

## Winter 2013 Newsletter

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## President's Message

*By: Helmut Zarbl*



It is hard to believe that almost a year has passed since you selected me to take responsibility for the CSS. My main objectives were to get our members energized and involved, increase membership, create new opportunities and leave the CSS in better shape than when I took the helm. I would like to thank all of the members of the leadership team, past presidents and the SOT Staff, especially Kim von Brook, for all of their hard work. I could not have done it without their guidance and support.

Together we have accomplished much, but much remains unfinished, so please keep reading. The most important unfinished business is getting SOT approval of our new endowment fund to support student and postdoctoral stipends, travel, etc. (please see below). With ever dwindling research dollars, the need for alternative mechanisms of support has never been greater. We will launch the new endowment fund drive at our SOT reception, but we cannot do it without everyone's support. I hope you will all get involved in this important initiative.

On the research side, we continue to excel. Despite decreasing research funding, our members continue to make groundbreaking discoveries. The high quality of applications we received for trainee awards stand as a testament to our success and the strength of our members. The future looks bright indeed!

I thank you for entrusting me with the leadership of CSS and for being part of our team. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve, and I look forward to working with the incoming leadership to complete unfinished business. You do not need to be part of the leadership to contribute. If you want to get involved, let any of us know. We always need volunteers. My final words are to remind you that you only get out of our Specialty Session what you put into it. See you all in San Antonio!!!!

Helmut Zarbl, PhD, ATS

## 2012-2013 CSS Officers and Representatives:

**President:** ..... Helmut Zarbl ([zarbl@ehsi.rutgers.edu](mailto:zarbl@ehsi.rutgers.edu))  
**Vice President:** ..... Miriam C. Poirier ([poirierm@dc37a.nci.nih.gov](mailto:poirierm@dc37a.nci.nih.gov))  
**Vice President-elect:** ..... Elaine Faustman ([faustman@u.washington.edu](mailto:faustman@u.washington.edu))  
**Past President:** ..... David E. Williams ([david.williams@oregonstate.edu](mailto:david.williams@oregonstate.edu))  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** ..... John Wise ([john.wise@usm.maine.edu](mailto:john.wise@usm.maine.edu))  
**Councilor:** ..... Yvonne Dragan ([yvonne.dragan@astrazeneca.com](mailto:yvonne.dragan@astrazeneca.com))  
**Councilor:** ..... Stephen Safe ([ssafe@cvm.tamu.edu](mailto:ssafe@cvm.tamu.edu))  
**Student Representative:** ..... Sara Nowinski ([sara.nowinski@gmail.com](mailto:sara.nowinski@gmail.com))  
**Postdoctoral Representative:** Gayathri Chadalapaka ([gchadalapaka@cvm.tamu.edu](mailto:gchadalapaka@cvm.tamu.edu))



Yvonne Dragan



Elaine Faustman



Gayathri Chadalapaka



Sara Nowinski



Miriam Poirier



Stephen Safe



David Williams



John Wise



Helmut Zarbl

## Important Upcoming Deadline:

Program Proposals for  
the 2014 Annual Meeting: due April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

It is time to begin planning for the 2014 SOT Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. One way to promote our science, take a leadership role and increase CSS visibility and impact is for members to develop Symposia, Workshops, CE Courses and CCT Meetings. Program proposals for the 2014 meeting will be due soon (April 30, 2013). Anyone can propose a scientific session. You do not have to be a senior or established researcher. Students and postdocs can get involved too. Step up, and let's make 2014 our year. Our science has never been more exciting!!!

### ***Help Make the 2014 Annual Meeting a Success!***

If you have suggestions for symposia, workshops, roundtables or CE courses, please contact Helmut Zarbl ([zarbl@eohsi.rutgers.edu](mailto:zarbl@eohsi.rutgers.edu)), Miriam Poirier ([poirierm@dc37a.nci.nih.gov](mailto:poirierm@dc37a.nci.nih.gov)), or Elaine Faustman ([faustman@u.washington.edu](mailto:faustman@u.washington.edu)). Alternatively, bring your suggestions to the 2013 Carcinogenesis SS mixer, so proposed topics for the 2014 sessions can be discussed during the annual CSS business meeting.

## **New CSS Officers and Representatives for 2013-2014**

The results of the election are in!! This year we selected the next Vice President-Elect and one Councilor. I am pleased to announce that close to 40% of the membership cast their votes. While this is better than most state elections, our goal is to get everyone to vote. It is simple to do online and will only take a few minutes.

**Your vote really does count!!** This year we had an outstanding slate of candidates for both positions and so of course the voting was very close. In both cases, the winner was elected by only a few votes. So if you want your favorite candidate to win in the future, be sure to cast your vote!!

The new Vice President-Elect is **James E. Klauning** from the Department of Environmental Health at Indiana University.



The new CSS Councilor is **M. Margaret Pratt** from the US-EPA (NCEA-IRIS).



**Congratulations!!!!**

We would also like to thank **Christopher Portier** (CDC-ATSDR) and **Tao Wang** (Novartis) for running. As I indicated above, it was very close, so we encourage Chris and Tao to run again next year. If you have never considered running, please do so. The work is challenging but also very rewarding. Thanks again for all those who ran and those who voted.

As is our tradition, the winner of the Dharm V. Singh Student Award will be the Student Representative to the CSS Executive Committee for the next year. We look forward to welcoming **Chad Walesky** to the leadership team.

