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Michigan Regional Chapter of the Society of Toxicology



NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Lawrence H. Lash

President's Message

(submitted by Dr. Brad Upham)

Greetings to Michigan Society of Toxicology members!

The field of toxicology is an ever-evolving discipline of science. The pace of change has been and will be accelerating, thus creating many new challenges. To address these challenges, the Society of Toxicology has been very active in developing a strategic plan entitled "Creating a Safer and Healthier World by Advancing the Science of Toxicology." I encourage all of our MISOT members to check out the road map of this plan

(<http://www.toxicology.org/ai/asot/lrp.asp>).

The strategic priorities are the following:

- Increase scientific impact
- Advocate the value of toxicology
- Build for the future of toxicology
- Expand and deepen member engagement
- Strengthen organizational effectiveness

The regional chapters of SOT, including MISOT, always have been key players in implementing these strategic priorities. In essence, chapters with more manageable numbers of scientists are strategically in a better position to address priorities by acting locally. MISOT is particularly fortunate in not only having many talented

scientists spanning the numerous sub-disciplines of toxicology, but also has a great geographic advantage in that the majority of our toxicologists are located within a small region. I would like to encourage our MISOT members to take an active role in this strategic plan, and attendance at our Fall 2008 meeting provides an excellent opportunity to increase members' involvement.

Our MISOT biannual meetings have been the major events of our chapter, serving both to expand our scientific knowledge and to network with colleagues from different parts of the state. As always, we are committed to bringing a high-quality scientific program to our members. Our Spring 2008 meeting theme was "Toxicity Testing in the 21st Century," and the presentations by our speakers Drs. Melvin Andersen (Hamner Institute for Health Sciences), Robert Kavlock, (USEPA), James McKim (CeeTox Corporation), and Timothy Zacharewski (Michigan State University) were all excellent, timely, and thought provoking in how we will do future research in toxicology. Taken together, the talks certainly contributed to our strategic effort of increasing the scientific impact of toxicology. The theme of our Fall 2008 meeting is "Epigenetic Toxicology," and it will be held on Friday, November 14, 2008 at NSF International in Ann Arbor. Again, we have lined up excellent scientists to present their cutting edge research in a field of growing importance in toxicology. Dr. Howard Hu (University of Michigan) will present "Early Life Origins of Adult Chronic Disease: Environmental Health and Toxicology at a Crossroads"; Dr. Dana Dolinoy (University of Michigan) will present "Environmental Epigenetics: The New Genetics of Toxicology"; Dr. Jay Goodman (Michigan State University) will present "Epigenetics and Carcinogenesis: Identification of Genes Involved Due To Altered DNA Methylation"; and Dr. Doug Ruden (Wayne State University) will present "Genetical Toxicogenomics of Lead in Drosophila: Combining QTL Mapping, Microarrays, and Toxicogenomics."

As noted above, MISOT will be taking a more active role in SOT's strategic plan. To expand and deepen member engagement, we are reaching out to our undergraduate communities from the universities and colleges of Michigan. We hope to encourage these young potential scientists to

consider the field of toxicology as a career choice. This year, we are sending the announcement of our Fall meeting to undergraduate science programs in Michigan's colleges and universities to invite undergraduate students and faculty to attend. In addition, undergraduates are welcome to present posters at our meeting. As an incentive, we have added an "undergraduate" category to the poster competition, with a cash award of \$500. Many of our MISOT members have contact with undergraduate science students through research or teaching, so please help us in advertising our Fall 2008 meeting to them. We are continuing to award \$500 to the best poster presented by a graduate student and postdoctoral fellow/research associate, so encourage your students and post-docs to present at the meeting.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our Fall-meeting. Also, remember that your ideas and suggestions on how to improve Chapter activities and increase our membership can be extended to any Chapter officer.

Student News

(contributed by Erica Marie Sparkenbaugh)

Michigan SOT is a great way to learn about the current toxicology research that is going on in the state. Student membership is inexpensive and looks great on your CV! Not only that, it is an excellent opportunity to meet other students and researchers from academic, government and industrial settings. The Fall meeting is a great networking event, you can showcase your own research, and even explore potential collaborations. You never know who you may meet at MISOT, and I look forward to seeing you there!

