Dear IRSS member,

As has been our practice in the past, this newsletter is to refresh your memory of what occurred last year at our annual meeting in Baltimore, and to give you a preview of what great things await you at the 49th annual meeting and Tox Expo in Salt Lake City, Utah March 7-11, 2010. Our current president JeanClare Sea-grave, in addition to her message to us, has provided the minutes of last year’s Business Meeting, and the annual report: 2008-2009 of the Inhalation and Respiratory Specialty Section.

In addition the minutes of the Technical Committee are provided along with some pictures taken at the meeting and award ceremony.

Harry Salem
Fellow Inhalation and Respiratory Specialty Section Members:

It is hard to believe it has been 8 months since our meeting in Baltimore, and the deadline for abstracts for the 2010 meeting of the SOT (the 49th!) has already passed. I hope everyone has had a successful year, and the IRSS will be well represented by abstracts at the upcoming meeting in Salt Lake City.

The IRSS was asked to sponsor one workshop, one continuing education course, and 8 symposia for the 2010 meeting, a very nice group of proposals. Of these, the CE course and 4 symposia were approved, for a 50% approval rating, far better than the results last year. In addition, we were asked to endorse a total of 2 additional workshops and one basic and one advanced CE course. It appears the IRSS will have a strong presence at this meeting: well done!

It is not too soon to be thinking about submissions for the 2011 meeting. The meeting in 2010 is an optimal time to get together with colleagues to define the subject, identify the speakers, and solicit feedback to strengthen the proposed sessions. The most significant reason for sessions we sponsored for 2010 not being approved was inadequate planning (too many speakers, too similar topics, or “insufficiently developed”). So please start planning now to help make the 50th anniversary meeting a milestone for IRSS as well as SOT.

The Mary Amdur Fund received a total of $4000 in contributions between July 2008 and June 2009. These were matched by $4000 from SOT. As we are all aware, the current economic climate has been hard on investments, but as of the last reported earnings statement, we have a net fund balance of $30,169. This places it 6th highest of the 25 special purpose funds. We should be proud of the generosity of our membership in supporting this fund and its future awardees.

Nominations for the Mary Amdur Fund awardee (for an abstract submitted by a graduate student with a focus in environmental health) as well as the Graduate Student Award, the Postdoctoral Award, the Best Paper Award, the New Investigator Award, and the Career Achievement Award are all due December 18th. Nominations should be submitted to Vince Castranova (vic1@cdc.gov: Career Achievement) or Jim Wagner (wagnerja@msu.edu: all others). For more information, see the IRSS home page https://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/Inhalation/Index.asp on the SOT website. Please consider nominating a colleague or a student for these important forms of recognition.

One other note of interest: I know many of our members were excited by the establishment by NIH of a Special Emphasis Panel, Systemic Injury for Environmental Exposures, to provide a possibly more knowledgeable group for review of toxicological proposals. The plan was for a pilot series of three review sessions. That pilot period is over. My understanding from Sy Garte is that SIEE is not currently active, and that a final decision on the future status of SIEE is pending, and will be announced shortly.

I look forward to seeing you all in Salt Lake City in March.

JeanClare Seagrave
President
Members of the Inhalation and Respiratory Specialty Section,

James Wagner (Vice President) and Vince Castranova (President Elect) will be heading the solicitation of nominations and the selection of winners of the various awards for the Inhalation and Respiratory Specialty Section for 2010. The following is a list of awards, the contact person to which the nomination information should be sent, and the deadlines. See the SOT web site for details concerning the information needed to support nominations for each award.

Sincerely,
Vincent Castranova
IRSS Vice President

**IRSS Career Achievement Award**
Contact: Vincent Castranova
Deadline: Dec. 18, 2009

**IRSS Paper of the Year Award**
Contact: James Wagner
Deadline: Dec. 18, 2009

**IRSS Young Investigator Award**
Contact: James Wagner
Deadline: Dec. 18, 2009

**IRSS Mary O. Amdur Student Award**
Contact: James Wagner
Deadline: Dec. 18, 2009

**IRSS Student Award**
Contact: James Wagner
Deadline: Dec. 18, 2009

**IRSS Postdoctoral Award**
Contact: James Wagner
Deadline: Dec. 18, 2009
Meeting began at 6:45 pm with opening remarks from the President

Secretary/Treasurer Report

- Last year meeting minutes were approved
- Current Membership numbers were presented (250 active)
- IRSS budget balance was presented ($9,607.00 as of 12/31/2008)

Technical Committee Report

- Harry Salem reported on behalf of the technical committee
- 2 newsletter were sent out over the past year
- Technical Committee Meeting was held 17 March 2009
- 21 people attended the meeting, and three speakers made presentations

Program Committee Report

- For 2009 meeting
  - IRSS submitted 3 symposia topics, but only 1 was approved
  - IRSS co-sponsored 7 symposia, 5 of which were accepted
- Membership discussed ways to increase symposia success
  - Must have complete proposal with speakers and their abstracts
  - Increase number of symposia submitted
- Suggestion was made that an IRSS member needs to get onto the National Program Committee. This person should not represent IRSS per se, but emphasize proper assignment of abstracts in the meeting program. Motion to this effect was made and passed.
- It was noted that no Continuing Education course on Inhalation Toxicology was on the program. Harry Salem was suggested as a possible contact person to develop such a course.