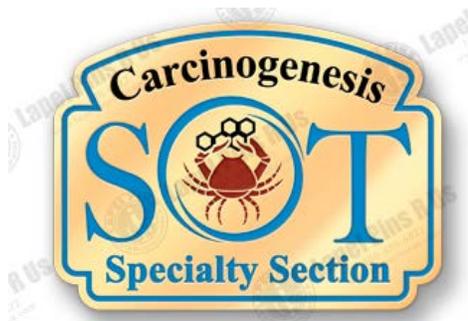
The winner of the CSS Postdoctoral award serves as the Postdoctoral Representative to the CSS Executive Committee. This year we had a tie for the award, so the duties can be split between our two winners, **Esra Mutlu** and **Michelle DeSimone**, or we can toss a coin at the CSS reception – stay tuned.

## **Lapel Pins and a new CSS Endowment Fund**

You may have noticed CSS now has a logo at the top of this Newsletter and in CSS communications. Many Specialty Sections and Special Interest Groups have logos for use on official documents and communications. Logos are important for any organization, providing brand recognition, professionalism and a sense of community. As the President, I took it upon myself to work with a team of graphic artists to design a logo for the CSS, at my own expense. The logo incorporates a crab, the universal symbol for

the dreaded disease we study, holding a molecule of benzo[a]pyrene, a carcinogenic component of soot, the first chemical carcinogen recognized by Perceval Potts in 1775. I hope you agree that it is a fitting logo for our specialty section.

If you attend the Annual Meeting you may have noticed that a few other Specialty Sections and Special Interest Groups have incorporated their logos into pins, which they wear proudly on their lapels or name badges. The logos identify other members, advertise the groups, and lead to conversations, new collaborations, collegiality and friendships. To thank all of you for giving me the honor of serving as your president, I had lapel pins made at my own expense. I hope you will agree that it is bold, distinctive and is sure to be a conversation piece!!!!



### **The Carcinogenesis Specialty Section Lapel Pin (enlarged)**

We will distribute them to you free of charge at the CSS reception in San Antonio!!! But of course there is a catch. In return, all that I ask is that every member become more involved in CSS, and I also ask you to consider making a contribution towards an Environmental Carcinogenesis Research Fellowship Endowment Fund. This fund is being created to foster the continued advancement of carcinogenesis research by promoting research in that integrates emerging science (genomics, epigenetics, metabolomics, microbiomics, exposomics, etc.) into studies that help define mechanisms of, susceptibility to, and prevention of carcinogenesis.

Proceeds from Environmental Carcinogenesis Research Fellowship Fund will be used to support students and postdoctoral fellows within the first three years of training by providing stipends to student and postdoctoral fellows. The awards will be competitive and awarded to trainees who have demonstrated creativity and

excellence in carcinogenesis research.

We will need to amass contributions of \$50,000 or more by the end of three years, thereby qualifying it as a "Permanently Restricted Net Asset Fund" that will be continued into perpetuity. If we raise the minimum, SOT will manage the fund and all proceeds from the endowment will then support the important work of the CSS in perpetuity.

I know **\$50,000 sounds like a lot, but it is possible!** We have approximately 270 members in CSS. If each of us makes a tax deductible donation of \$200 spread over three years, we will exceed this goal. If your employer matches contributions, your input can be even less (~\$35 year). I also know that some of you, especially trainees, will have a hard time coming up with this amount, but many of us can do much more. Please consider being part of a revitalized and proactive Specialty Session, which will help attract new researchers to our society and the important field of environmental carcinogenesis.

According to the new rules, we may need \$10,000 to get started, so we will be accepting checks and pledges at SOT. We will hold the checks and let you know as soon as SOT approves the new fund.

**So, the catch is to consider donating to endowment fund, to be part of something profound, a gift that will keep giving!!!**

**But even if you choose not to contribute to the fund, the pin is still my gift to you for being a member!!!!**

### **2013 Student Awards:**

**Dharm V. Singh Carcinogenesis Endowment Graduate Student Award (\$500):**

**Chad Walesky** – Dept Pharmacology, University of Kansas, Kansas City, MO

*"Deletion of Hepatocyte Nuclear Factor 4 alpha Promotes Diethylnitrosamine induced Hepatocellular Carcinoma"*

### **Graduate Student Awards:**

First Place - \$300 – **Anand Ravindran** –Dept Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, Penn State U, State College, PA.

"Ultraviolet Radiation (UVB)-Induced migration of Skin Dendritic Cell subsets is mediated through TGF- Signaling"

Second Place \$200 – **Philip Shelton** – Dept Pharmacology, U of MD School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD.

"Loss of the tumor suppressor protein PTEN contributes to increased Nrf2 signaling"

Third Place (tie) \$100 – **Sandra Wise** – Dept Applied Medical Science, U of Southern Maine, Portland, ME.

"Repeated particulate chromate exposure induces chromosome instability, a DNA double strand break repair-deficient phenotype, and neoplastic transformation in human lung cells"

and

Third Place (tie) \$100 – **Xi Li** – College of Medicine, Texas A&M Health Science Center, Houston, TX.

"Structure-dependent Effect of Diindolylmethane Derivatives on Inactivation of the Oncogenic NR4A1/NR4A2 Receptor in Colon Cancer Cells".

### **2013 Postdoctoral Award – another tie!!!**

First Place (tie) \$300 – **Esra Mutlu**, US Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC.

"Bioassay-Directed Fractionation of Diesel and Biodiesel Emissions"

and

First Place (tie) \$300 – **Michelle DeSimone**, Dept of Genetics, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC.

– "A Population-Level Mouse Model to Investigate the Genetic Determinants of Susceptibility to Environmental Toxicants".

### **Volunteers Needed !!**

An important task that remains to be finished is updating of our web page. This is often the first chance we get to make an impression on prospective new members. If anyone out there has skills in publishing, graphic design or artwork and wants to help, please let me know.

Thanks. Helmut.