



In Vitro Specialty Section Newsletter

2001-2002 Officers

President: Nancy A. Monteiro-Riviere

Vice President: Monica Valentovic

Vice President-elect: Bruce Fowler

Secretary/Treasurer: Michael Carver

Councilors: Alan Goldberg (Past President), Greg Kedderis, Michael Miller

Annual Meeting

The 40th Annual meeting of SOT was in San Francisco, and the In Vitro Specialty Section had one of the most colorful and informative posters indicating the goals of our specialty section. This poster was located at the base of the escalator for all to view. The poster enhanced our exposure to all members and served to increase membership in our section. This poster illustrated our contributions to the society and provided a means in which we could communicate what our specialty section represents.

1) The In Vitro Specialty Section strives to understand how human beings and animals work at the cellular level, and to use this knowledge to predict how they will be affected by chemicals in the environment and in the products they consume. We develop simple--and complex--cellular and subcellular systems to understand what happens when cells are killed, or changed adversely, by chemicals. What does this mean for specific organs? What does this mean for the whole animal?

2) We provide scientific tools for discovery that lead to improved health, for people and animals. Our members focus on cellular toxicity, and its implications for product safety evaluation. We work to develop efficient, humane tests that allow others to assess the risks of chemicals. We also support the development, validation, and acceptance of tests for regulatory use.

3) The field of in vitro toxicology has launched literally hundreds of scientific organizations, journals, and companies devoted to achieving scientific excellence through humane science. We are an active growing organization that seeks to involve members and students in our activities.

Executive Meeting

The Executive Council had a breakfast meeting on March 27th in San Francisco to establish target goals for this year and initiate programs. One of the first goals was to increase the membership of our specialty section and to get students involved.

The In Vitro Specialty Section Annual Meeting was held at the Marriott Hotel on March 27th in San Francisco. Approximately 200 people from several states were in attendance.

Alan Goldberg called the meeting to order on March 27th at 6:00pm. Four primary goals for the In Vitro Specialty Section were identified this past year.

- Increasing the membership of the specialty section.
- Establishing a committee structure to provide a mechanism for active participation of our membership.
- Enhance our website so that it truly adds additional value to your participation.
- Produce a great program at the 2002 annual meeting.

Julio Davila presented a plaque to Dan Acosta, the president of SOT, for his many contributions to our society and to the In Vitro Specialty Section.

Nancy Monteiro-Riviere presented a plaque to Alan Goldberg for his dedication and hard work as President of the In Vitro Specialty Section.

Symposia/Continuing Education/Workshops

This past year (2001) the In Vitro Specialty Section endorsed a continuing education course entitled “Prediction of Human Toxicity and Metabolic Fate of Drugs Using in Vitro Systems.”

The Executive Committee has identified four topics that they want to support for the 2002 Annual Meeting. The four topics that the In Vitro Specialty Section would like to support are:

1. Regulatory Acceptance of New and Revised Test Methods
2. Industrial Uses of In Vitro Toxicological Methods
3. Non-Invasive Approaches To Animal Toxicology
4. Current Concepts In Carcinogenesis

We recognize that these are not the only topics we will support, but we, as an Executive Committee will be actively working with in vitro members to develop these programs. Also, we are looking for additional suggestions for other workshops, symposia and continuing education courses that members would like to see presented at the next (2003) annual meeting.

On April 13, 2001 The In Vitro Specialty Section proposed five potential programs for SOT for the upcoming 2002 meeting. The In Vitro Specialty Section has made recommendations for symposia, continuing education courses, as well as for workshops.

One of the most important functions of the In Vitro Specialty Section is to provide programs for the upcoming SOT annual meeting. We are looking for suggestions or topics that members would like to develop. The deadline for submission of these courses is early November. Please start thinking!!!!!!

Awards

At the 2000 SOT Annual meeting Paul Silber has suggested that we increase the exposure of our winners by providing a rosette on their poster. For the first time this year, we presented our winners with rosettes indicating "In Vitro Specialty Section" for the three graduate students and two postdoctoral award winners at their respective poster sessions. The monetary awards were presented at the In Vitro Specialty Section banquet. In addition, Taylor and Francis provided gift certificates to each winner. We are grateful to Taylor and Francis for their support and gifts over the years. The winners are listed below:

Postdoctoral Awards Winners for 2001:

First Place: \$500 *" Oxidant-Induced Oncosis and Lipid Peroxidation Are Increased By Inhibition of A Microsomal CA²⁺ Independent Phospholipase A₂ in Renal Cells "*
Brian Cummings, University of Arkansas for Medical Science. Advisor: Rick Schnellmann

Second Place: \$200 *" Mercury Disrupts Movement of Neurons, Possibly Via A Cytokine-Mediated Mechanism "* Jennifer

Sass, Program in Human Health and the Environment, University of Maryland
Advisor: Ellen Silbergeld

Graduate Student Awards for 2001:

- First Place: \$500 *“Developmental Neurotoxicity of Chlorpyrifos Involves Glial Targets: C6 Glioma Cell Model”*
Stephanie Garcia, Department of Pharmacology and cancer Biology, Duke University Medical Center.
Advisor: Theodore Slotkin
- Second Place: \$200 *“Assessment of Oxidative Stress In Primary Rat Hepatocytes Following Exposures To Volatile Halogenated Methanes Utilizing A Unique In Vitro Exposure System”* Kevin Geiss, Miami of Ohio University. Advisor: John Frazier
- Third Place: \$100 *“Differential Interactions Of Estrogenic Chemicals With Estrogen Receptors From Several Different Species”* Jason Matthews, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular. Biology, Institute for Environmental Toxicology and National Food Safety and Toxicology Center, Michigan State University.
Advisor: Tim Zacharewski

The specialty section would like to thank the judges Julio Davila from Monsanto, Joan Tarloff from the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, Mike Aleo from Pfizer and Monica Valentovic from Marshall University.

Students and Post-doctoral Fellows:

The In Vitro Specialty Section considers students and post-doctoral fellows as co-equal members and would like to see active participation consistent with the SOT By-Laws. Our specialty section would like to have several students and post-doctoral fellows willing to participate as committee members and in other activities within our section.

Recruitment of Students:

To increase student membership, John Hopkins CAAT, In Vitro Technologies and Searle have each donated \$100.00 to pay for the new student memberships for one year. Rosita Rodriguez, Chairperson of the Membership Committee did an excellent job in recruiting new members. She sent out a letter to approximately 250 students and department heads that introduced the In Vitro Specialty Section and its interest.

Committees:

The In Vitro Specialty Section would like to thank the following individuals for their participation and dedication on the following committees.

Awards Committee:	Monica Valentovic
Membership Committee:	Rosita Rodriguez
Program Committee:	Nancy Monteiro-Riviere

The In Vitro SS will establish 4 committees; Awards, Communications, Membership and Program. The In Vitro SS Executive council will appoint a new Chair for each committee. If any member would like to serve on any of these committees, please let me know by the end of August.

Financial Report

Net assets begin of yr	\$7,164.00
Revenue from Dues	\$1,850.00
Student Dues	\$ 195.00
Non-dues Revenue	\$ 190.00
Expenses	\$5,408 .00
Balance as of 6/30/01	\$3,991.00

Future Plans

Our section is looking for suggestions for workshops, symposia and continuing education courses that members want to develop for the April 2003 meeting (*Yes, it is not too early to think about this*). In addition, our section will organize and distribute a newsletter several times a year to all In Vitro Specialty Section members.

The In Vitro Specialty Section would like to provide the best programs and activities, but in order to do that we need your help and participation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy A. Monteiro-Riviere
President of the In Vitro Specialty Section