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE CORNER

(contributed by Melanie Weed)

The North Carolina Society of Toxicology Spring Meeting was held on March 3, 2008. The title for the meeting was "Considerations of the Elderly in Toxicology and Pharmacology" and it was held at the USEPA in Research Triangle Park, NC. The student award winners were Alison Hege, UNC; Miyuki Breen, NSCU; and Pamela Ross, UNC. Congratulations to all of

the award winners and to all other poster presenters!

The North Carolina Society of Toxicology Fall Meeting will be held in October at NIEHS, Research Triangle Park, NC. For the second year in a row the Fall Meeting will include a student and post-doctoral luncheon followed by a panel session where students are encouraged to ask questions pertaining to industry, academic, and government jobs in Toxicology. The luncheon will provide more interaction between the students in Toxicology throughout North Carolina. This meeting will also feature presentations from PARC post-doctoral award winners as well as speakers on the selected topic, Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products in the Environment. Please look for the official meeting notice and registration forms coming in early Fall—see you there!

Membership in NCSOT is a great way to learn about the area's current research opportunities in toxicology. Student membership is inexpensive and looks great on a CV! Membership is open to all graduate students as well as undergraduates studying in the field of toxicology or related fields. If you would like to become a member please visit the NCSOT webpage at:
<http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/nc/ncsot.htm> .

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments.

***Report on Superfund Meeting
at Michigan State University***

(Contributed by Dr. James Trosko, Center for Integrative Toxicology, Dept. Pediatrics/Human Development, College of Human Medicine, Michigan State University)

The Superfund Program Project grant at Michigan State University recently held its second annual Conference "Dioxin Toxicity: Mechanisms, Models, and Potential Health Risks" at the Kellogg Center-MSU on Oct. 20-21. The objective of the conference was to meet the obligation of the Program Project to inform the "stakeholders" in our region of the state of the science related to our grant and to inform

the stakeholders of the current research progress of MSU projects. It was also important that we receive feedback from the attendees on future directions of the research.

The conference focused on 3 subtopics: Aryl hydrocarbon Biology, Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor and ARNT Signaling Mechanisms, and Computational Modeling and Risk Assessment. Invited speakers included Drs. Chris Bradfield, Shigeaki Kato, Gary Perdew, John LaPres, Richard Pollenz, Norbert Kaminski, F. Fumio Matsumura, Rory Connolly, J. Craig Rowlands and Thomas Starr.

A total of 90 attendees represented academia from within and outside the State (53; 37 from MSU), governmental agencies (16), and private consulting companies and industrial firms (21). Both new conceptual, experimental and technical approaches to studying the potential mechanistic bases for the toxicity of TCDD were presented, as well as the new iterative and integrative modeling strategies, involving data generated under MSU's Program Projects and the modelers involved in the project. Spirited discussions were generated by the speakers and the audience. Challenges were made to the current paradigms related to estimating risks to dioxin's potential toxicities.

“EPIGENETIC TOXICOLOGY”

Agenda

- 8:00 – 8:45 Registration and Coffee
- 9:00 – 9:05 Welcome: Lori Besterveldt, NSF
- 9:05 – 9:15 Introduction to Epigenetic Toxicology: Brad Upham, President, Michigan Regional Chapter of the Society of Toxicology
- 9:15 – 10:15 Dr. Howard Hu, The University of Michigan:
“Early Life Origins of Adult Chronic Disease: Environmental Health and Toxicology at a Crossroads”
- 10:15 – 10:30 Break
- 10:30 – 11:30 Dr. Dana Dolinoy, The University of Michigan:
“Environmental Epigenetics: The New Genetics of Toxicology”
- 11:30 – 12:30 Lunch (provided)
- 12:30 – 1:30 **Poster Session**
- 1:30 – 2:30 Dr. Jay Goodman, Michigan State University:
“Epigenetics and Carcinogenesis: Identification of Genes Involved Due To Altered DNA Methylation”
- 2:30 – 3:30 Dr. Doug Ruden, Wayne State University: **“Genetical Toxicogenomics of Lead in Drosophila: Combining QTL Mapping, Microarrays, and Toxicogenomics”**
- 3:30 – 4:00 Poster Award presentations and Chapter business

