



In Vitro *and* Alternative Methods

Specialty Section Fall Newsletter 2011

2011-2012 IVAM OFFICERS

President:

Vince Murphy

Vice President:

Sharon Meyer

Vice President-Elect:

Suzanne Fitzpatrick

Secretary/Treasurer:

Diane Hardej

Councilor:

Kylee Eblin

Councilor:

Jessica Ryman-Rasmussen

Past President:

Sue Ford

Student Rep:

Sridhar Jaligama

Vice Student Rep:

Lisa Hoffman

Post Doc/Fellow Rep:

Prajakta Palkar

Message from the President

By Vince Murphy, IVAM President

The need for in vitro and alternative methods continues to increase. Animal rights groups pressure governments to limit the use of animals for scientific research. The number of chemicals entering commerce and the environment is such that more efficient and less costly means are necessary to assess the safety of these chemicals. The high cost and attrition of new pharmaceuticals demands that adverse effects be identified as early as possible in drug development.

To meet this need, IVAM members throughout the world are working to develop new technologies and refine existing methods. These technologies and methods are evaluated and validated to determine their practical use and predictability. The advantages and limitation are compared and contrasted to existing methods. Chemicals are tested, data analyzed and results reported. Our members are to be commended for these efforts.

One new technology that has become available is impedance plates. Utilizing these plates allows one to monitor adherent cells continuously in real time. This innovation provides a new and more efficient means to examine the effect of chemicals on cell growth and proliferation. Instead of doing a few time points as with a MTT, neutral red or ATP assay, the cells can be continually monitored for days. IVAM members should be able to find numerous ways to utilize this technology.

The membership is encouraged to participate in IVAM to make us a better organization. Please feel free to contact anyone of the officers with idea and suggestions. Consider contributing to IVAM as a committee member or an officer (see Sections below). Submit proposals for symposia, CE courses and workshops for the SOT Annual Meeting for IVAM sponsorship or endorsement. Students and Post doctorates are invited to join IVAM and to apply for the Student/Post Doc Awards and the MB Award.

The *In Vitro* and Alternative Methods Specialty Section

The *In Vitro* and Alternative Methods Specialty Section was founded in 1994 and consists of members who have expertise or special interest in the application of in vitro techniques to address problems of cellular toxicity, with a special emphasis on product safety evaluation.

Goals

- Increasing IVAM membership
- Establishing a Committee structure to provide a mechanism for active participation of our membership
- Enhancing our website so that it truly adds value to your participation
- Produce a great program for the upcoming Annual SOT Meeting

Message from the Immediate Past President

By Sue Ford, IVAM Immediate Past President

It was a pleasure and honor to serve as President of IVAM during the previous year. In particular, I would like to express my gratitude to the executive board, including Vincent Murphy (VP), Sharon Meyer (VP-elect), Diane Hardej (Secretary-Treasurer), Dave Allen (Past President), Kylee Eblin and Greg Falls (Councilors), Vijay Kale (Postdoctoral Representative, and Andrea DeSantis (Student Representative). It is a testament to their dedication that our work continued smoothly while I was convalescing from a broken ankle. In addition to the tasks of responding to SOT reporting requirements, two of our most important tasks are the review of annual meeting proposals for workshops and symposia, and the selection of our student and post-doctoral poster awards. I was disappointed in not being able to travel to the SOT meeting this year and attending some of our sponsored events, but most of all in missing the IVAM luncheon and being able to meet our students and post-docs.

Specialty sections such as IVAM are at a disadvantage in having only one relatively brief face-to-face meeting per year, at the annual meeting which limits the interaction among members. One of the newer SOT initiatives that has the potential to facilitate interaction is ToXchange, social networking for SOT members. Each specialty section, regional chapter, special interest group, and committee has a community on ToXchange where announcements are posted and members can interact via discussion threads. You can access IVAM by clicking on "communities," then "specialty sections." There are two forums (Announcements, Discussions) and a file depository area at the IVAM community. ToXchange will be a convenient way to build interaction among members in our geographically-dispersed group and we encourage you to think of imaginative ways take advantage of it. Already I see there is a post suggesting that we build a library of reference material related to in vitro topics.

