

# MECHANISMS

A Specialty Section of the Society of Toxicology

Volume 29 Number 1

Fall 2011



## *A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT*

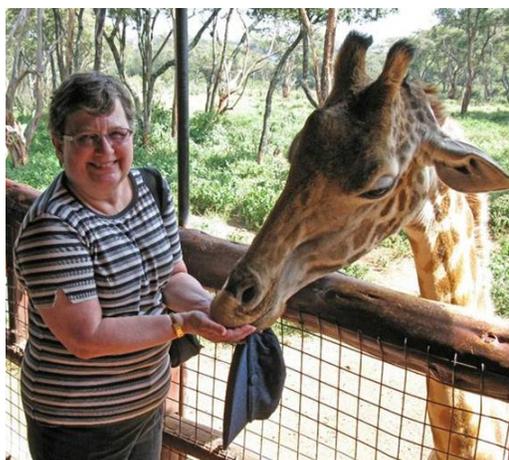
*Joan B. Tarloff*

Every evening as I leave my office, I see a photo of my goof-ball friends taken at last year's SOT 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party. These are people I see once a year at a meeting but I've been seeing them for at least the last 20 years. These are friends I've made through SOT and Mechanisms and they will be my friends forever.

If I need a sounding board for a stalled grant, I've got it. If I need examples of course content, all I need to do is ask. If I can't troubleshoot a protocol and need some advice, I can call on one or more of these people and be confident that I'll be able to solve my problem.

I work at a very small private university. My connections through SOT and Mechanisms are my ways of broadening my horizon and making my universe larger. A marvelous feature of Mechanisms is that everyone is friendly and approachable. Just look at our reception. People are mixing and schmoozing, laughing and catching up with past acquaintances, introducing current graduate students and post-docs to former students and colleagues. It's a wonderful way to start networking and one-stop shopping for keeping current.

Networking is how people get tapped to participate. You get asked to serve on an editorial board because someone knows you're a good writer and critic, you produce results on time and on budget. Your grant gets funded because someone on



the study section could put an honest and trustworthy face to a faceless grant; someone was willing to be an advocate. You get that better job because someone on the search committee thought you were a solid citizen.

Mechanisms is probably the oldest and certainly one of the largest SOT specialty sections. Our number one priority is bringing graduate students and post-doctoral scientists into our ranks. Mechanisms has some of the oldest and newest awards. The Carl C. Smith award was one of the first ever endowed by SOT. It's one of the richest prizes as well and has a proud and distinguished history. Several SOT past-presidents and councilors are among the ranks of Carl C. Smith awardees. The Gabriel Plaa award is one of the newest and honors an SOT past-president and exemplary educator. Its history has yet to be written, and I'm sure it will be illustrious.

Mechanisms has been important to me throughout my career and has introduced me to people and opportunities that I would not have had otherwise. I urge all SOT members to affiliate with at least one specialty section. Go to the meetings yearly for a few years and see how many faces you recognized. You'll be surprised at how easy it is!



## ***A WORD FROM YOUR STUDENT COUNCILOR***

*Rebecca Smathers*

Becoming a student councilor for Mechanisms SS has been a very rewarding experience. New as of this year, all student representatives from a selected Regional Chapter (RC), Specialty Section (SS), or Special Interest Group (SIG) have also been compiled into the Graduate Student Leadership Committee (GSLC). This new entity has been created to facilitate scientific and professional development of graduate students through SOT activities like networking and scientific programs. Subcommittees within GSLC (Communications and Professional Development) will be working toward developing e-mail, ToXchange threads, newsletters, developing student-oriented webinars and career development programs all directed toward informing and increasing the student membership. I am actively participating on the Programming Subcommittee within the GSLC and will be involved in organizing the annual Student/Post-Doctoral Mixer in San Francisco for the 2012 SOT meeting. I am looking forward to meeting many of the attendees at these events! I will also be involved with



mentoring activities such as "Chat with an Expert". As a whole, the student leadership provides important direction through representation on SOT committees and alignment of their programs with SOT national strategic objectives and representation on SOT committees. Please visit the GSLC website for more information on how to become more involved!

<https://www.toxicology.org/ai/spd/studentservices.asp>

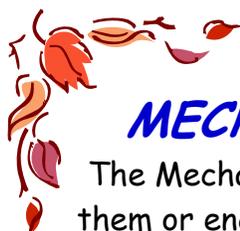


## ***A NOTE FROM YOUR POSTDOCTORAL COUNCILOR***

*Tamara Tal*

Last week was National Postdoc Appreciation Week. If you missed it, it's not too late to recognize the hard work and efforts of your postdoctoral peers or trainees. To mark the occasion, SOT posted a series of blog entries on ToXchange that highlight the joys and challenges of navigating a successful postdoctoral position. Check out my post "Take the teaching plunge" there.

