

## **The Next Generation: Young Professionals and the AAPG Petroleum Structure and Geomechanics Division**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The next generation of professional geoscientists faces different challenges than those that faced senior geoscientists in their early careers. Combining techniques from structural geology to reservoir characterization and tectonic processes, employing unprecedented volume and quality of data, and utilizing sophisticated and ever-evolving computational tools all need to be part of the skill set of present-day young professionals. With entry into the oil and gas industry generally comes pressure to change from being a specialist to a generalist, and individuals interests in technical communities within the AAPG also change as members work to expand their knowledge and skills. To investigate how this new generation of geoscientists views the AAPG and the Petroleum Structure and Geomechanics Division (PSGD), we conducted an international survey of students and young professionals. Besides understanding the needs of the young professionals, the objective here was to inform the older generations of AAPG PSGD members of the vision of our younger members regarding the AAPG and its divisions. To better serve the interests of the younger generation, meet the needs of an evolving energy industry, capture and transfer knowledge from experienced professionals to the emerging workforce, and to encourage the next generation of petroleum geologists to become invested in associations such as the AAPG, we need to understand what young professional members expect from the AAPG and the divisions and how they think it can improve.