PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

This year has gone by so fast! I have enjoyed my role as President of the Occupational and Public Specialty Section and want to thank the membership for having allowed this opportunity. We have a terrific and interesting mix of toxicologists in OPHSS, and it’s been a pleasure for me to work with all of you. The Executive Council has been especially pleased with the number of our membership who are volunteering their time for OPHSS and who want to become more involved in OPHSS. I want to personally thank all of you who have offered to serve on various OPHSS committees.

We accomplished a number of our goals set out in the Summer 2008 newsletter. We have established a new Program Committee to help our members develop proposals and programs for the annual SOT meeting. Our goal for that committee is to prepare a guide for SOT meetings in advance for up to three years so we can avoid the annual mad scramble to develop and submit yearly proposals. This committee was developed by our Vice-President, Eileen Hayes and includes our VP-Elect, Allison Stock; Past President, Patricia Weiderman, Student Representative, Adrienne King and our Post-Doctoral Representative, Michele La Merrill. In addition, we have several volunteers from OPHSS membership including Scott Dotson, Michael Ottlinger, and Katherine Squibb.

In addition, the OPHSS Executive Council established a new manuscript award that will be presented at our annual meeting to recognize exemplary peer-reviewed research aligned with the mission of SOT OPHSS, that encourages professional interaction between the Occupational/Industrial Hygiene interests and Public Health (Toxicology/Epidemiology) interests of SOT OPHSS, and communicates the goals and mission of OPHSS within SOT and to the broader public health community. This committee will be headed by the new senior councilor, Michael Olson.

The yearly SOT meeting in Baltimore was clearly a success. OPHSS was sponsor of one workshop “Toxicology of Unintentional and Intentional Disasters” (Chairs: Angela Harris and Michael Ottlinger) and one Symposia “Biomarkers: New Breakthroughs in the World of Air Pollution Studies” (Chairs: Michael Madden and Stephen Edwards). OPHSS also endorsed 19 scientific sessions.
Our OPHSS poster was well attended at the student reception in Baltimore, and OPHSS continues to find ways to encourage more students to join our specialty section. We also had about 80 attendees at the OPHSS luncheon who were able to hear the very interesting presentation of Dr. Ana Navas-Acien from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Navas-Acien’s topic was “Measuring Arsenic Exposure, Metabolism and Biological Effect in Epidemiologic Studies: The Role of Urine Biomarkers.” The winner of our Best Abstract Award was Gi Kang for “The effects of subchronic exposure to inhaled nickel nanoparticles on the cardiovascular system.” The winner of the Best Manuscript Award was Dr. Michele La Merrill for “Mouse breast cancer model-dependent changes in metabolic syndrome-associated phenotypes caused by maternal dioxin exposure and dietary fat.” We had many excellent submissions for both of these awards. Our next newsletter will introduce your new Executive Council members, and will include a message from incoming President, Eileen Hayes. Again, thank you for your support of our specialty section, OPHSS.

Angela J Harris, President, Occupational & Public Health Specialty Section

This year at SOT 2009…

…OPHSS Luncheon a Success!!

The turnout for the OPHSS Luncheon held at this year’s SOT Annual Meeting was much larger than expected. The room was packed for our guest speaker, Dr. Navas-Acien’s, talk on “Measuring arsenic exposure, metabolism and biological effect in epidemiologic studies: the role of urine biomarkers.”

After the speaker’s presentation, a short business meeting was held. Awards were handed out to Ms. Gi Soo Kang for Best Abstract and to Dr. Michele La Merrill for Best Manuscript.

Outgoing OPHSS officers, Angela Harris and Sandi Murphy were also honored for their hard work during their tenure.

Our Vice-president, Eileen Hayes then presented feedback from the Specialty section Officers Meeting held earlier that week. The officers pitched ideas for the newsletter and announced the establishment of a new manuscript award.
The meeting then shifted to the solicitation of ideas for topic proposals for next year and ways to improve OPHSS.

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OUTSTANDING PAPER OF THE YEAR AWARD TO BE MADE STARTING 2010 ON BEHALF OF THE OCCUPATIONAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SPECIALTY SECTION

Officers of OPHSS have been busy developing a proposal for a new award, which will be made annually, to: 1) recognize exemplary peer-reviewed research aligned with the mission of SOT OPHSS, 2) encourage professional interaction between Occupational / Industrial Hygiene and Public Health (Toxicology / Epidemiology) experts in a forum supported by SOT OPHSS, and 3) communicate the goals and mission of OPHSS within SOT and to the broader public health community. More information about the award and selection process will be presented at the OPHSS Luncheon during the SOT Annual Meeting. (contact: OPHSS Councilors Sandi Murphy (sandi.murphy@arkema.com) or Mike Olson (michael.j.olson@gsk.com).

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WE WANT TO SHOWCASE YOU!!

Just to warn you, I mean keep you updated, we plan to randomly pick a person from OPHSS membership and write an article for the newsletter introducing that person to OPHSS. We’ll want a photo, and a brief description of the work you do and any personal information you’d like to share. By that I mean hobbies, your daughter is destined to be a major league pitcher, that kind of thing. You won’t be able to avoid it by not writing anything because we’re going to call you—and call you—and call you. This is the only thing you aren’t allowed to volunteer for because that would just be sad.

Angela J. Harris

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Environmental Public Health Conference: Healthy People in a Healthy Environment

The Society of Toxicology is pleased to provide you with an opportunity to submit abstracts on-line for the National Environmental Public Health Conference, “Healthy People in a Healthy Environment.” The three-day conference will be held October 26-28, 2009 in Atlanta, Georgia and is being sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Center for Environmental Health and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the National Environmental Health Association. SOT and some sixty five organizations are participating as members of the Conference Partners’ Planning Committee.

Conference tracks for the conference include the following:

- Healthy Places
- Public Health & Environmental Exposures
- Sustainability & Public Health
- Environmental Systems & Public Health
- Environmental Health Emergencies
- Environmental Health Science & Practice

The deadline for submitting abstracts is May 8, 2009. For information about submission guidelines, go to www.team-psa.com/2009nephc

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST

- **Accelerating Anticancer Agent Development**, June 17 - 19, 2009, North Bethesda, MD.
- **Methods in Clinical Cancer Research (Europe)**, June 20 - 26, 2009, Flims, Switzerland.
- **Molecular Biology in Clinical Oncology**, July 17 - 24, 2009, Aspen, CO.
- **National Environmental Public Health Conference**, HEALTHY PEOPLE IN A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT October 26-28, 2009, Atlanta, GA.

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Think green before you print!