognition, and scientific leadership. I am very pleased that NPG can support ASCB's important initiative to maximize participation."

Applications for the 2011 grant must be submitted by 1 September 2011 and successful scientists will be required to present a talk and/or poster at the Meeting.

The ASCB Childcare Awards are part of NPG's philanthropic program, which supports the career development of scientists and the communication of science. One such program provides grants for researchers from developing countries to attend Gordon Research Conferences. The annual **Nature Awards for Mentoring** in Science, established in 2005, recognize and celebrate outstanding scientific mentorship.

For more information and to apply for a grant see: **www.ascb.org/meetings/WICB/wicbgrant.cfm**

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About the ASCB

The American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) was founded in 1960 to bring the varied facets of cell biology together. The ASCB is an inclusive, international community of biologists studying the cell, the fundamental unit of life. ASCB is dedicated to advancing scientific discovery, advocating sound research policies, improving education, promoting professional development, and increasing diversity in the scientific workforce. Membership in the ASCB is open to all scientists with a Ph.D. or other professional degree who have education or research experience in cell biology or an allied field, as well as to students. Since its founding, the ASCB has grown to approximately 10,000 members. Members are located throughout the United States (75%) and in 65 other countries (25%).

About Nature Publishing Group (NPG)

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