



ABLE : Association for Biology Laboratory Education

DISCOVER
New Procedures
SOLVE
Laboratory problems
SHARE
Reliable methods
INTERACT
with biologists active in
laboratory
education

The focus of ABLE is to improve the undergraduate biology laboratory experience by promoting the development and dissemination of interesting, innovative, and *reliable* laboratory exercises.

<http://www.ableweb.org>

ABLE is a partner in BEN (www.biosciEdnet.org/portal), an electronic portal to reviewed resources covering many aspects of biology. We are also now a proud member of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (<http://www.aibs.org>).



American Institute
of Biological Sciences

GOALS of ABLE

- Facilitate communication among biologists involved in college laboratory instruction
- Developing interesting and proven laboratory activities
- Identifying reliable suppliers of biological materials
- Maintaining and managing living laboratory organisms
- Training assistants for laboratory teaching
- Addressing animal use issues
- Implementing safe laboratory practices
- Hosting an annual conference (see below)
- Publishing a searchable CD of proceedings of Tested Laboratory Exercises
- Hosting a website complete with the proceedings, an on-line newsletter, *Labstracts*, and other resources

ANNUAL WORKSHOP/ CONFERENCE

- Every June for three days
- Hosted at major university or college in the US or Canada
- Attended by approximately 150 educators
- Attend up to four three-hour hands-on lab workshops
- Shorter mini-workshops available
- Poster session of favorite lab exercise or programs
- Opportunities for ongoing communication in pedagogy
- Camaraderie of active biologists
- Conference registration fee includes all materials in workshops
- Pre-and post conference field trips available

MORE ABOUT ABLE

- Founded in 1979
- Waiver of Conference Registration Grants are available based on financial need
 - Laboratory Teaching Initiative Grants (\$2000) are available for development of innovative lab teaching materials
 - We are a small, close-knit community priding ourselves in active learning and collaboration

PUBLICATIONS and WEBSITE

- Electronic proceedings “Tested Studies for Laboratory Teaching” available
- Chapters include all information needed to implement the lab exercises including:
 - Student outline
 - Preparatory notes for instructors
 - Where to purchase materials
- Website Includes
 - Forms for membership (\$35/regular, \$15/student)
 - Workshop/conference registration
 - Grant applications
 - Archived searchable proceedings volumes
 - The newsletter “Labstracts”



EXAMPLES OF WORKSHOPS FROM RECENT CONFERENCES



- DNA Microarrays: Background, Interactive Databases, and Hands-on Data Analysis
- Using Ant and Butterfly Pollination to Involve Students in Scientific Exploration
- Diversity of Photosynthetic Pigments
- Invertebrate 'LocOlympics': Investigation and Inquiry into Invertebrate Locomotion and Biomechanics
- Expression Vectors Used in Project-Oriented Teaching Laboratories

Annual membership (from July 1st of the current year to June 30) is **\$35 US** (\$15 for graduate students) and entitles you to listserv membership, private access to the latest proceedings volume, pre-print access to our upcoming proceedings volume, *Labstracts* newsletter notification, and reduced registration at the annual workshop/conference.

Join by completing the form on our website (credit cards accepted) at <http://www.ableweb.org>. Contact our membership chair with questions:

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