

# **in vitro toxicology**

## **In Vitro Specialty Section Newsletter**

Summer Edition August 15, 2006

### **Message from the Past President**

The past year has been a busy one for the officers of the In Vitro Specialty Section. I wish first to thank all the officers and the membership for the support provided the specialty section over the past year. I especially wish to thank those who submitted their names as nominees for the various offices. In prior years this had been an exceedingly difficult task. Few individuals volunteered their names. This year we were pleasantly surprised. I hope that signals a new-found interest in the activities of the specialty section that will continue this year and in years to follow.

What did we do last year? Well, last year for the first time we were asked by the Society to convene a panel to review grants submitted to Colgate-Palmolive in *in vitro* toxicology. Dan Acosta chaired the Panel and they did an outstanding job. Many more grants were received than anticipated which caused the Panel to deliberate more extensively than planned. The Specialty Section sponsored/cosponsored the following workshops and symposia at the annual meeting: 1) the Biological Matrix of in Vitro systems and their use in toxicology (sym.), 2) Screening Methods for Assessing Skin Toxicity of Nanomaterials (wkshp.) 3) Role of Mitochondria in toxic oxidative stress (sym.) 4) Dendritic Cells and Skin Sensitization: Biological Roles and Uses in Hazard Identification (wkshp.) 5) Alternative model organisms for analysis of developmental and molecular toxicology (sym.). The annual reception was very well attended and the mugs with a logo of the Specialty Section designed by Bob Kuester and Rene Gardner were a topic of extensive conversation among those in attendance. The mugs were intended primarily to encourage students to join the Study Section or attend the reception. We also revised the By-laws to accommodate election of student and V. student representatives to the Student Advisory Committee, and to provide a time-frame by which the nominating committee initiates (solicits nominees), and completes the voting process. We presented six student poster awards and thank Drs. K Squibb, G. DeGeorge and J. Davila who served on the review committee.

Thanks are also extended to the following organizations, MB Research Laboratories, MPI Research Inc., Pfizer and Taylor and Francis, who saw fit to assist the Specialty Section by contributing support for its activities and/or poster awards for our students.

Overall it was a very productive year and I appreciate the opportunity to have served as your President.

**Sidney Green, Ph.D. Fellow ATS**  
IVSS Past-President

**46<sup>th</sup> Annual SOT Meeting    Charolette, NC**  
**March 25 – 29, 2007**

## Section Goals

To serve as the focal point for interaction of members of the Society of Toxicology interested in "IN VITRO" toxicology.

To develop, propose, and conduct programs and educational activities that emphasize the latest developments in "IN VITRO" toxicology.

To relate those developments to the activities of the Society of toxicology and to stimulate new growth in "IN VITRO" toxicology as it relates to the science of toxicology.

To act as a resource to the Society in the area of the Section's interest.

IN VITRO SPECIALTY SECTION



## A Message from the President

Greetings to All,

Over the last 12 years, the In Vitro Specialty Section has grown and created an impressive network of scientists who have made incredible advancements and contributions to *in vitro* toxicology. This year the focus will be on laying the groundwork to build a more structured IVSS beginning with the appointment of necessary committees to address issues such as membership, communications, and the establishment of an Advisory Panel of Past-Presidents to help achieve IVSS long-term goals.

Charlotte, NC and the 2007 SOT Annual Meeting may seem far away, but the months will pass quickly and plans to increase IVSS membership and develop educational platforms to advance the use and understanding of *in vitro* toxicology testing methods are no small undertaking.

The IVSS Executive Committee needs input regarding programs for future Society of Toxicology Meetings. Sponsorship of workshops, continuing education programs, and symposia are important to advancing *in vitro* techniques and allowing IVSS members to actively participate in IVSS and SOT Annual Meetings. It has been asked before, and I would like to renew that request by asking **every** member to consider participating by nominating topics and/or organizing a program.

The future of the IVSS is bright and promising as new *in vitro* test methods are developed and validated, and government and industry leaders see the advantages of *in vitro* sciences. IVSS members can help by serving on committees, participating in review sections and actively advocating the funding and development of *in vitro* methods and technologies.

Respectfully Yours,  
**George L. DeGeorge, Ph.D., DABT**  
IVSS President

## IN VITRO SPECIALTY SECTION



### 2007 Colgate-Palmolive Post-Doctoral Fellowship in In Vitro Toxicology

The *In Vitro* Specialty Section (IVSS) was founded in 1994 by members with expertise in the application of *in vitro* techniques to address problems of cellular toxicity, with a special emphasis on product safety evaluation.

