



Society of Toxicology

Specialty Section Communication

Drug Discovery Toxicology

Fall 2008

President's Message

Greetings Drug Discovery Toxicology Specialty Section members!

Once again, it is the Fall; time to submit SOT abstracts and begin the preparation for the annual meeting. Hopefully, everyone has had a chance to submit their cherished research project, confirm their favorite hotel, and saved money by registering for the meeting early!

This newsletter serves to provide you with key updates on the status of our submitted proposals for the 2009 annual meeting in Baltimore, introduce you to the new DDTSS officers, solicit volunteers to run for office next election cycle, and to provide you with a letter from Jon Cook honoring the legacy of our endowed student award namesake, Emil Pfitzer. Through the kind donation of Emil Pfitzer's family, our specialty section will be financially stable for the foreseeable future.

DDTSS continues to thrive as a specialty section, both in terms of continual membership growth but also in terms of proactive involvement in the SOT. Our influence is again highlighted by our substantial sponsorship and creation of accepted scientific sessions for the annual meeting. We also are actively involved in supporting students with the annual DDTSS student poster competition, participation in "Lunch with an Expert," and participation in SOT's student mentor program. I am thankful for those who've contributed their time and effort to make this specialty section a vibrant organization.

I will close by encouraging members to continue to seek the DDTSS to be a sponsor for scientific program proposals for future SOT meetings. It has been very rewarding to be a part of fostering the strong scientific contribution to the SOT.

Thanks again for your continued support!

Kyle Kolaja

DDTSS President

Officer Election Results

Congratulations to our new officers, **Cindy Afshari** and **Michael Lawton**. Cindy is our new VP-elect and will transition to VP and President in the years to come. Cindy has been very active in many specialty sections including Drug Discovery and Investigative Toxicology, and we look forward to her leadership in the years to come. Michael is our incoming Councilor, and we look forward to his help in guiding our Specialty Section for the next two years. To help better acquaint yourself with them, please to enjoy their biographies:

Cindy Afshari, PhD, DABT

Dr. Afshari received her BS in Biochemistry and Biophysics from the University of Pittsburgh and PhD in Toxicology from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She then became a postdoctoral fellow in the Center for Aging and Human Development at Duke University Medical School, and then became a Senior Staff Scientist at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences where she led a basic research program within the Laboratory of Molecular Carcinogenesis. In addition, she founded the multi-disciplinary NIEHS Microarray Center which served as a central collaboration group for working with investigators within and extramural to NIEHS in the field of toxicogenomics. In 2002, Dr. Afshari joined Amgen Inc. where she currently serves as a Director in Preclinical Safety, Department of Comparative Biology and Safety Sciences. Her work at Amgen is focused on strategies for screening and selecting drug candidates and ensuring effective integration of novel technologies into the early pipeline activities. Dr. Afshari has served on several study sections in the past few years for both NIEHS and NCI in the area of emerging technologies and risk assessment. She has also served as Chair of the HESI committee on Genomics and also on a National Academy of Sciences committee covering genomics applications in predictive toxicology.

Dr. Afshari currently serves on the editorial boards for Toxicological Sciences, Environmental Health Perspectives, and Chemical Research in Toxicology. She is currently serving as a Councilor for the SOT RESS committee and the SOT Scientific Program committee.

Michael Lawton, PhD

Michael Lawton, PhD, is an Associate Research Fellow in the Investigative Toxicology Department at Pfizer in Groton, CT. Dr Lawton received his B.S. in Environmental Toxicology from the University of California, Davis, and his Ph.D. in Toxicology from North Carolina State University in Raleigh. After completing post-doctoral research at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Dr. Lawton joined Pfizer Discovery in 1994 as a member of the Genetic Technologies group. In 1999, he transferred to the Drug Safety department and started a molecular toxicology lab that applies molecular approaches in support of predictive toxicology, identification of molecular biomarkers, and mechanistic toxicology for early and late-stage safety assessment. Dr. Lawton has been a member of the SOT since 2001 and is currently a member of the Drug Discovery Toxicology and Molecular Biology Specialty Sections and the Northeast Regional Chapter. He has over 35 peer-reviewed publications and until recently served as Co-Chair of the Vascular Injury Working Group of the Predictive Safety Testing Consortium.

