

IN VITRO SPECIALTY SECTION



In Vitro and Alternative Methods

Specialty Section Fall Newsletter 2013

Message from the President

By Suzanne Fitzpatrick, IVAM President

2013-2014 IVAM OFFICERS

President:

Suzanne Fitzpatrick

Vice President:

Hans Raabe

Vice President-Elect:

Jack Fowle III

Secretary/Treasurer:

Diane Hardej

Councilor:

Teresa Liberati

Councilor:

Saura Sahu

Past President:

Sharon Meyer

Student Rep:

Sanket Gadhia

Vice Student Rep:

Tejas Lahoti

Post Doc/Fellow Rep:

Sindhura Ramasahayam



I am very honored to move into the IVAM Presidential role for 2013-14 term. I have “big shoes” to fill- thanks to the dedicated work of our Past President, Sharon Meyer, but I am very excited about the upcoming year. Thanks also to the continuous hard work of the entire Executive Committee, and especially to Jack Fowle and Saura Sahu who are joining the committee as Vice-President Elect and Councilor, respectfully. Our specialty section continues to grow every year and I encourage all of you to get involved in its many activities, both at the annual meeting and throughout the year. You will see in this newsletter that there are many appeals for people to submit nominations for the officer positions and I hope that you will do so, either for yourself, or a colleague. Moving toxicology towards more predictive *in vitro* and alternative testing is a goal that we all share, but one that needs the support and hard work of the entire toxicology community. IVAM is contributing to this goal in many ways and your further participation will be very rewarding both personally and to this field of advancing science. I would like to highlight the hard work of Hans Raabe and the Program Committee. We had a record number of people requesting support from IVAM for their proposals for symposia, workshops, and courses for the 2014 meeting. The program committee was able to give advice on strengthening most of these proposals, and we had a number of them accepted for presentation-a wonderful feat since it’s a highly competitive process and only about 25% of them make it through. Part of this success was submitting these proposals early to the different specialty and special interest groups for comments before the actual submission. If you are thinking of proposing something for the 2015 program, I encourage you to take advantage of the insightful advice that you can receive from the different SOT committees. It really helps! Both IVAM and SOT offer a number of awards and SOT has extended its deadlines because of the federal government furlough. Last year Sharon Meyer and I, on behalf of IVAM nominated Dr. Don Ingber for the Leading Edge in Basic Science Award for his development of a “Lung on a Chip.” He won this award and his plenary presentation highlighted the importance of these new *in vitro* approaches to toxicology testing. Hopefully many of you will be able to attend the 2014 SOT meeting in Phoenix and can come to the IVAM reception. Please try to attend the IVAM-sponsored presentations. I hope I get a chance to meet many of you at the meeting and to encourage you to get more actively involved in this specialty section

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.

Mission Statement and Objectives

“Promote the reduction and humane use of animals in toxicology research by encouragement of the development and validation of effective *in vitro* and alternative methods or models”

- Encourage widespread use of *in vitro* and alternative methods to reduce, refine and replace animal testing in toxicology
- Increase effectiveness of *in vitro* and alternative methods through emphasis on predictability and validation
- Inform and encourage growth of *in vitro* and alternative methods through programs and educational activities on current and new developments
- Serve as a resource to the Society of Toxicology and its members pertaining to all aspects of *in vitro* and alternative methods



Message from the Immediate Past President

By Sharon Meyer, IVAM Immediate Past President

A few years ago, I very deliberately sought to increase my participation in *in vitro* toxicology. Being trained in chemistry, biochemistry and physiology, I wanted to expand my skill set to include primary and continuous cell culture with the intent of acquiring tools to explore mechanisms of toxicity. As good fortune would have it, this point in my journey roughly paralleled the publication of the NAS' *Toxicity Testing in the 21st Century* and my election to serve as IVAM SS' secretary/treasurer for 2008/09. I have continued in the leadership of IVAM until this moment where I assume my role as “past”/“historian”/“experienced”, etc. I look back and am very proud of IVAM's progress shepherded by the many fine colleagues I've worked with over the past terms (most recently - Suzanne, Hans, Diane, Vince, Jessica, Teresa, Katie, Lisa and Sanket). We are a very diverse group (industry, regulatory, government, academia) and each member of the Executive Committees have brought their particular priorities to the table with the effect of strengthening the overall group.

