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Michigan Regional Chapter of the Society of Toxicology



NEWSLETTER

Volume 27

Number 3

October, 2009

Editor: Lawrence H. Lash

President's Message (submitted by Dr. Alan Brown)

Greetings fellow Michigan Society of Toxicology members and associates. It is a pleasure and honor to serve as your Chapter President this year. This Fall welcomes the start of a new program year for our Regional Chapter of SOT, and the Chapter officers and myself are excited about our upcoming programs. The annual Fall meeting will be held on Friday November 6, 2009 at the Hannah Community Center in East Lansing (just north of MSU's campus). The topic will be "Water Safety and Toxicology for the Great Lakes Region," which is an issue that impacts everyone in our region and has far-ranging consequences. We have four excellent speakers scheduled to give presentations regarding the movement of contaminants throughout the Great Lake's watershed and ecosystem, and the threats posed by natural (algal toxins) and man-made pollutants (mercury and pharmaceuticals) in the water supply. I encourage you attend the Fall meeting and to submit an abstract for the poster presentation session, which will be held during the meeting. Please encourage your students and postdoctoral fellows to take an active role in

the meeting and enter the poster competition. We will be giving cash awards for first place along with honorable mention, which we encourage individuals to use towards travel expenses to the annual SOT meeting in March, 2010. The upcoming Fall meeting will be very exciting, and we look forward to seeing you in East Lansing.

MISOT will hold annual elections for Chapter officers (President-elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and Councilors) in early 2010. Please consider running for office, or nominating someone for a position. Communications regarding Chapter elections will occur at the Fall meeting and by email communication during the next several months.

Lastly, I would like to recognize the fine work and effort made by our Chapter officers, and Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Representatives; they have done a great job with planning our upcoming meeting. In addition, my sincerest gratitude goes to Larry Lash who is the editor for our newsletter, and helps maintain the Chapter's website. Larry has been serving this role for many years and always does an outstanding job. Please help acknowledge these individuals.

–Alan P. Brown, PhD, DABT

Recap of the Spring 2009 MISOT Meeting

The annual Spring Meeting of the Michigan Regional Chapter of the Society of Toxicology was held on May 8, 2009 at MPI Research in Mattawan, MI. The topic of the meeting was “Humanized bioartificial organs and novel 3-D in vitro systems” and was very well attended by approximately 100 individuals. The meeting started with a welcome from Dr. James Laveglia, Vice President and Director of Research at MPI, and was followed by an introduction to advanced in vitro systems in toxicology by

Dr. Brad Upham, MISOT President. The speakers for the morning session were Dr. Francois Berthiaume (Rutgers University): “Development of a bioartificial liver” and Dr. Beth Allen (CeeTox): “Development of bioartificial skin.” Following lunch, the afternoon sessions included Dr. Nicholas Kotov (University of Michigan): “Ex-vivo replication of human tissues on nanoengineered 3D scaffolding matrices,” Dr. Shu Takayama (University of Michigan): “Microfluidic and microenvironmentics in tissue culture systems,” and poster presentations. Following all of the presentations, a panel discussion was moderated by Dr. James Trosko (Michigan State University), which included an exchange of ideas amongst meeting participants and speakers. Lastly, tours of the MPI Research Laboratories were coordinated by MPI associates. MISOT would like to acknowledge the hospitality and support provided for the meeting by MPI Research.

Recent Member Publication:

Neurotoxicology. 2009 Jul 24. [Epub ahead of print]
The role of environmental mercury, lead and pesticide exposure in development of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

Johnson FO, Atchison WD.

Center for Integrative Toxicology and Neuroscience Program and Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824. Exposure to an environmental toxicant as a risk factor in the development of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) was first hinted at (demonstrated) in the Chamorro indigenous people of Guam. During the 1950s and 1960s these indigenous people presented an extremely high incidence of ALS which was presumed to be associated with the consumption of flying fox and cycad seeds. No other strong association between ALS and environmental toxicants has since been reported, although circumstantial epidemiological evidence has implicated exposure to heavy metals such as lead and mercury, industrial solvents and pesticides especially organophosphates and certain occupations such as playing professional soccer. Given that only approximately 10% of all ALS diagnosis have a genetic basis, a gene-environmental interaction provides a plausible explanation for the other 90% of cases. This mini-review provides an overview of our current knowledge of environmental etiologies of ALS with emphasis on the effects of mercury, lead and pesticides as potential risk factors in developing ALS. Epidemiologic and experimental evidence from animal models investigating the possible association between exposure to environmental toxicant and ALS disease has proven inconclusive. Nonetheless, there are indications that there may be causal links, and a need for more research.

