



# Society of Toxicology Specialty Section Communication

## *Drug Discovery Toxicology*

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August, 2008

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### 2008-2009 Officers Listing

**President**

Kyle Kolaja  
Roche Palo Alto  
kyle.kolaja@roche.com

**Vice President**

John Davis II  
Pfizer  
John.W1.Davis@pfizer.com

**Vice President-elect**

Cynthia Afshari  
Amgen  
cafshari@amgen.com

*Newly  
Elected!*

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Mark Fielden  
Roche Palo Alto  
mark.fielden@roche.com

**Counselor (Past President)**

Drew Badger  
Amira Pharmaceutical  
Drew.Badger@amirapharm.com

**Counselor**

Jim Stevens  
Eli Lilly and Company  
Stevens\_james\_l@lilly.com

**Counselor**

Michael Lawton  
Pfizer  
michael.lawton@pfizer.com

*Newly  
Elected!*

**Student Representative and****Web Liaison**

Kim Henderson  
UCLA  
hndkim@ucla.edu

### President's Message

(Submitted by Kyle Kolaja)

As only the second President of the Drug Discovery Toxicology Specialty Section, I first would like to give thanks to Drew Badger, the “George Washington” of our organization. It was Drew’s innovative spirit, commitment, and diligence that led to the formation of this vibrant and flourishing specialty section. In a little over four years’ time, our section has grown to over 320 members and is currently the 5<sup>th</sup> largest specialty section in the SOT!

I also want to share with you some positive news regarding our Specialty Section’s financial stability. Late last year, we established a fund to cover the expenses of graduate student and post-doctoral awards. Through a generous donation from the family of a renowned Drug Discovery toxicologist, Dr. Emil Pfitzer, this fund will be financially stable for the foreseeable future. As a result, our student award is now named the “Emil Pfitzer Drug Discovery Toxicology Award.” In the fall newsletter, we’ll share more details about this exciting development.

Lastly, I am pleased to share results of our recent DDTSS officers election.

Congratulations are in order for both **Cynthia Afshari** and **Michael Lawton** who have been elected Vice-President Elect and Councilor, respectively. I look forward to working with you over the coming years. Thanks again to our outgoing council members, Brian Gemzik and Greg Stevens, who served us well for the past two years.

## 2008 SOT Meeting Highlights

Our DDTSS reception at the SOT annual meeting was well attended by our members. Drew Badger, the President and Master of Ceremonies, gave the opening and closing remarks. John Davis presented the ideas for the DDTSS-sponsored symposia, workshops and continuing education courses for the upcoming 2009 SOT Annual Meeting, and Kyle Kolaja presented plaques to a number of outgoing officers and founding members of our specialty section. In addition, Mark Fielden presented awards to the top five DDTSS Student Poster winners as described below.

## 2008 DDTSS Student Poster Competition Results:

### First place (\$600)

Leah Mitchell, University of New Mexico, NM, for her abstract titled "Inhaled Multiwalled Carbon Nanotube Induction of Immunomodulatory Cytokines and Stress Associated Enzymes *in vivo*"

### Second Place (\$300)

Sumitra Sengupta, Oregon State University, for her abstract titled "Chemical Genetics to Identify Molecular Pathways controlling Tissue Regeneration"

### Third Place (\$100)

Kimberly Henderson, UCLA, for her abstract titled "Boric acid as a novel endoplasmic reticulum modulator and calcium release antagonist in DU-145 prostate cancer cells"

### Runners up:

Craig Fisher, University of Arizona, for his abstract titled "Hepatic Transporter and Drug Metabolism Enzyme Expression in Humans with Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease"

Peter Bui, UCLA, for his abstract titled "NNC55-0396, a potentially safe therapeutic T-type Ca<sup>2+</sup> channel-specific antagonist, does not strongly inhibit CYP3A4"



**Student Award Finalists:** from left to right: Sumitra Sengupta, Kimberly Henderson, Craig Fisher, Leah Mitchell, Peter Bui