ARO COMMITTEE UPDATES

Committee Name: spARO

1. **Our committee is currently working on the following:**
    a. Ongoing Initiatives
        i. JARO Research News – Trainees volunteer to write an editorial style highlight of an article recently published in JARO which is published on the JARO and ARO webpages
        ii. Mentorship Program - Connect spARO mentees with individually matched mentors from the greater ARO community
        iii. ARO/spARO Virtual Learning Taskforce - Initiated by outgoing ARO President, Ruth Litovsky, to establish ARO sponsored virtual learning and development events
    b. MidWinter Meeting Events
        i. spARO presents Kathy Buckley – A quick update from spARO followed by entertainment by "America's Favorite Hearing Impaired Comedienne"
        ii. Diversity & Minority Affairs Roundtable - Structured format workshop to facilitate discussion on topics affecting minority ARO members such as dealing with harassment and microagressions, and bystander training
        iii. Women & Allies Roundtable - Structured format workshop to facilitate discussion on topics specific to women, women-identified and allies in science
        iv. Science Communication Workshop - This workshop is designed to raise awareness of good strategies for communicating science to other scientists
        v. Mentoring Sessions – Small, moderated group discussion sessions on targeted topics of interest led by 2-3 invited faculty/clinical/industry leaders
2. **Our top five action items for the previous year were:**
    a. Provide members with a greater breadth of content and opportunities to improve their training experience
    b. Increasing our social media presence
    c. Improving international representation within spARO
    d. Implementing year round activities to engage our member base outside of the MWM
    e. Adapting existing spARO events to the 'virtual' format
3. **Outcomes for 2020**
    a. Successfully adapt spARO MWM events to the virtual space
    b. Maintain constant engagement with members year round
    c. Improve visibility of spARO and ARO both locally and internationally