SOT Endowment Fund

- An extensive report on the endowment fund was made by Roger McClellan
- Has raised $425,000 to date
- SOT is putting up matching funds

New Officers

New Officers for the 2009-2010 year were announced
- President, JeanClare Seagrave
- Vice President, Vincent Castranova
- Vice-President-Elect, James Wagner
- Secretary/Treasurer, Dale Porter
- Councilor, James M. Antonini
- Councilor, Amy Madl
- Councilor, Annette C. Rohr
- Councilor, Laura Van Winkle
- Student Representative, currently unfilled
- Postdoctoral Representative, Chunli Quan
- It was noted that graduate student representative and post-doctoral representative positions were not on this year’s ballot by mistake. Within the next few weeks the Executive Committee will make new appointments to these two positions.
- Next year these positions will be on the ballot.

Awards

- Members were reminded of award deadlines
- It was also discussed that in order to be eligible for the Paper of the Year Award, the paper must have been published (not be in press or on-line prepublication form) in the appropriate calendar year.
IRSS BUSINESS MEETING

AWARD WINNERS WERE:

Young Investigator-Alison Elder


Best Student Abstract-G. Kang, P. Gillespie, A. Gunnison, T Gordon, L Chen. The effects of sub-chronic exposure to inhaled nickel nanoparticles on the cardiovascular system.


Career Achievement Award – Charles H. Hobbs presented by Joe L. Mauderly

Out-Going Councilor- Jeff Tepper

Out-Going Post Doc Rep- Chunlin Quan

Out-Going Officers

Out-going Officers were recognized by new President (JeanClare Seagrave)

Other Business

- Symposia topics were discussed
- IRSS Web Site
- It was noted the web site had incorrect information on it that needed corrected
- SOT Web Site
- Suggest that the Technical Committee provide National SOT with information for public part of web site
- Suggest that the web site emphasize how toxicology can be used to make better, safer products in order to make positive impression
- Members were encourage to nominate IRSS members for National SOT awards and other positions, i.e program Committee
- The SOT Strategic plan was discussed
- Suggested a list other organizations we should interact with
- Suggested more interaction between specialty sections
- Try to avoid competing symposia (would require better planning by the program committee; IRSS member on the Program Committee may be valuable in helping resolve this problem)
- Suggestion was made to start a new membership category (emeritus)

Meeting was closed at 7:30 pm
The Technical Committee met on Tuesday March 17, 2009 at 7:00 AM with 21 members in attendance.

Three speakers included John Whalan who discussed the status of the OECD guidelines and guidance development; Juergen Pauluhn who made a presentation provided evidence that the MMAD range in repeated exposure studies should be lowered, and George Woodall made a presentation on the development of his toxicology database.

There was a lively discussion following Juergen’s presentation, although there were no dissenting opinion. The discussion touched on whether changes were necessary for TG412, and TG413 as well as GD39. It was agreed these documents were fine the way they are, and GD39 includes the MMAD issue. There was also an agreement that there should be a TG for inhaled nanoparticles.
STATUS OF OECD INHALATION PROJECTS

September 11, 2009

On April 1, 2009, the following draft OECD inhalation documents were approved by the 21st OECD Working Group of National Coordinators of the Test Guidelines Programme (WNT):

TG 403 (updated) – Traditional acute LC$_{50}$ protocol and Cxt protocol guideline
Performance Assessment Report (PAR) for the updated TG 403
TG 436 – Acute toxic class method guideline
Performance Assessment Report (PAR) for TG 436
TG 412 (updated) – Subacute (28 day) inhalation toxicity guideline
TG 413 (updated) – Subchronic (90-day) inhalation toxicity guideline
GD 39 – Guidance document on acute inhalation toxicity testing

The WNT also approved a new project—the development of a Guidance Document on the derivation of an Acute Reference Concentration (RfC). The USA has the lead on this project.

On September 7, 2009, GD 39, TG 403, TG 436, TG 412, and TG 413 were adopted by the OECD Council. English and French versions of these documents can be found on the OECD website (www.oecd.org/ehs/).

An OECD Guidance Document on histopathology for inhalation toxicity studies is currently under development. This GD will supplement the pathology guidance found in TG 412, TG 413, and the chronic guidelines (TG 451, TG 452, and TG 453). The pathologists drafting the histopathology GD are Drs. Roger Renne (lead), Jeff Everett, Jack Harkema, and Charles Plopper of the USA, and Martin Rosenbruch of Germany. The first draft was recently circulated by the OECD Secretariat for comment.

TG 433, an acute fixed concentration procedure, was withdrawn by the UK in 2007 in response to concerns by inhalation experts over the validity and practicality of using “evident toxicity” as an endpoint in inhalation testing instead of death. The UK is drafting a revised TG 433 for adoption into the EU Test Methods Regulation and for resubmission to the OECD TG Programme.

John E. Whalan