IVSS areas of interest include basic cellular processes involved in the induction of adverse outcomes, of specific organs and the whole animal, and the development of simple to complex cellular and subcellular systems to predict toxicity *in vivo* and for risk assessment purposes.

Other significant topics of interest include *in vitro* test validation, all aspects of test development, and test method(s) acceptance for individual or regulatory purposes. The Section holds regular meetings at the Annual SOT meetings to discuss these topics.

In addition, the Section sponsors three student awards for Best Poster/Presentation/Abstract on subjects related to *in vitro* toxicology, as well as continuing education courses and symposia at annual meetings.

Currently elected officials consist of the President, Vice-President, Vice President-Elect, Councilors, and the Secretary/Treasurer.

President: George DeGeorge  
Vice President: Daniel C. Kemp  
Vice President-Elect: Frank A. Barile  
Secretary/Treasurer: Sue M. Ford

Councilors  
Mark E. Blazka  
Vincent A. Murphy

Past President: Sidney Green  
Student Representative: Renee M. Gardner  
Vice Student Representative: Prajakta S. Palkar

Consistent with their long-standing commitment to the advancement of non-animal product safety method development, the Colgate-Palmolive Company sponsors this Post-Doctoral Award through the Society of Toxicology, directed toward the use of alternative methods in Toxicology.

The award is for one year with an award for an additional year based on agreements between Colgate-Palmolive and the post-doctoral fellow.

The award includes an annual stipend of \$27,000 and additional funds that may be used for supplies, equipment or research-related travel for a maximum award of \$38,500 per year.

Information about the Colgate-Palmolive Post-Doctoral Fellowship, eligibility and application process is available online at: [www.toxicology.org](http://www.toxicology.org). Deadline for application submission is October 9, 2006.

### Colgate-Palmolive Grants for Alternative Research

The Colgate-Palmolive Grants for Alternative Research promotes the development, refinement and validation of animal alternative methods that facilitate the safety assessment of new chemicals and formulations.

Applications are currently being accepted. The maximum award per year is \$40,000. An expert panel from the IVSS will recommend a prioritized list of applicants for funding, with the final awards designated by the SOT awards committee.

Application instructions and forms are available online in the "Awards and Fellowships" section of [www.toxicology.org](http://www.toxicology.org). Deadline for application submission is October 9, 2006.

## Call for Nominations of Executive Committee Officers

Nominations for new Executive Committee Officers are now being accepted. Support your IVSS by nominating an individual whom you think may be able to serve our needs and goals as an officer of the In Vitro Specialty Section. Self-nominations may also be sent. Nominations will be collected and a ballot will be sent to IVSS members. New officers will be sworn in and take office next May. Please send your nominations to George DeGeorge, IVSS President at [degeorge@mbresearch.com](mailto:degeorge@mbresearch.com).



### A Call to Arms....I Want You...to serve on a Committee...

*“Ask not what your Specialty Section can do for you....  
but what you can do for your Specialty Section.”*

A call for volunteers was put out at the Annual Meeting in San Diego. IVSS Members are still needed to serve on several committees. As a part of a committee, participants would help shape the IVSS by suggesting recruitment plans for new members, spreading the word about the IVSS with the Communications Committee and developing important programs with the Education Committee.

## Developing Tomorrow's *In Vitro* Toxicology Leaders

Students are a relatively untapped population, but are a critical component of IVSS. Many student members of SOT do not realize that their membership entitles them to a specialty section membership at no additional cost. Student members are needed to expand exposure of the IVSS and develop the leaders of tomorrow's toxicology laboratories.

Inviting students to join the IVSS and encouraging them to participate in poster sessions, educational programs and the IVSS Student/Post-Doc Awards may help form a lasting bond between the students and the IVSS.

## IVSS Student/Post-Doc Awards

Every year the IVSS recognizes outstanding student scientists for their work in the *In Vitro* Toxicology. The interests of this specialty section include studies of basic mechanisms of cell injury and cell death for target organ systems and the development of *in vitro* test systems for predictive toxicology and risk assessments. Validation of *in vitro* test systems and acceptance of these approaches for regulatory processes are also major goals. In addition, another IVSS goal is to encourage the use of sound science-based *in vitro* toxicology test systems as rapid, cost-effective alternatives to animal testing.

