

The IATDMCT YS Committee

From Initiative to Institution

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From Initiative ...

Unlike the other committees of IATDMCT, the Young Scientist Committee (YSC) is not dedicated to advances in a particular area of TDM or CT, and serves no specific administrative purpose. It is rather dedicated to the promotion of the interests and activities of IATDMCT's young members, with respect to their scientific work as well as their status within the association. This serves the goal of attracting new members among scientists in the early stages of their careers and integrating them in the association's activities, thus ultimately ensuring the future of IATDMCT.

Upon an initiative of then President Elect Hans H. Maurer and Frank T. Peters, the formation of a YSC was approved during the IATDMCT meeting in Louisville 2005. Frank T. Peters was appointed the first chairman of the new committee and was soon joined by Denise A. McKeown, who volunteered to become secretary. The establishment of the YSC was announced to the membership of IATDMCT and related scientific societies. A number of proposals were made how the interests and activities of young scientists within IATDMCT could be improved including; reduced membership and congress fees, enhanced contact opportunities for young members and first-time congress attendees, and visible contributions of young members to the association's activities, e.g. by publishing articles in the Compass. During the inaugural IATDMCT meeting in Nice 2007, further young scientists joined the committee and the committee functions of website co-ordinator, mailing list co-ordinator, and regular committee members were filled. "Meet the YSC" visit the YS Corner of the IATDMCT website <http://www.iatdmct.org/>.

... to Institution

Thanks to the support of Presidents David W. Holt, Hans H. Maurer, Sander Vinks and their respective Executive Boards, the YSC has meanwhile become an already well established institution within IATDMCT. Its initial proposals have been approved and put into practice. There are now several membership categories for younger members with reduced membership rates, namely 'Junior Member (30 years & under)' for just a quarter of the regular membership fees as well as 'Developing Country Young Scientist' (31-40

years) and 'Developing Country Junior Member', both of which are free. Moreover, there is a 'Young Scientist/Student (31-40 years)' category with full fees; these members will be eligible to participate in young scientist events not open to older 'Full Members'. In addition to this, there have been reduced congress fees for young scientists at the last two IATDMCT meetings.

Young scientist workshops and lunches were held at the beginning of the IATDMCT meetings in Nice 2007 and Montreal 2009. During which YS, especially first-time attendees, could meet their peers in a relaxed atmosphere opening contact opportunities not only between participants but also between the fields of TDM and CT. This successful concept will also be followed during next year's meeting in Stuttgart. The young scientist corner on the IATDMCT website and the young scientist own mailing list are further options for exchanging information. The young scientists have also contributed regularly to the association's activities including a number of articles for the IATDMCT Compass. YSC secretary and vice chair DeniseA. McKeown also serves as associate editor of this bulletin. During the congresses in Nice and Montreal numerous oral and poster presentations were made by young scientist underlining that their work is valuable to the fields of TDM and CT. The latest duty of the IATDMCT YSC is the selection of the winners for the Young Scientist prizes for best oral presentation and best poster presented by a young scientist during the biennial meetings. These prizes were awarded for the first time during the Montreal meeting.

The quality of the young scientist presentations were impressive and by no means inferior to the work presented by more established scientists. This was further highlighted when two of the oral presentation awards for the whole meeting were also awarded to young scientists. All this shows that the young scientist initiative of 2005 has been a great success and the YSC has become an institution within IATDMCT. Knowing that this would not have been possible without all the support we have received over the last five years, we would like to take the opportunity and in the name of all IATDMCT young scientists thank all those who encouraged us and supported our cause over the past years!