

NAME OF SPECIALTY SECTION: Drug Discovery Toxicology

## **ANNUAL REPORT: 2018-2019**

May 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019

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

| <u>Officers</u>       | <u>2017-2018</u>     | <u>2018-2019</u>     |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| President:            | Pete Newham          | Howard Mellor        |
| Vice President:       | Howard Mellor        | Dinah Lee Misner     |
| Vice President-Elect: | Dinah Lee Misner     | Yu Zhong             |
| Secretary/Treasurer:  | Marie Lemper         | Marie Lemper         |
| Past President        | Raymond A Kemper     | Pete Newham          |
| Councilors:           | Jennifer Diane Cohen | Jennifer Diane Cohen |
|                       | Anthony Bahinski     | Marianna Stamou      |
| PDA Representative:   | Pankajini Mallick    | Pankajini Mallick    |
| GSLC Representative:  | Guncha Taneja        | Victoria Horton      |

Committees: If applicable.

### **II. Activities:**

**2019 SOT Annual Meeting Reception** was held in Baltimore, Maryland on Wednesday, March 13, 2019.

Approximately 70 people were in attendance.

Dr. Howard Mellor called the meeting to order at 6 PM on Wednesday, March 13, 2019.

**Business Meeting Speaker:** Dr. Howard Mellor

#### **Meeting Minutes:**

The meeting opened with a welcome from Dr. Howard Mellor. It was followed by the announcement of the Emil A. Pfitzer Award for best graduate student and post-doctoral poster presentations. All abstracts were reviewed and the top four candidates from each category were invited to present their posters at the SOT Annual Meeting for final judging. After the poster awards the announcement was made that the DDTSS would renew the Paper of the Year Award competition and the Winner of the DDTSS paper of the Year 2018 was acknowledged. Stefan Kustermann presented a few slides highlighting the key aspects described in the paper.

Finally, the reception ended by welcoming and introducing incoming officers (Marie Lemper, Pankajini Mallick, and Marianna Stamou (second term)) and service plaques were presented to outgoing officers (Howard Mellor, Marie Lemper, Jennifer Cohen, and Pankajini Mallick (in abstentia)).

**Paper of the Year Award** – Discovery of Risdiplam, a Selective Survival of Motor Neuron 2 (SMN2) Gene Splicing Modifier for the Treatment of Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) – Award accepted by Stefan Kustermann (\$1000).

**Poster Awards:**

**Graduate Students:**

1<sup>st</sup> place poster – Paige Glumac (\$1000).

2<sup>nd</sup> place poster – Lauren Lewis (\$400).

**Post-Doctoral Fellows:**

1<sup>st</sup> place poster – Monica Langley (\$1000).

2<sup>nd</sup> place poster – Souvarish Sarkar (\$400).

**2019 SOT Annual Meeting Courses/Sessions:** DDTSS was the primary endorser for 3 workshops for the 2019 annual meeting. Additionally, the DDTSS participated in the annual monitoring lunch.

**Endowment Fund Details:** For the six-month period ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018, the Emil A. Pfitzer Drug Discovery Student Award Endowment showed a net deficit of \$2,331 giving an ending balance of \$102,651. For the nine-month period ending March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019, the DDTSS showed a net deficit of \$3,662 giving an ending balance of \$52,197.

**Newsletters:** A newsletter was sent out to the DDTSS membership in Fall, 2018.

**Teleseminars:** Two webinars were hosted by the DDTSS in 2018-2019. The first webinar was “Lead Optimization Drug Safety Strategies for Small Molecules” presented by Drs. Zoe Zhong and Mark Fielden on October 29, 2018. The second webinar was “In Vitro Platforms to Predict CNS Toxicity” presented by Drs. Mohamed Kreir and Qin Wang on February 26, 2019.

**White Papers:** No white papers were published by DDTSS in 2018-2019.

**Contributions to SOT website:** Award listings on the DDTSS website were recently updated to reflect changes to the 2019 poster competitions. First and second place prizes at both the graduate student and postdoctoral levels were presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting, made possible by the Emil Pfitzer endowment fund.

**Other Specialty Section 2018-2019 Activities:** Not applicable.