**Research Administration Committee (RAC)**
Members First Newsletter July 2010

Every five years RAC is asked to assemble a Research Advisory Panel (RAP) to develop a Strategic Plan for ASHRAE Research. The development cycle typically begins 3 years before the strategic plan is to be delivered. The latest cycle ended at the ASHRAE summer meeting in Albuquerque and a final ASHRAE Research Strategic Plan for 2010-2018 was delivered to RAC and approved by Technology Council. This was a major effort that was led by Dr. Jeffrey Spitler of Oklahoma State University with contributions from 11 other members having a wide range of technical expertise while representing companies, government organizations/laboratories, and universities. The purpose of the plan is to identify key HVAC&R research needs and to provide that information to ASHRAE members and Technical Committees as guidance while they develop research projects and to the Research Administration Committee as it approves and funds research proposals. The Research Plan is not meant to take the initiative for research design from the technical committees within ASHRAE, but rather to use input from ASHRAE members to identify strategic research needs that are appropriate for many committees to collaborate on, that may require larger budgets, and for which additional outside funding may be available to supplement ASHRAE's budget.

The work of the panel was organized into the following activities:

- Review of 2005-2018 Research Strategic Plan
- Environmental Scan
- Membership Survey Goal topic formulation and assignment of goal champions
- Formation and work of ad hoc goal topic committees
- Review and editing cycles

The environmental scan involved review of research planning documents produced by other societies such as USGBC and government agencies such as the Department of Energy and the California Energy Commission. The member survey was web based. It was completed by 311 people and partially completed by an additional 78 for a total of 389 respondents. Thirty-five percent of those who stated their current job function are in design/application, 24% in research, 11% in management and the rest in a range of other positions. The country in which the survey was completed was available for 366 respondents and included 287 from the U.S. and 79 from other countries. Three quarters of respondents identified energy/ sustainability as the most important issue. In terms of allocation of ASHRAE funds for research, on average respondents thought that Energy and Resources should receive the largest share of funds, 33%, about double that for each of the other categories of Indoor Environmental Quality (16%), Tools and Applications (15%), Equipment, Components and Materials (15%), and Education and Outreach (15%).

The member survey results were instrumental in establishing eleven strategic goals that address technical challenges that limit our ability to maximize building performance, energy efficiency, and indoor environmental quality. The draft RSP was sent out for public comment in early January of 2010. About 40 comments were received and distributed to RAP members according to the relevant goal topic. This process resulted in revised goals that were included in a final RSP that is available at http://www.ashrae.org/technology/page/39.

The RSP was developed because we are trying to make sure that members' research contributions are used effectively and efficiently. Input and feedback from the membership was essential in developing and revising the RSP. As we move forward, research priorities can change. As a result, RAC will continue to solicit members' input to adapt the RSP to changing realities