Call for Nominations

Hard to believe, but it's that time already where we need to solicit nominations for new open officer positions for 2009-2010. The following 4 positions are available:

VP- elect
Secretary/Treasurer
Councilor
Student Representative/Web Liaison

Each position is for a two year term, while the VP-The VP-elect position transitions to VP, President, and Past-President. All other positions are two year terms. For more information on the duties and expectations for these positions, see

https://www.toxicology.org/isot/lrg/GenericSS_guide0408.doc

If you are interested, or want to nominate someone else, please contact Kyle Kolaja (kyle.kolaja@roche.com). Elections will be held in January of 2009, and new officers will be introduced at the 2009 SOT Annual Meeting.

Officers Listing

2008-2009	2009-2010
President Kyle Kolaja Roche Palo Alto kyle.kolaja@roche.com	President John Davis II Pfizer
Vice President John Davis II Pfizer John.W1.Davis@pfizer.com	Vice President Cynthia Afshari Amgen
Vice President-elect Cynthia Afshari Amgen cafshari@amgen.com	Vice President-elect Open
Secretary/Treasurer Mark Fielden Roche Palo Alto mark.fielden@roche.com	Secretary/Treasurer Open
Councilor (Past President) Drew Badger Amira Pharmaceutical Drew.Badger@amirapharm.com	Councilor (Past President) Kyle Kolaja Roche Palo Alto
Councilor Jim Stevens Eli Lilly and Company Stevens_james_I@lilly.com	Councilor Michael Lawton Pfizer
Councilor Michael Lawton Pfizer michael.lawton@pfizer.com	Councilor Open
Student Representative and Web Liaison Kim Henderson UCLA hndkim@ucla.edu	Student Representative and Web Liaison Open

Student Poster Competition 2009 Annual Meeting - Call for Submissions

First (\$600), second (\$300) and third (\$100) place prizes will be presented at the 2009 Annual Meeting for the best student poster. The competition is open to current graduate students (at time of meeting) whose abstract has been accepted by SOT for presentation at the 2009 Annual Meeting. Applicants must submit a copy of the abstract and a letter of support from their dissertation advisor via e-mail to Mark Fielden mark.fielden@roche.com. A selected set of applicants will be invited to present their posters during a special afternoon poster judging session distinct from the regularly scheduled poster sessions. Student winners will also be eligible to participate in 2009/2010 DDTSS as the Student Representative. To participate in the DDTSS Student Award competition, membership in SOT and/or DDTSS is encouraged but not necessary. For more information, please contact Mark Fielden mark.fielden@roche.com. The deadline for submission is February 1, 2008.

Update on Proposals for 2009 Annual Meeting Endorsed Sessions

In preparation for the 2009 Annual meeting to be held in Baltimore a total of 150 proposals were submitted in April of this year and 72 were accepted. DDTSS was asked to be the primary sponsor of six proposals and to endorse an additional 24 proposals. DDTSS Council members, Drew Badger, Kyle Kolaja, Mark Fielden, Brian Gemzik, John Davis, Jim Stevens, Greg Stevens and Kim Henderson all provided feedback to the requestors in order to enhance the quality of the submissions. Their service to the Specialty Section is gratefully acknowledged. Of those that were submitted three were accepted in which the DDTSS is the primary sponsor and an additional 13 endorsed proposals were accepted.

