Disciplinary Conferences: Make Them Work for You
A few tips from the ADAPP–ADVANCE Team.

Involvement in your professional society or disciplinary conferences is crucial for early career faculty. The individuals you meet at these events will be the same individuals reviewing your manuscripts, grants and possibly writing letters for your tenure packet.

Here are a few tips:

- There are various levels of involvement, start simple and move up to the more involved and complex as you become connected within your society.

- As you become involved, seek advice from a mentor in your area, making sure that the activities you engage in will be beneficial, and do not require more time than appropriate for your level.
  - Attend your disciplinary conferences; seek advice from individuals in your research area about the various conferences. Select approximately two each year to attend – preferably the same two so you can begin to develop a network of colleagues.
  - When at the conference, do NOT sit in your room. Go to the events, mingle as the social activities and find a group of people to go out to dinner with afterwards.
  - Volunteer to be an abstract reviewer. Do a good job, and get the reviews back in time. People notice.
  - After serving as a reviewer, ask to serve as a session chair. Review the abstracts ahead of the conference, meet the speakers, and have questions ready in advance. If given the opportunity to select a co-chair, ask someone you know of, but do not know well – use this as a chance to broaden your network.
  - Once you have developed a small network of individuals at a disciplinary conference, run for a position on the executive board.
  - Invite individuals from your conference to give a lecture at your University.
  - Avoid alcohol. It takes years to build a reputation, and only seconds to destroy one.

“ADAPP-ADVANCE TIP” topics. For more information, please visit the ADAPP-ADVANCE Project website, www.adapp-advance.msu.edu, or contact us via e-mail: adapp@msu.edu. ADAPP-ADVANCE is supported, in part, by the National Science Foundation (Award 0811205). Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.