As I start my final year as an officer of IVAM and reflect on what a rewarding experience it has been, I would like to encourage you to become involved with a committee or to run for office. Being a committee member or on the executive board is a great way to meet new people and to help influence the direction of IVAM in the coming years. Please visit pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter and nominate yourself or a colleague to run for a position on the Executive Committee or volunteer for a committee.

Student/Postdoc Awards

Every year IVAM SS recognizes outstanding student and postdoctoral scientists for their work in the field of *In Vitro* Toxicology with the **In Vitro and Alternative Methods SS Student Award**. Awards are based on the scientific merit of the submitted abstract.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Open to graduate students and postdoctoral scientists
2. Submitted abstract to the SOT Annual Meeting must be accompanied by letter of support from advisor.
3. Applicants must be present at IVAM Lunch reception at the SOT Annual Meeting to receive the award or the award will be forfeit
4. It is strongly suggested that applicants be current members of IVAM



The winners receive awards of up to \$500 that will be presented at the IVAM Lunch reception at the SOT 51st Annual Meeting and ToxExpo in San Francisco.

The deadline for the upcoming 2012 awards is **January 23, 2012**.

For information, go to <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/ivss/awards.asp>

Please send abstracts and letters to the Awards Committee Chair, [Dr. Suzanne Fitzpatrick](#)

MB Research supports annually the **In Vitro and Alternative Methods SS MB Research Award for Distinction in Practical In Vitro and Alternative Toxicology Methods**. This award recognizes the outstanding abstract by a postdoctoral scholar in the field of *in vitro* or alternative methods toxicology. This award is meant to focus on the practical aspects of in vitro or alternative methods rather than basic research or mechanism-based research.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Open to postdoctoral scientists
2. Submitted abstract to the SOT Annual Meeting must be accompanied by letter of support from advisor.
3. Applicants must be present at IVAM Lunch reception at the SOT Annual Meeting to receive the award or the award will be forfeit

The winner receives \$500 that will be presented at the IVAM Lunch reception at the SOT 51st Annual Meeting and ToxExpo in San Francisco.

The deadline for the upcoming 2012 award is **January 1, 2012**.

For information, go to <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/ivss/awards.asp>

Please send abstracts and letters to Dr. George DeGeorge at [MB Research](#).

2011 Award Winners

The IVAM Specialty Section was pleased to recognize the achievements of our student award winners at the 2011 National Meeting in Washington D.C. Four awards were given this year, 1st and 2nd place postdoctoral awards and 1st and 2nd place student awards. Each award winner received an award letter and a monetary award at the luncheon. Congratulations to all.

1st Place Student: Andrea DeSantis—“Nitrogen mustard-induced corneal injury is ameliorated by ADAM17/TACE inhibitors.” (\$400 award)

2nd Place Student: Michael Borland—“Stable over-expression of PPARB/ δ and PPAR γ to examine receptor signaling in human HaCaT keratinocytes.” (\$200 award)

1st Place Postdoc: Dongeun (Dan) Huh—“A human breathing lung-on-a-chip for drug screening and nanotoxicology applications.” (\$400 award)

2nd Place Postdoc: Anna Grosberg—“Novel *in vitro* approach for assessing cardiac contractile liabilities using micropatterned muscular thin films.” (\$200 award)

We are also proud to announce **Anna Grosberg** as the winner of the MB Postdoctoral Research Award. The award was presented by George DeGeorge Ph.D., Director and Chief Scientific Officer at MB Research Labs.