Sponsor

- The Impact of Transcript Profiling on Drug Safety Assessment – Workshop

- Leveraging Non-Clinical Disease Models for Early Perspective on Safety and Risk During Drug Discovery – Roundtable
- Biomarkers of Cardiac Hypertrophy and Skeletal Muscle Toxicity - Successes and Challenges Related to their Implementation in Drug Development – Roundtable

Endorsement

- Phototoxicology: A Passing Fancy or Enduring Concern - Roundtable
- Strategies to Integrate Systems Biology into In Vitro Screening in Early Nonclinical Safety Assessment - Workshop
- Regulation of Drug Transporters in Different Disease States and its Toxicological and Clinical Implications - Symposium
- The Road to Personalized Medicine - Workshop
- From Mechanisms to Biomarkers: Basic and Applied Metabolomics in Toxicology - Symposium
- Nanotoxicology and Drug Delivery - Symposium
- Agglomeration Versus Dispersion: How Nanoparticle Behavior Affects Exposure and Toxicity in Vitro, In Vivo, and in the Real World - Workshop
- Is there a Future for Animal Models in the Investigation of Idiosyncratic DILI in Humans? - Roundtable
- Improved Safety Biomarkers for Monitoring Kidney Injury - Workshop
- Translation of Safety Biomarkers in Drug Discovery and Development – CE Advanced
- Biomarkers for Assessing the Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome in Toxicology Studies - Workshop
- Kinase Inhibitors as Targeted Therapeutics in Inflammation and Oncology: Approaches to Predict and Manage Clinical Toxicities – Informational Session
- The Role of Inflammation during Metabolic Liver Disease and Drug-Induced Liver Toxicity: Novel Insights - Symposium

Introduction of the Emil Pfitzer Endowment Fund

Dear Fellow DDTSS Members,

I am writing this letter, because I want to raise awareness about the Emil A. Pfitzer Drug Discovery Student Award. This award was created to honor the legacy of Dr. Pfitzer by providing awards to students who apply modern toxicologic science in drug discovery. This was a great gift for our Specialty Section and I urge you to support this award. As I talked with Kyle about Dr. Pfitzer, we decided to request the reprinting of Emil's obituary from Toxicological Sciences as many members may not have known him. I met Dr. Pfitzer as a postdoctoral fellow attending the Risk Assessment Summer School (RASS) in the summer of 1987. Emil was on the RASS faculty teaching case studies in risk assessment. Upon re-reading his obituary, I was reminded of his subtle sense of humor and ability to find the middle ground on difficult issues that were so illustrated during the week I spent outside of Richmond, Virginia attending the RASS meeting.

The Emil A. Pfitzer Drug Discovery Student Award Fund proceeds support our Specialty Section by providing student awards to outstanding students that apply modern toxicologic science in the field of drug discovery. The Pfitzer Fund was created by the initial generous contributions from Hoffmann-LaRoche, the Research Institute for Fragrance Materials (RIFM) and the family and friends of Emil Pfitzer. Dr. Pfitzer worked at Hoffman-LaRoche for 22 years serving as Vice President of Toxicology and Pathology where he championed the use of mechanistic toxicology. After retiring from Roche, he served five years as the President of RIFM. Dr. Pfitzer also served as President of the Society of Toxicology in 1985-1986.

The DDTSS was given the stewardship of this award by SOT Council and this gift needs our support to ensure that the Fund will benefit our specialty section in perpetuity. As a member of DDTSS, I am asking you to consider donating money to honor Dr. Pfitzer's memory and to ensure that our endowment can be sustained for many more years. Your donation will be doubled because of the "SOT 50th Anniversary Match" and if your company matches donations, it will be quadrupled. As a member of the Endowment Fund Board, I have committed half of my Lifetime Paracelsus

Circle donation to the Emil A. Pfitzer Drug Discovery Student Award. I realize these are tough economic times, but even a \$25 donation can become \$100 if your company has a matching program. I hope you will consider giving back to the SOT by supporting this endowment and ensuring that the DDTSS can continue and expand our student awards. The stewardship of this award is in our hands!

Sincerely,

Jon C. Cook

EMIL ALVIN PFITZER

We deeply regret that toxicology has lost a scientist dedicated to elevating the standards of science in our profession. Dr Emil A. Pfitzer, Past President of the Society of Toxicology, passed away on 20 July 2007 at his home in New River, AZ, after a long illness with a chronic lung disease. Emil was a very active participant in and strong advocate for our Society, and as President, he presided over the Society during its 25th anniversary year (1985–1986) and was a member of the 40th Anniversary Task Force.

