

NAME OF SPECIALTY SECTION Drug Discovery Toxicology

## **ANNUAL REPORT: 2016-2017**

May 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017

### **I. Officers/Committees:**

<u>Officers</u>	2015-2016	<u>2016-2017</u>
President:	Daniel C Kemp	Raymond A Kemper
Vice President:	Raymond A Kemper	Pete Newham
Vice President-Elect:	Pete Newham	Howard Mellor
Secretary/Treasurer:	Dinah Lee Misner	Dinah Lee Misner
Past President	Andrew J Olaharski	Daniel C Kemp
Councilors:	Jonathan A Phillips	Jonathan A Phillips
	Leanne L Bedard	Anthony Bahinski
PDA Representative:		
GSLC Representative:	Melanie Abongwa	

Committees: If applicable.

### **II. Activities:**

**2017 SOT Annual Meeting Reception** was held in Baltimore, Maryland on Monday, March 13, 2017.

Approximately 55 people were in attendance.

Dr. Raymond Kemper called the meeting to order at 6 PM on Monday, March 13, 2017.

### **Meeting Minutes:**

The meeting opened with a welcome from out-going President Dr Ray Kemper and the award of the Emil A. Pfitzer Travel Award for best graduate student and post-doctoral poster presentations. A total of 16 submissions from graduate students and 4 submissions from post-doctoral fellows were received. All abstracts were reviewed and the top four candidates from each category were invited to present their posters for final judging on the afternoon of Monday, March 13th. Dr Yvonne Will then gave a presentation on the SOT Contemporary Concepts in Toxicology (CCT) Meetings. The aims of the CCT and the CTT committee were shared and details of how to create a CCT meeting and the support provided by the SOT.

In-coming President then welcomed the newly elected officers for 2016-2017 (Dinah Misner, – VP Elect, Jonathan, Marie Lemper – Secretary Treasurer, Jennifer Cohen – Councillor, Pankajini Mallick – Post-Doctoral representative and Guncha Taneja – Graduate Student Representative), and service plaques were presented to outgoing officers (Ray Kemper – President, Dinah Misner – Secretary Treasurer, and Jonathan Phillips – Councillor and Kshama Doshi – Graduate Student Representative). This was followed by a panel discussion led by Dr. Howard Mellor and Dr Peter Newham on Panel Discussion Discovery Toxicologist skills and capabilities. The panellists were Yvonne Will – Pfizer, Scott Henry – Ionis Pharma and Kathila Rajapaksa – Genentech,

representing small molecule, nucleotide-based and biologic therapeutics. This was an opportunity to compare and contrast the different philosophies and skills required for investigative toxicology in the drug discovery phase, how these have evolved in recent years and perceived skills gaps.. The meeting finished with announcement of a new annual competition “Drug discovery toxicology paper of the year award”.

#### **Awards:**

#### **Graduate Students:**

1<sup>st</sup> place poster – Elijah J. Weber, University of Washington. Safety assessment of Polymyxin B structural variants using a 3D nephrotoxin-sensitive microphysiological system (\$1000).

2<sup>nd</sup> place poster – Wenyi Wang, Rutgers University. Design, Synthesis and Evaluation of Inhibitors of Type 5 17 $\beta$ -Hydroxysteroid Dehydrogenase (AKR1C3) as Novel Therapeutics to Manage Castration Resistant Prostate Cancer (CRPC) and Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) (\$400).

3<sup>rd</sup> place poster – Tyler Beach, University of Rochester. Persistent and progressive lung injury is linked to recurring DNA damage, cellular senescence and a pro-fibrotic epithelial response (\$150).

#### **Post-Doctoral Fellows:**

1<sup>st</sup> place poster – Priyanka Trivedi, Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Targeting Phospholipase D4 attenuates kidney fibrosis by modulating the immune system and activating proteases (\$1000).

2<sup>nd</sup> place poster – Sarah E. Thacker, UNC Institute for Drug Safety Sciences. Optimization of Methods to Enrich Hepatocyte-Derived Exosomes for the Identification of Novel DILI Biomarkers (\$400).

3<sup>rd</sup> place postdoctoral poster – Li Xi, Texas A&M University. Hydroxyphenyl-bisindole Isomers as Specific Ligands for Nuclear Receptor 4A1 (NR4A1) (\$150).

**2017 SOT Annual Meeting Courses/Sessions:** DDTSS endorsed 1 CE course, 5 symposium sessions and 2 workshops for the 2017 annual meeting.

**Endowment Fund Details:** For the nine month period ending March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, the Emil A. Pfitzer Drug Discovery Student Award Endowment showed a net gain of \$7,328, giving an ending balance of \$97,723.

**Newsletters:** A summer newsletter was sent out to the DDTSS membership in Fall, 2016.

**Teleseminars:** The DDTSS presented 2 webinars in 2016-2017:

1. Immuno-Oncology Special Feature:  
Nonclinical Safety Assessment of Checkpoint Inhibitors and Costimulatory Agonists  
Safety Assessment of Immune Cell-Based Therapies for Immuno-Oncology  
Evolution of Safety Assessment for T Cell-Dependent Bispecific Molecules

Presenters: Helen Haggerty, (Bristol-Myers Squibb), Rodney Prell (Genentech), Tim MacLachlan, (Novartis Institutes of Biomedical Research); January 24, 2017.

2. Drug Discovery Toxicology Careers and Opportunities in The Pharmaceutical Industry.  
Presenters: Dolo Diaz (Denali Therapeutics), Brandon Jeffy (Vertex); April 5, 2017

**White Papers:** No white papers were published by DDTSS in 2016-2017.

**Contributions to SOT website:** Award listings on the DDTSS website were recently updated to reflect changes to the 2017 poster competitions. First, second and third place prizes at both the graduate student and postdoctoral levels were presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting, made possible by the Emil Pfitzer endowment fund.