SOT CCT Meetings Eligible for Seed Money and Profit Sharing



SOT Sponsors two types of meetings outside of the SOT Annual Meeting: Contemporary Concepts in Toxicology (CCT) and Non-SOT meetings. CCT meetings are one- to two-day focused, open registration, scientific meetings in contemporary and rapidly progressing areas of toxicological sciences. Non-SOT meetings are sponsored by other not-for-profit organizations and SOT will either endorse or provide sponsorship money to toxicology-related meetings.

The Society will underwrite all the liabilities of the CCT meeting with the expectation that the meeting will at least break even financially. The goal of providing \$25,000 seed funds is to stimulate the creation of CCT meeting proposals.

For more information about CCT meetings, please visit the [SOT Web site](#)

Call for Nominations of Executive Committee Officers

Nominations for new Executive Committee Officers are now being accepted for 2012:

VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT - Elected annually and serves for four years (one year terms as Vice President Elect, Vice President, President and Past President),

SECRETARY/TREASURER - Elected every two years and serves for a two year term,

COUNCILOR - One councilor is elected annually and will serve a term of two years,

VICE-STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE - Elected annually and serves for two years (one year as Vice Student Representative and one year as Student Representative),

POSTDOC/FELLOW REPRESENTATIVE - Elected annually and serve for a one year term.

All candidates must be members of IVAM and candidates for the VP-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer and Councilor positions must be full or associate members of SOT.

Support your IVAM by nominating a colleague whom you think may be able to serve our needs and goals as an officer of the IVAM SS or nominate yourself. Nominations will be collected and a ballot will be sent to IVAM members. New officers will be sworn in and take office on May 1, 2012.

Please send your nominations as a BioSketch to **Kylee Elbin, Councilor** at KEEblin@scj.com who will serve as Nomination Committee Chairperson.

SAMPLE BIOSKETCH (180 words or less - subject to editing if longer)

This is a guideline for your bio - revise at your discretion.

[Name, including degrees and affiliations]

Dr. [Name] is a [Current position] at [Place of employment]. S/He received her/his doctorate in [Field] from [University] in [Year] and was a postdoctoral fellow at [Institution] from [Years, i.e. 1983-1986]. S/He studied [Major area of study]. In [Year], Dr. [Name] joined the [Workplace/organization] where her/his research interests continued in [Area of research interests]. S/He has served on the [Study sections, Panels, etc.] at the [Organization, i.e. NIH, EPA, etc.]. Dr. [Name] is author/co-author of [Number] [Publications including peer-reviewed articles and/or book chapters, etc.] and is currently on the [Committee] of [Organization or other enterprise]. S/He has been a member of the SOT since [Year] and has served the SOT in the following capacities: [Offices/positions held].

Students just modify accordingly as to your experience and plans to receive a doctorate.

Calling All Students!

Students are essential to the maintenance and growth of the IVAM SS. Many student members of SOT do not realize that their SOT membership entitles them to a free specialty section membership. The Executive Committee encourages students to join IVAM and participate as an officer and/or submission of an abstract for the Student/Postdoc Awards. The students of today will be tomorrow's leaders of toxicology organizations and laboratories. We hope that students by participating in IVAM will form a lasting bond with our organization as has been the case for many of the leaders of IVAM.

Call for Committee Members

In the past, IVAM has primarily functioned through the efforts of the Executive Committee. The current Executive Committee would like to encourage greater participation from the membership at large. Members are being asked to serve IVAM SS by considering participation on one or more of the following committees:

Nominations Committee: Kylee Elbin, Chair

Obtains Nominations for Executive Committee Officers and Submits Nominations to SOT for a ballot

Program Committee: Sharon Meyer, Chair

Solicits proposals for symposium, CE courses and workshops for the Annual Meeting, sets up mechanism to review proposals for sponsorship and endorsement of IVAM and considers new ideas for additional programs outside of the SOT Annual meeting