Emil was born on 30 June 1929 in Chattanooga, TN, son of the late John Joseph Pfitzer and Jennie Margaretha (Hansen) Pfitzer. He was a graduate of the University of Chattanooga, class of 1950.

Emil received his doctoral degree at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health in 1961, where he remained on the faculty conducting research and teaching in occupational health. In 1965, he moved to the University of Cincinnati School of Medicine to conduct research on lead, chlorinated insecticides, and their concentration in the environment.

Emil's career spanned academia and industry, which provided a broad scientific basis from which advice was often requested by various governmental and regulatory agencies.

In 1972, Emil joined Hoffmann-La Roche in the Department of Toxicology and Pathology and over a 22-year career at Roche, rose to Vice President of Toxicology and Pathology. During his tenure at Roche, many important new medicines were brought to market. These included, for example, alpha interferon, the very first biotechnology drug made by human recombinant technology. Recombinant technology brought in a new era in drug development, including the challenges that these novel agents presented for safety assessment. Since the approaches used for conventional small molecules were not always relevant for large peptides and proteins, new approaches for safety evaluation were needed on a case-by-case basis. Emil recognized at a very early stage, the importance of mechanistic toxicology in drug development and supported research on developmental compounds ranging from mechanisms of carcinogenesis to the function of retinoid receptors. The characterization of mechanisms of toxicity proved to be very important and provided a better perspective for the safety of patients in human clinical trials.

Emil's demeanor was usually one of quiet listening, asking key questions, and staying constantly involved in making the Toxicology Department at Roche one of the best in the industry. For those who visited Emil in his office, they saw stacks of paper, piled high, covering his desk and tables (books, journals, internal reports, memos, etc.). Amazingly, they were as neat as could be and he could find anything at a moment's notice. Nobody has ever seen Emil angry, frustrated to be sure, but never angry. He always had a calming influence on debates, scientific and otherwise. Rarely was there a derogatory comment made about anyone. Critical yes, derogatory no. Usually present was Emil's subtle sense of humor.

Emil was a member of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences, Commission on Life Sciences, for which he served on a number of the Academy's committees. He also served on many other prestigious committees such as the Science Advisory Board for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the Committee on Toxicology of the Science Board of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the World Health Organization, and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, to mention a few. One of Emil's more impressive and important attributes was that he could almost always find the middle ground on any issue. As a result, he was a very popular and valuable committee member or chair based on this skill.

During his more than 22 years of service at Roche, Emil had worldwide influence in the field of toxicology and, as noted above, served as President of our Society of Toxicology in 1985–1986. In addition, he served as a consultant to numerous institutions and as an adjunct professor at several universities and colleges.

Emil served on the Expert Panel for the Research Institute for Fragrance Materials (RIFM) for 5 years, and after retiring from Roche in 1995, he served as President of RIFM.

Emil was accredited in Toxicology as a Fellow of the Academy of Toxicological Sciences and a Diplomate, American Board of Toxicology. He was also the recipient of many prestigious awards including the Stokinger award for industrial toxicology from the American Governmental Conference for Industrial Hygienists, the 1995 Arnold J. Lehman award from the Society of Toxicology, and the 1996 Toxicology Ambassador award from the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Society of Toxicology.

Emil's work was obviously a strong passion, but he was also devoted to family, church, charitable causes, and nature appreciation. He was married to the late Jeanne Frances (Prien) Pfitzer for 54 years. He is survived by a sister, Grace Pfitzer of Chattanooga, TN; his children, Gary Pfitzer of San Francisco, CA, Greg Pfitzer of Wilton, NY, Gordon Pfitzer of Chino Hills, CA, and Margaret Mullins of New River, AZ; and six grandchildren.

For all who knew Emil A. Pfitzer, they recognized that he was a remarkable human being and his shining attributes were his ever-present sense of dignity, decency, and love of his family and toxicology. Toxicology has lost a scientist dedicated to elevating the standards of the science and teaching his colleagues how to work by his example.

R. Michael McClain

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