<http://toxchange.toxicology.org/p/bl/bl/blogid=4>



## ***MECHANISMS SS AWARD NEWS***

The Mechanisms SS gives a number of awards to trainees. Please apply for them or encourage your students and postdocs to apply. They are listed below with the deadlines for application. More information about each award can be found on the SOT website

<http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/mechanisms/Awards.asp>.

<b>Award</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Carl C. Smith Graduate Student Award	October 10, 2011
Postdoctoral Student Travel Award	October 10, 2011
Robert J. Rubin Student Travel Award	January 20, 2012
Renal Toxicology Award	December 15, 2011
Gabriel L. Plaa Education Award	December 1, 2011



## Updates and changes to the Carl C. Smith Graduate Student Award

The deadline for the Carl C. Smith Graduate Student Award is October 10<sup>th</sup>. The submission process is the same as in past years. This includes a copy of the abstract, a statement that you wish to be considered for this award, and two letters of recommendation addressing the student and the project. One of the recommendation letters must be from the Departmental or Section Head. The letters must verify that the work reported in the abstract was done while the student was enrolled in the graduate program and that this is the only specialty section to which this abstract is being submitted for an award. The letter must also specially cite the role and contribution of the student in the completion of the work, especially when there are multiple authors. Letters should be sent electronically to [Brian Cummings \(bsc@rx.uga.edu\)](mailto:bsc@rx.uga.edu) by the individuals making the recommendations. Complete information can be found at <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/mechanisms/Awards.asp>.

One change from previous years is that, in addition to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards, we will only be recognizing three students with Honorable Mentions. In the past we have recognized as many as ten students with Honorable Mentions. This change was made, in part, to reduce the work load on the reviewers for this award, which involves reviewing full length manuscripts for each finalist.



## **2011 MECHANISMS SS AWARDEES**

One of the best things about the Mechanisms SS is the awards we give! Here is a summary of the awards that were presented at the 2011 business meeting.



## Carl C. Smith Graduate Student Award

The 2011 Carl C. Smith Graduate Student Awards for Meritorious Research were presented on March 9, 2011, during the Mechanisms SS reception at the 50<sup>th</sup> SOT Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Nine awards were presented.

Chao Yan took the first place award for work described in an abstract entitled "Development of novel indolequinone anti-tumor agents: Mechanism of toxicity in human pancreatic cancer". The second place award went to Kai Wu for work described in an abstract entitled "Beneficial role of NRF2 in regulating NADPH generation and consumption". The third place award went to Rhiannon Hardwick for work described in an abstract entitled "Molecular mechanism of altered ezetimibe disposition in non-alcoholic steatohepatitis".

Honorable Mentions were awarded to: Michelle Angrish, Michigan State University; Lauren Besenhofer, Louisiana State University; Neal Gould, University of Colorado; Christopher Kuhlman, University of Arizona; Sougat Misra, University of Saskatchewan; and Jingcai Wang, University of Cincinnati.

### **Carl C. Smith Graduate Student Award Winners SOT 2011**



***From left to right: Chao Yan, Rhiannon Hardwick, Michelle Angrish, Sougat Misra, Christopher Kuhlman, Lauren Besenhofer, Neal Gould, Kai Wu (not pictured: Jingcai Wang)***



### **The Gabriel L. Plaa Education Award**

This award was presented for the first time in 2011. Three applicants were invited to interview for this award, and a group of officers from the MSS chose one winner. The 2011 recipient of the Gabriel L. Plaa award was Julia Yue Cui from the University of Kansas Medical Center. Julia is working with Curt Klaassen. The runners-up were Tamara Tal from Oregon State University, who works with Robert

Tanguay, and Xinsheng Gu who is working with Jose Manautou at the University of Connecticut.



Jose Manautou (left in each picture) and Denny Petersen (right in each picture) present certificates to Julia Yue Cui (above), Tamara Tal (right) and Xinsheng Gu (below).



### **The Robert J. Rubin Student Travel Award**

The Robert Rubin Award is jointly presented by the Mechanisms and Risk Assessment Specialty Sections. This year the award was presented at the Risk Assessment SS business meeting . The 2011 recipient of the Robert Rubin Award was P.K. Senthilkumar whose abstract was entitled "Telomere dysfunction and telomerase reactivation in human skin keratinocytes: a possible new mechanism of PCB carcinogenesis". P.K. works with G. Ludewig at the University of Iowa.

P.K. (center) received his award from John Lipscomb (left, Risk Assessment VP). Also pictured is P.K.'s advisor, Gabriele Ludewig.