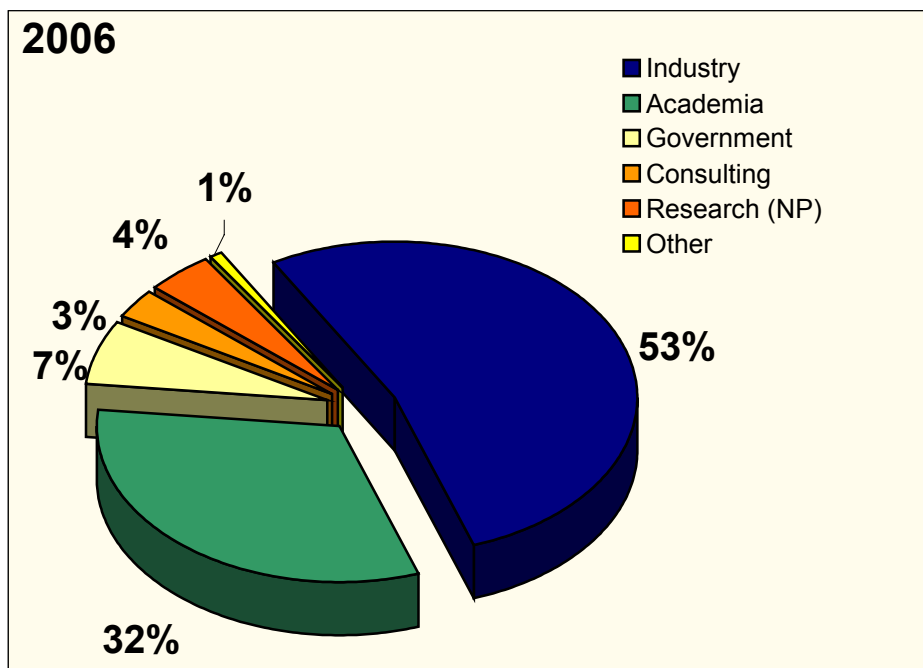
### REQUIREMENTS:

- Provide a letter of support from an advisor
- Poster must be presented at the annual SOT meeting.

The winners receive awards up to \$500; that is for either graduate students or post-doctoral fellows, which will be announced at the IVSS Annual Meeting in Charlotte.



## In Vitro Specialty Section Membership Stats



As of July 31, 2006, the *In Vitro* Specialty Section boasts 134 members, working mainly in the areas of industry (pharmaceutical, consumer products, contract research, etc.) or academia.

The membership rolls have shown approximately 25% increase by the end of each year since 2003, but the number of student members has been holding relatively steady.

We would like to encourage more students to join the IVSS – **did you know that the first Specialty Section membership is free with an SOT student membership?** Sponsorship of IVSS student memberships may also be possible. If you would like to sponsor a student, or you are a student in need of sponsorship, please contact Dan Kemp, IVSS Vice President.

	Full	Assoc	Student	Total
July 2006	95	23	16	134
Dec 2005	100	24	21	145
Dec 2004	74	20	14	108
Dec 2003	66	20	0	86

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

SOT Abstracts Submission Deadline **October 3, 2006**

Colgate-Palmolive Post-Doctoral Fellowship in *In Vitro* Toxicology Submission Deadline **October 9, 2006**

Colgate-Palmolive Grants for Alternative Research Submission Deadline **October 9, 2006**

*In Vitro* Specialty Section Student Award Submission Deadline **October 15, 2006**

## Website Development News



With the assistance of Robert Dunn (Web Task Force Chairman), the IVSS will soon be bringing our website up-to-date, reflecting the current goals of IVSS, news/events, advancements of *in vitro* techniques and a fresh new look.

Keep your eye out for the launch of what we hope will be an informative portal to the IVSS.

A draft version of the new website can be seen at:

<http://www.mbresearchlabs.com/ivss/>

To **volunteer or submit suggestions**, please send an email to me at [degeorge@mbresearch.com](mailto:degeorge@mbresearch.com).

## New IVSS Logo

A special “**Thank You**” goes out to Dr. JeanClare Seagrave of the Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute for designing our new logo. It is very representative of ***In Vitro Toxicology***, showing the relationship between current technology and the past, while symbolizing the importance of the results found by using new techniques.

At the last annual meeting, coffee mugs were given out that were imprinted with the NEW IVSS logo (which we are sure will become highly sought after collectors’ item!)

# IN VITRO SPECIALTY SECTION

