2002 BMSS Annual Report

(Covering the period between May 1, 2001 and April 30th 2002)

The BMSS Executive Committee held a teleconference on Tuesday, Dec 11, 2001 from 9 - 10 am to discuss the following topics:

- Membership and recruiting more BMSS members
- Awards - Process for selecting the best student poster and outstanding presentation
- Fund raising
- 2002 BMSS Elections
- Other

It was decided that:

- all members of the Executive Committee will work individually and collectively to recruit new member. At the end of 2001, BMSS had 35 paying members down from 50 the previous years (charter members).
- the vice-president will work to prepare the criteria for the selection of the Best Student/Post-Doc poster winner
- we accept the Aegis Technologies offer to sponsor the BMSS Best student poster award ($500 cash and a license of ACSLTOX modeling software for one year).

In establishing the criteria for selecting the winner for Selecting Best Student/Post-Doc poster input from membership was requested. In January 18, 2002 the members were asked to decide by electronic vote on the following issues:

1. The winner should be judged on:

   A. the abstract of the poster and a 2-page letter

   or

   B. the 2-page letter and the full poster

2. The winner will be decided by voting among:

   A. Only members of the BMSS Executive Committee

   or

   B. All BMSS members.
3. Should the winning poster be restricted to only one Specialty Section Award?
   A. Yes
   or
   B. No

4. I want to participate in the BMSS Award Committee.
   A. Yes
   or
   B. No

The BMSS members voted as follows:
1. B
2. B
3. A
4. 5 members volunteered
The BMSS Executive Committee held its annual meeting on Sunday March 17, 2002 from 5:30-7:30 PM, Nashville, TN. The agenda of the meeting included the following:

- Membership
- Finances
- Awards
- BMSS Web site
- Objectives of BMSS and 3-Year Plan
- Decision making process within BMSS

With respect to membership, it was decided that recruitment of new members should be restricted to people that work directly in the biological modeling field. It was thought that there are enough people in this field that could join BMSS, and SOT members in the exposure modeling, ecological modeling fields, etc., should not be approached. Finances will become a critical issue next year when the SOT will stop sponsoring the BMSS. It was suggested that companies involved in Biological Modeling be approached and asked to provide financial support to the BMSS. The formation of an ad hoc Finance Committee with the objective of identifying revenue sources was rejected. Regarding the awards, several issues remain unresolved. A committee will be established to decide on the following issues:

- Should we approach companies to finance the awards?
- Should SOT membership be required?
- Should BMSS membership be required?

The BMSS Web site was posted to the SOT Web site in February 2002. It was prepared by Gregg Fischer who will continue to maintain and update it. Guidelines on what can be posted will be developed in consultation with the SOT. (http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/bmss/bmss.htm). The implementation of the Objectives and 3-Year Plan will proceed slowly. The involvement of BMSS and non-BMSS members will be encouraged. The formation of groups of people will work on individual tasks will be encouraged. They will report their recommendations back to BMSS members. Finally, with respect to the decision making process within BMSS, it was decided that the BMSS members will be asked to decide on the manner they wish decision are made within BMSS.
The Biological Modeling Specialty Section Reception took place Wednesday, March 20, 2002 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Opryland Hotel. Rm. Jackson E. The agenda of the reception is shown below.

Agenda

Biological Modeling Specialty Section Reception

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Opryland Hotel – Rm. Jackson E

I. Call to order & Welcome

II. Review of 2001-2002 BMSS accomplishments

III. Presentation by Dr. Kendall B. Wallace, SOT Council Liaison

IV. Presentation by Dr. Bas Blaauuboer, Research Institute for Toxicology, Utrecht University, The Netherlands.

V. Presentation and Discussion of BMSS Issues - 60 min

1. Decision making mechanism within BMSS

Proposal: To amend the BMSS by-laws and change the decision making process within BMSS as follows:

Any BMSS member can ask by email the President to convene a meeting on any topic at any time. The President or an Executive Committee member designated by the President, within 7 days sends out an email message to all BMSS members, informing them of the request. If within 7 days, 5 BMSS members, (10% on the minimum required membership) agree, the topic is discussed. The discussion will be done preferably by email or conference call, if all members can be accommodated. Following a 15-day discussion period, the President or the designee sends an electronic ballot to all BMSS members to vote. The voting period is 15 days. The President or the designee communicates the results to the Members. A quorum shall consist of 20% of active members. It also proposed to follow the same process for all non-administrative decisions.
2. Establishment of committees to discuss BMSS Issues and Implementation of BMSS Objectives and 3-year plan

a. Membership Committee (permanent): Responsible for keeping membership above 50.

b. Finance Committee (ad hoc): Identify revenue sources.

c. Awards Committee (ad hoc): Identify awards and criteria for selection of winner.

d. Action Committee (ad hoc): Address BMSS Objectives and 3-yr plan (Modeling Guidelines, Model Library).

3. Symposia Workshops and Continuing Education Courses for 2003

VI. Other Business

VII. Awards Presentation

VIII. Adjournment

Approximately 45 BMSS and non-BMSS were in attendance. The reception begun with the President welcoming all attendees. He introduced the new members of the Executive Committee and then continued with a brief description of the activities undertaken by BMSS over the last year. Dr. Bas Blaauuboer followed with a few comments on where biological modeling and simulation are going in Europe. The second guest, Dr. Kendall B. Wallace, SOT Council Liaison, was supposed to talk about the expectations the SOT has from the various Specialty Sections and address funding and membership issues. The BMSS President did not give him the opportunity to talk.

The President asked Gregory Blumenthal to make an announcement regarding actions he would suggest for making model codes of published articles, accessible to all. The issue was discussed briefly and several attendees made suggestions. Michael Pelekis announced the decision of the EC to ask the BMSS members on the way decisions are made within BMSS and informed that their input will by solicited in the near future via email. Lastly, the President encouraged all attendees to submit proposals for the 2003 Symposia Workshops and Continuing Education Courses prior to the deadline of April 30, 2002. The reception was concluded with the presentation of the prizes to the winner of the Best Poster Presentation by a student/post-doc. On behalf of the BMSS, Michael Pelekis presented to Dr. Claude Emond a commemorative plaque. Doug Scheiding and Joe Gauthier representing the sponsor of the Best Poster Competition, Aegis Technologies, presented Claude with a check for $500.00 and a license of ACSLTOX simulation software for one year. Claude also received a gift certificate from Taylor & Francis publishers. The reception was adjourned at 8:00 PM.
On March 3, 2002 the BMSS members were asked to decide by electronic vote on the way decisions are made within BMSS. The following question was asked:

Should decisions on how your dues are spent, what activities BMSS undertakes and supports be taken by:

A: the members of the Executive Committee (quorum of 4 would be needed for a decision to be made)

or

B: all the BMSS members (simple majority would be needed for a decision to be made)

The membership voted for option A.

On April 29, 2002, the BMSS informed the SOT that it was endorsing three proposals for Workshops, two proposals for Symposia and two Continuing Education Courses.