## The Renal Toxicology Award

There were two recipients of the Renal Toxicology Award for 2011. The graduate student award went to Chad Brocker whose abstract title was "Novel Functions of ALD7A1 against Hyperosmotic Stress". Chad is working with Vasilis Vasiliou at the University of Colorado Denver. The postdoctoral winner was Dana Hoffmann. Dana's abstract was entitled "Urinary Fibrinogen: A Mechanistic Translational Biomarker for Vascular Dysfunction and Inflammation in the Kidney". Dana is working with Vishal Vaidya at Harvard Medical School.



Jose Manautou and Mike Aleo present the Renal Toxicology Awards to Chad Brocker (left) and Dana Hoffmann (right).



## The Mechanisms Postdoctoral Student Travel Award

The 2011 recipients of the MSS Post-Doctoral Scientist Award were Kyle Kappeler and Yi Tan. Kyle works with Q. Chen at the University of Arizona School of Medicine, and his abstract was entitled "Histone deacetylase 6 associates with the polysomes during sodium arsenite-induced stress". Yi works with L. Cai at the University of Louisville School of Medicine. Her abstract was entitled "Ang II induced PKC/NOX activation-association nitrosative damage plays a critical role in chronic alcohol-caused cardiac cell death and cardiomyopathy".



Jose Manautou and Peter Harvison present the Postdoctoral awards to Kyle Kappeler (left) and Yi Tan (right).





## ***CALL FOR NOMINATIONS***

**Get involved! Meet cool colleagues! Join the fun!**

Fall is the time of year that we put together a slate of candidates for the specialty section offices of Vice President-Elect, Junior Councilor, Graduate Student Councilor and Post-Doctoral Councilor. Self-nominations are more than welcome! **If you want to serve in one of these positions, please let Jose Manautou ([jose.manautou@uconn.edu](mailto:jose.manautou@uconn.edu)) or any of the other officers (listed below) know!**



## ***HAVE A GREAT IDEA FOR A 2013 SESSION?***

**It's not too early to think about submissions for MSS symposia, workshops and continuing education courses for the Annual Meeting in 2013!**

The Mechanisms SS officers have completed the review of symposia, workshops and continuing education courses for the upcoming 2012 Society of Toxicology meeting to be held in San Francisco, CA. As you all know the MSS has established a long record of sponsoring high-quality programs focused on diverse topics relevant to mechanistically oriented research in toxicology, and that tradition continues for the upcoming meeting.

The success of the MSS in sponsoring high-quality meeting proposals is attributable to members of the Society, such as you, who identify opportune topics that can be transitioned into well-organized, instructional symposia, workshops or education courses. In this context, it is not too early to begin identifying timely topics and emerging areas that can be developed into proposals for the 2013 Annual Meeting to be held in San Antonio, TX. Proposals for the 2013 meeting will be due at the end of April, 2012. When the application process is open for submission of proposals, the forms should be available on the SOT website under the "[Scientific Session Proposal Submission](#)" or the "[Forms and Applications](#)" link under the Annual Meeting heading. Be sure to identify the Mechanisms Specialty Section as your primary sponsor and do not hesitate to contact any of the officers in the MSS should you have questions.



*The Mechanisms Specialty Section  
Reception and Business Meeting at the  
2012 Annual Meeting in San Francisco  
Monday, March 12. Check the program for time and location.*



## ***YOUR 2011-2012 MECHANISMS SS OFFICERS***

Comments, questions, ideas? Please contact the specialty section officers as needed:

President	Joan B. Tarloff	<a href="mailto:j.tarlof@usp.edu">j.tarlof@usp.edu</a>
Vice-President	Michael Aleo	<a href="mailto:michael.d.aleo@pfizer.com">michael.d.aleo@pfizer.com</a>
Vice-President Elect	Terrance Kavanagh	<a href="mailto:tjkav@uwashingtton.edu">tjkav@uwashingtton.edu</a>
Secretary/Treasurer	Patricia Ganey	<a href="mailto:ganey@msu.edu">ganey@msu.edu</a>
Senior Councilor	Vasilis Vasiliou	<a href="mailto:Vasilis.Vasiliou@ucdenver.edu">Vasilis.Vasiliou@ucdenver.edu</a>
Junior Councilor	Brian Cummings	<a href="mailto:bsc@rx.uga.edu">bsc@rx.uga.edu</a>
Postdoctoral Councilor	Tamara Tal	<a href="mailto:tamara.tal@oregonstate.edu">tamara.tal@oregonstate.edu</a>
Graduate Student Councilor	Rebecca Smathers	<a href="mailto:Rebecca.smathers@ucdenver.edu">Rebecca.smathers@ucdenver.edu</a>
Past President	Jose Manautou	<a href="mailto:jose.manautou@uconn.edu">jose.manautou@uconn.edu</a>

# **See you in San Francisco!**