So now looking forward for other ways to serve IVAM, it is time for me to encourage others with fresh perspective and enthusiasm to step up to the plate. No doubt the SS is in very competent hands of the present EC, but elections are just a few months away and IVAM will need a strong slate of candidates for future success. I can assure you through your participation you will sense you are associated with a winner as evidenced by IVAM's strong financials and ~10% annual growth in membership, in the continued priority of our profession in implementing Tox21 and the “3Rs” and in the continuously improved quality of our graduate student/postdoctoral applications for the annual award. It's an exciting time to more fully engage with IVAM through nomination for yourself or a colleague for an open position on the EC, volunteering to participate on one of the standing committees, offering an IVAM-sponsored program for the annual meeting, etc. Details and contacts for these activities are described within this newsletter.

Student/Post Doc 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 53rd Annual Meeting and Tox Expo in Phoenix, Arizona.

The deadline for the upcoming 2014 awards is **January 23, 2014**.

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

Please send abstracts and letters to IVAM President, Dr. Suzanne Fitzpatrick (Suzanne.fitzpatrick@fda.hhs.gov).

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 53rd Annual Meeting and Tox Expo in Phoenix, Arizona.

The deadline for the upcoming 2014 award is **January 1, 2014**.

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](#).



2013 Award Winners

The IVAM Specialty Section was pleased to recognize the achievements of our student award winners at the 2013 National Meeting in San Antonio. Four awards were given this year, 1st and 2nd place post-doctoral 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: Gregory Weber, Purdue University - "Transcriptomic profiling of embryos and adult female brain tissue links a developmental origin of atrazine-induced reproductive alterations in zebrafish" (\$400 award)

2nd Place Student: Brandon Gaytan, University of California, Berkeley —"Using yeast functional toxicogenomics to decipher the toxicity of the dieldrin organochlorinated pesticide" (\$200 award)

1st Place Post Doc: Ashleigh Theberge, University of Wisconsin, Madison —"Microfluidic steroidogenesis assays for in vitro toxicant screening" (\$400 award)

2nd Place Post Doc: Katie Paul, US EPA, Research Triangle Park —"Development of medium-throughput thyroperoxidase inhibition assays for screening" (\$200 award)

We are also proud to announce **Ashleigh Theberge** 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 2014:

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 other year 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 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, 2014.

Please send your nominations by January 1, 2014 as a BioSketch to Teresa Liberati, Chair, Nomination Committee at tliberati@siumed.edu.

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.



Be a Part of Your 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: Teresa Liberati, Chair

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

Program Committee: Hans Raabe, 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: Jack Fowle III, 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: Saura Sahu, 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: Sharon Meyer, 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.

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 August 2013)

By Diane Hardej, IVAM Secretary /Treasurer

Year	Full	Associate	Student / Post Doc	Total
2013	255	52	37/22	366
2012	247	40	35 / 18	340
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

As of August 2013, IVAM has a total of 366 members, which is up from 340 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 mission and objectives of the IVAM SS 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.

Important Dates to Remember

EVENT	DEADLINE
SOT Abstract Submission	Jan 6, 2014
SOT Awards and Sponsored Awards Applications	Oct 9, 2013
SOT Membership Renewal	Dec 15, 2013
IVAM SS Executive Officer Nominations	Jan 1, 2014
MB Research Award Applications	Jan 1, 2014
IVAM SS Student Awards Applications	Jan 23, 2014
SOT Annual Meeting Early Bird Registration	Jan 25, 2014
SOT Membership Suspended if not Renewed	Feb 15, 2014
SOT Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona	Mar 23-27, 2014
IVAM Lunch Reception & Business Meeting at SOT Annual Meeting	Mar 26, 2014
Symposium, CE Course and Workshop Proposal Submission to SOT	Apr 30, 2014

Symposium: *In Vitro* Medical Device Testing

Date: December 10–11, 2013

Location: Johns Hopkins University, Mt. Washington Conference Center, Baltimore, Maryland

Registration Required

This symposium, hosted by the Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing (CAAT), will examine how the National Academy of Sciences, Toxicity Testing in the 21st Century can be applied to Medical Devices. The program will examine current requirements and testing approaches, followed by an examination of in vitro assays useful in medical device testing. The agenda includes speakers from industry, academia, and government.

[More Details and Registration Information](#)