Fall 2009 MISOT Meeting

November 6, 2009

Hannah Community Center, East Lansing, MI

Water Safety and Toxicology for the Great Lakes Region

Agenda

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 8:00 – 8:45 | Registration and Coffee |
| 9:00 – 9:10 | Welcome and Introduction: Alan Brown, President of MISOT |
| 9:15 – 10:15 | Dr. Stephen Hamilton, Michigan State University: “Water as a vector for contaminant movement through landscapes” |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | Break |
| 10:30 – 11:30 | Dr. Nil Basu, University of Michigan: “An ecosystem-based risk assessment of mercury in the Great Lakes” |
| 11:30 – 12:30 | Lunch (provided) |
| 12:30 – 1:30 | Poster Session |
| 1:30 – 2:30 | Dr. James Lazorchak, US EPA: “Pharmaceuticals in the Environment – Exposure, Effects, and Risks to Humans and Ecosystems: What We Think We Know, and What We Need to Know” |
| 2:30 – 3:30 | Dr. Richard Rediske, Grand Valley State University: “Cyanobacteria and their toxins: new problems from old organisms” |
| 3:30 – 4:15 | Poster award presentations, acknowledgements, and Chapter Business |

Michigan Society of Toxicology Registration Form

Water Safety and Toxicology for the Great Lakes Region

November 6, 2009

Hannah Community Center

819 Abbott Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 333-2580

Name: _____

Affiliation (Company, University, etc): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Do you plan to bring a poster to present? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes and you are entering the poster competition: Please provide an abstract of no more than 250 words, including, title of poster, authors and affiliations. These abstracts should be sent via email to: Roseann.Vorce@gmail.com. **The deadline for submitting abstracts for the poster session is Friday, October 30, 2009!** Please include in the body of the message whether you are a graduate student or a Postdoctoral Fellow/Research Associate.

Registration Fee:

_____ Member \$50.00

_____ Graduate or Undergrad Student (enrolled in a degree-granting program) \$20.00

_____ Undergraduate Student \$10

_____ Non-member \$75.00

_____ New member \$70 (includes \$20 annual dues; include application from MISOT web site: <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/michigan/misot.html>)

Payment Type: Check _____ Credit Card (type) _____

Other (specify) _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp date _____

Name on Card _____

The deadline for receipt of registration forms is October 30, 2009! Make registration checks payable to: The Society of Toxicology

Please send registration form to: Roseann L. Vorce, PhD
2853 Pontiac Trail
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Alternatively, you may send this form as an e-mail attachment to:

Roseann.Vorce@gmail.com

Please note that e-mail is **not** a secure method of transmitting your credit card information.

Directions to the Fall 2009 MISOT Meeting:

Hannah Community Center
819 Abbott Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 333-2580
(Just north of the Michigan State University Campus)

Take US127 from either the south or north into Lansing, and exit onto W. Saginaw (I69) going east into East Lansing, then head south onto Abbott Road.

January ISSUE PREVIEW

The January, 2010 Issue of the Newsletter will feature details on the upcoming Fall meeting and other items of interest to our members.

Please submit any member news or ideas for the newsletter to any chapter officer or directly to the editor. Material for the January newsletter should be submitted no later than December 20, 2009.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget that your membership to the Michigan Regional Chapter of the SOT includes:

- Discounted registration fees for chapter meetings
- Newsletter with chapter and regional news
- Free listing in the newsletter of training and employment opportunities
- Free listing in the newsletter of positions desired

POSITION DESIRED

*Individuals seeking positions in the region can advertise in this section. Submissions to the editor should include a brief description of research interests, experience, education, type of position desired, and geographical location desired. **This service is free to members!***

This newsletter is published three times a year (January/February, April, and September/October) by the Michigan Regional Chapter of the Society of Toxicology. Send material for newsletter one month in advance by phone, fax, or e-mail to either: Lawrence H. Lash, Wayne State Univ., Dept. of Pharmacology, 540 East Canfield Ave., Detroit, MI 48201; Phone: (313) 577-0475 Fax: (313) 577-6739 E-mail: l.h.lash@wayne.edu.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

*Postdoctoral fellowships, research assistantships, government positions, and industrial positions in the State of Michigan or Northeast-Ohio region can be advertised in this space. Submissions to the editor should include a brief description of the position and contact information. **This service is free to members!***