A proposed modification of Disciplinary Categories and how we use them at the ASB

Our ASB founders believed in fostering interdisciplinary cooperation in the Society, and towards that end, ASB bylaws state that the President/President-Elect and three members of the Nominating Committee (including Past-President) must be from different disciplines. Historically, there has been an unequal distribution of our membership among the current disciplines (Biological Sciences – 5%, Engineering and Applied Physics – 47%, Ergonomics and Human Factors – 4%, Exercise and Sports Sciences – 25%, Health Sciences – 19%). We propose to address such imbalance by modifying these categories to ensure fair and interdisciplinary representation at the level of ASB leadership selection during the nominating process.

We propose having all ASB members answer two questions annually during membership renewal. The 1st question ("type of work") broadly classifies the nature of work in which the member focuses. Importantly, the question explicitly defines the "type of work" to help inform responses, which is not the case for the current Disciplinary Category question. The 2nd question ("areas of work") allows the member to select multiple topics within biomechanics that relate to their work. To ensure interdisciplinary representation, we propose requiring each nominating member to come from distinct type-of-work category selections and that the President and President-Elect come from distinct type-of-work category selections. If this is not feasible for a specific year, we would recommend that leadership or nominating members do not highly overlap in areas of work. Responses to the 2nd question will also be entered into a database (if the member opts in during renewal), which will be searchable in the ASB Directory, allowing members to identify colleagues who share similar interests.

1. Which of the following best describes the type of work you do in biomechanics? **(Rank top two choices)**
   - Basic Research
     - Scientific study directed towards greater knowledge or understanding of the fundamental aspects of phenomena and of observable facts without specific applications towards processes or products in mind. Examples may include: comparative biomechanics or basic muscle mechanics research.
   - Preclinical Research
     - Research that connects basic science with clinical practice. During this stage, scientists develop model interventions and characterize healthy or pathological systems to further understand the basis of a disease or disorder and find ways to treat it. Examples may include: development of assistive technologies or many studies that include only healthy young adults.
   - Clinical Research
     - Research with human subjects that are defined as clinical trials, epidemiological, behavioral, or observational studies, or outcomes research and health services research. Examples may include: Clinical interventions (e.g. pre- and post- surgery) or rehabilitation research.
   - Science-related, non-research focus
     - Includes work related to biomechanics but not involved in the research. Examples may include: teaching of biomechanics/biomechanics-related sciences (and pedagogy), scientific communication, science policy, sales/marketing, product development manufacturing, outreach, etc.

2. What are your primary areas of work in biomechanics? **(Select all that apply)**
   - Aging
   - Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning
   - Assistive Technology & Robotics
   - Exercise & Sports
   - Balance & Posture
   - Biology & Biophysics
   - Comparative Biomechanics
   - Education & Outreach
   - Ergonomics & Occupational Biomechanics
   - Footwear
   - Imaging
   - Injury & Trauma
   - Locomotion & Movement Disorders
   - Lower Limb
   - Modeling & Simulation
   - Motion Analysis
   - Muscle
   - Neuroscience & Motor Control
   - Orthopaedics
   - Pediatrics
   - Physical Therapy
   - Prosthetics & Orthotics
   - Rehabilitation
   - Running
   - Tissue Biomechanics & Engineering
   - Trunk & Spine
   - Science Policy/Communication
   - Upper Limb
   - Wearable Sensors
   - Women's Health
   - Others – Please specify:

Proposed by the ASB Membership Committee – Disciplinary Category Sub-committee (Anahid Ebrahimi, Jean McCrory, Noah Rosenblatt, Ke Song, Mathew Sunil Varre). Last updated on: November 2, 2023