**DIRECTIONS TO THE FALL 2008 MISOT MEETING
AT NSF INTERNATIONAL**

NSF International is located on the east side of Ann Arbor at 789 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105. Directions are below, or you can use the directions found here:

http://www.nsf.org/business/about_NSF/location_s_nsf.asp

From the north, take US-23 exit 41 (Plymouth Rd). At the end of the exit ramp, turn left (east) onto Plymouth Road. Turn right (south) at Dixboro Road and proceed for approximately 1.5 miles. NSF is located on the right (west) side of Dixboro Road.

From the south, take US-24 exit 39 (Geddes Road). At the end of the exit ramp, turn right (east). At the first light, turn left (north) onto Dixboro Road and proceed for approximately ½ mile. NSF is on the left (west) side of Dixboro Road.

From I-94, take US-23 north (exit 180) and follow the “From the south” directions above.

From M-14, take US-23 south (exit 8) and follow the “From the north” directions above.

**Michigan Society of Toxicology Registration Form
EPIGENETIC TOXICOLOGY – November 14, 2008**

Deadline for registration and abstract submission is November 7, 2008

Name: _____

Affiliation (Company, University, etc): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E mail: _____

Poster Presentation: Yes No

If yes: 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, November 7, 2008! Please include in the body of the message whether you are a graduate student, an undergraduate student, or a Postdoctoral Fellow/Research Associate. Format and rules for the poster competition can be found at <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/michigan/misot.html>

Registration Fee:

- Member (\$50.00)
 Student (member or non-member) (\$25.00)
 Non-member (\$75.00)

Payment Type: Money Order _____ Check _____ Credit Card (type) _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp date _____

Name on Card _____

Membership applications can be obtained at:

Michigan Chapter: <http://www.toxicology.org/isot/rc/michigan/misot.html>

Please make registration checks payable to: The Society of Toxicology

Please send registration form as an e-mail attachment to:

Roseann.Vorce@gmail.com

Alternatively, you may send a hard copy to:

Roseann L. Vorce, PhD
2853 Pontiac Trail
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Format and Rules for the Michigan SOT Poster Competition

Abstracts can be submitted and Posters presented on any topic by anyone registered for the meeting.

To be included in the awards competition, the posters must be presented by a Student or a Postdoctoral Fellow/Research Associate who has had a major role in the work being presented and is in attendance.

To be eligible for the competition, abstracts must be received at least seven days prior to the meeting. Abstracts for posters will be accepted for presentation without being in the competition up until two days before the meeting.

There will be three divisions within the competition based on the career stage of the presenter: a) Graduate students enrolled in degree-granting academic programs; b) Undergraduate students enrolled in degree-granting academic programs; and 3) Postdoctoral Fellows and Research Associates from academia or industry.

The presenter of the poster that is judged as the best within each of the three categories will receive a First Place award.

There must be a minimum of three award-eligible posters in a division for a “First Place” award to be made in that category. If less than three submissions are made for any division, those submissions will be eligible only for the “Honorable Mention” awards. In the event that only one “First Place” award is made, the judges have the option to make a second “Honorable Mention” award.

All posters that are eligible for judging and that have not been designated as “First Place” will be entered into a pool from which one presenter will be selected for an “Honorable Mention” award.

Judges will consider both the abstract and the presented work in reaching decisions regarding awards.

JANUARY ISSUE PREVIEW

The January, 2009 Issue of the Newsletter will feature details on the upcoming Spring 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 January 10, 2009.

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 .

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

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

*Postdoctoral fellowships, research assistantships, government positions, and industrial positions 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!***

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!***