Awards Committee: Suzanne Fitzpatrick, Chair

Solicits applications for the IVAM SS Student Award, set up mechanism to review the abstracts, assists MB in review of applicants for the MB Award, and considers new ideas and sources of funding for additional future awards

Communications Committee: Jessica Ryman-Rasmussen, Chair

Ensures that the website is current, assists the secretary-treasurer with communication to IVAM SS, SOT and other organizations, assists members with ToXchange and prepares and issues the IVAM SS Newsletter

Membership Committee: Vince Murphy, Chair

Prepare membership statistics for the secretary/treasurer to include in the annual report and elsewhere, monitors membership levels and encourages all interested toxicologists, including student and postdoctoral scientists to join IVAM SS and to renew membership

Contact the respective chairs, if interested in being part of these committees

Colgate-Palmolive Awards and Grants

Colgate-Palmolive sponsors several awards and grants through SOT related to in vitro and alternative methods research.

Colgate-Palmolive Grants for Alternative Research
 Colgate-Palmolive Lectureship in Alternative Methods in Toxicology Award
 Colgate-Palmolive Awards for Student Research Training in Alternative Methods
 Colgate-Palmolive Fellowship Award in *In Vitro* Toxicology

Members of IVAM are encouraged to apply. Applications and nominations for these Sponsored Awards given at the SOT Annual Meeting are due by October 9 of the preceding year.

See <http://www.toxicology.org/ai/af/awards.aspx> for information

Membership Statistics (as of September 2011)

By Diane Hardej, IVAM Secretary / Treasurer

Year	Full	Associate	Student / Postdoc	Total
2011	216	42	20 / 14	291
2010	196	43	37 / 2	247
2009	149	38	32 / 6	225
2008	125	30	21 / 2	180
2007	107	26	24	157
2006	90	22	16	128
2005	100	25	21	146
2004	74	20	14	108
2003	66	20	0	86

As of September 2011, IVAM has a total of 291 members, which is up from 227 members at this time last year. More toxicologists are discovering the uses of *in vitro* methods to quickly and cost-effectively evaluate the potential benefits of the newly developed technologies. Each member can actively participate in the growth of the IVAM by increasing awareness of the functions and goals of the IVAM to colleagues and students. In particular, jointly we can concentrate our efforts toward recruiting student and post-doctoral representation, both of which represent the future of *in vitro* methods.

Toxicology Education Summit

By Sue Ford, IVAM Immediate Past President

I've just returned from the Toxicology Education Summit in Baltimore, sponsored by SOT and NIEHS. The summit was held to evaluate the current status and future needs for training of students, postdocs, and continuing education at all stages of a toxicologist's career. The meeting started with an evening panel of speakers who addressed the focus topics of the meeting. The participants spent several hours the next day in breakout groups discussing our assigned topics and identifying strategic initiatives. Finally, we reported back to the assembly in a session that was open on the web. The presentation files of the speakers and the working group reports are available on the SOT website at:

<http://www.toxicology.org/ai/eo/EduSummit.asp>

The group leaders will be developing a white paper in *ToxSci* to summarize the outcomes of the meeting and the responses of SOT to the recommendations.

Important Dates to Remember

EVENT	DEADLINE
SOT Abstract Submission	Oct 3, 2011
SOT Awards and Sponsored Awards Applications	Oct 9, 2011
SOT Membership Renewal	Dec 15, 2011
IVAM SS Executive Officer Nominations	Jan 1, 2012
MB Research Award Applications	Jan 1, 2012
IVAM SS Student Awards Applications	Jan 23, 2012
SOT Annual Meeting Early Bird Registration	Jan 27, 2012
SOT Membership Suspended if not Renewed	Feb 15, 2012
SOT Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA	Mar 11-15, 2012
IVAM Lunch Reception & Business Meeting at SOT Annual Meeting	Mar 14, 2012
Symposium, CE Course and Workshop Proposal Submission to SOT	Apr 30, 2012