



Society of Toxicology Specialty Section Communication

Drug Discovery Toxicology

June 2009

2009-2010 Officers Listing

President

John Davis II
Pfizer
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Vice President

Cynthia Afshari
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Vice President-elect

Craig Thomas
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Secretary/Treasurer

Melissa Rhodes
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Counselor (Past President)

Kyle Kolaja
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Counselor

Michael Lawton
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Counselor

Dan Kemp
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Postdoctoral Representative

Kim Henderson
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Student Representative and Web Liaison

Arunkumar Asaithambi
Iowa State University
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Newly
Elected!

Newly
Elected!

Newly
Appointed!
Newly
Appointed!

President's Message

(Submitted by John Davis)

As the DDTSS enters its fifth year of existence it is also entering what I like to think of as its third phase of growth and development. Obviously the first phase was the development of the concept and establishment as a specialty section. This was driven by Drew Badger, who Kyle Kolaja has referred to as “our George Washington.”

The second phase was a period in which new council members such as Jim Stevens, Mike Lawton and Cindy Afshari came on board and they brought with them a wealth of experience working in other specialty sections and novel ideas for the section to develop. It was also during this time that Kyle Kolaja was instrumental in establishing the Emil A. Pfizer Drug Discovery Student Award. This award was created to honor the legacy of Dr. Pfizer by providing awards to students who apply modern toxicologic science in drug discovery. DDTSS by-laws were refined to clarify roles and responsibilities of council members. These initial years were incredibly exciting and have resulted in a specialty section that is one of the busiest during the annual meeting and has rapidly grown to one of the largest.

Over the next year I would like to emphasize two areas. The first is greater involvement of our general membership. To achieve this goal everyone will be receiving requests from the DDTSS council, as well as SOT, so stay tuned. The other area will be increasing interactions with our academic colleagues. We are a specialty section that is predominantly industry researchers. However, graduate training programs are the source for our future toxicologists and we need to build on the success of our graduate student poster competition. We are beginning to achieve this by the newly created council role of postdoctoral representative. Basic science researchers are also one of the primary sources for the type of innovative approaches that we as a group focus on. Reaching out to these scientists in a proactive and concerted way will help us grow as a specialty section and a sub-discipline of toxicology.

In closing I would like to welcome the new council members, Craig Thomas (vice-president elect), Melissa Rhodes (secretary/treasurer), Dan Kemp (counselor), Kim Henderson (postdoctoral representative) and Arun Asaithambi (graduate student representative/web liaison). I also want to extend my deepest gratitude to the exiting council members, Drew Badger, Mark Fielden and Jim Stevens.

2009 SOT Meeting Highlights

(submitted by Melissa Rhodes)

Our DDTSS reception at the SOT annual meeting was well attended by our members.

Kyle Kolaja, the President and Master of Ceremonies, gave the opening and closing remarks. Cindy Afshari presented some ideas for the DDTSS-sponsored symposia, workshops and continuing education courses for the upcoming 2010 SOT Annual Meeting, and John Davis presented plaques to a number of outgoing officers and introduced the new committee. In addition, Mark Fielden presented awards to the top three DDTSS Emil Pfitzer Student Awards funded by the Emil Pfitzer Student Award Fund within the SOT Endowment Fund. Student Poster winners as described below.

2009 Emil A. Pfitzer Drug Discovery Student Poster Competition Results:

First place (\$1000)

Jamie O'Brien, University of Rochester, for her abstract titled "15-deoxy- $\Delta^{12,14}$ -PGJ₂ enhances platelet production from megakaryocytes"

Second Place (\$600)

Jennifer Cohen, University of Arizona, for her abstract titled "The tumor suppressor gene *TSC-2* modulates translation initiation of cyclin D1 through ERK crosstalk with 4EBP1"

Third Place (\$300)

Arunkumar Asaithambi, Iowa State University, for his abstract titled "FYN kinase dependent proteolytic activation of protein kinase C-delta phosphorylates anti-apoptotic kinase PKD1 during oxidative insult in cell culture models of Parkinson's Disease"



Emil A. Pfitzer Student Award Winners: from left to right: Arunkumar Asaithambi, Jamie O'Brien, John Davis (DDTSS President), and Jennifer Cohen.

Requests for Input

(Submitted by Kim Henderson)

Publications Solicitation

DDTSS wants to highlight our members' relevant publications. We are soliciting research publications from full, post-doctoral, and student SOT members for acknowledgement in our Fall newsletter and that will also be featured on the DDTSS web site. Authors may nominate either their own publication(s) or those of other scientists whose work they feel is of broad interest to DDTSS members. If you are interested in contributing, please send a complete citation and abstract to Kim Henderson (hndkim@ucla.edu) by August 1st, 2009.

Request for Newsletter Submission

In September of each year DDTSS publishes a Fall Newsletter. Council is continuing to look for ways to improve our newsletter. We are requesting volunteers to submit content related to the latest developments in research and technologies that could impact efforts in

early safety assessment. This could be a review of novel technologies or a highlight of a recently published paper with the potential to have significant impact in our field. If you are interested in contributing, please send an email to Melissa Rhodes with possible topics (melissa.c.rhodes@gsk.com) by August 1st, 2009.