



In Vitro Specialty Section Newsletter

2004-2005 Officers

President: Julio C. Davila

Vice President: Sidney Green

Councilors: Rosita Proteau, Joan Tarloff,

Bruce Fowler (Past President) and Monica Valentovic (Past President)

Greetings to all,

The *In Vitro* Specialty Section (IVSS) Executive Committee met last August to discuss several important issues concerning to memberships, IVSS officer responsibilities, website, and student participation. Before the discussion started, the current IVSS Executive Officers congratulated the elected officers this year as well as the students awarded by the IVSS Executive Committee for the best posters presented at the 42nd annual Society of Toxicology (SOT) meeting held in Baltimore.

The newest IVSS officers and their responsibilities are as follows:

Vice President Elect:	George DeGeorge (MB Research Laboratories)
Secretary/Treasurer:	Peter Harvison (University of The Sciences in Philadelphia)
Councilor:	Mark Blazka (Colgate-Palmolive Co)
Councilor:	Robert Dunn (Amgen)

Welcome and congratulations to all of you.

The students awarded this year at the 42nd annual SOT meeting were as follows:

First price (\$500)

Name: DANIEL KEMP

Institution: Univ of North Carolina

Mentor: Dr. Kim Brouwer

Abstract: Effect of Troglitazone on basolateral and canalicular transport of model organic anions.

Second price (\$300)

Name: SONIA MIRANDA
Institution: Univ of Louisiana at Monroe
Mentor: Dr. Sharon Meyer
Abstract: Role of CYP3A metabolism in HepG₂ cytotoxicity alachlor.

Third price (\$100) - # 1

Name: XINZHU PU
Institution: Purdue Univ
Mentor: Dr. Gary Carson
Abstract: Bioavailability of phenanthrene from soil: Correlation between a rat model and a physiologically based extraction test.

Third price (\$100) - #2

Name: DAMANI PARRAN
Institution: Virginia Tech (Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Tech)
Mentor: Dr. Marion Ehrich
Abstract: Chlorpyrifos alters functional structure of an in vitro BBB model.

Congratulations to all of you and please share this news with your colleagues and students and encourage them to apply for next year's IVSS awards. Remember that the deadline to submit an abstract for the IVSS student awards is November 01.

For some of you who are new members, the student awards are one of the most important functions of the IVSS. These awards recognize scientists for their outstanding work in the *In Vitro* Toxicology area. Although the award is presented to the students, the recognition is also extended to their mentors and advisors for their dedication and hard work and for their contributions to the area of Toxicology and especially to the SOT-IVSS. Two of the requirements for the abstract to be accepted by the IVSS Executive Committee is a letter of support from the advisor and the Poster be presented at the annual SOT meeting. The winners receive awards up to \$500; that is for either graduate students or post-doctoral fellows. The interests of this specialty section include studies of basic mechanisms of cell injury and cell death, for target organ systems and the development of in vitro test systems for predictive Toxicology and risk assessment. Validation of *in vitro* test systems and acceptance of these approaches for regulatory processes are also major goals. In addition, another goal of the IVSS is to encourage the use of sound science-based *in vitro* toxicology test systems as rapid, cost effective alternatives to animal testing.

For more information on the IVSS student awards, requirements and deadlines, go to the following SOT link:

http://www.toxicology.org/Information/AwardsFellowships/awards_SS.html

The IVSS Executive Committee would also like to thank Pfizer (Safety Sciences/St. Louis) for sponsoring and supporting the Student Awards and to Taylor & Francis for

providing gift certificates to each of the winners. A sincere Thank you to Pfizer & Taylor and Francis.

Highlights of the IVSS Executive Committee conference call in August:

- IVSS currently has 101 members. The numbers of members shown on the web site count includes only members in good standing; that is those who are current in dues payments. Therefore, it is important that all of us pay the SOT dues on time and also update our emails often in order to keep the National Office Database current and IVSS membership numbers accurate. National SOT student or post-doctoral fellow member who would like to join the IVSS for the first time can do so at no cost at the time of paying SOT dues. Please let your colleagues know about this great opportunity to join the IVSS and work with SOT's members that share your research interests.
- The IVSS officer responsibilities are being drafted and finalized. The final draft will be posted next month on the SOT-IVSS website. In addition, our bylaws will also be reviewed to determine if they need to be updated.
- Student participation and representation in the IVSS is critical. Therefore, we are planning to identify a student member in our specialty section to serve as an *ad hoc* student advisor to the Student Advisory Committee (SAC). This student will help us to increase student memberships and involvement in the IVSS. If you know someone who would like to represent us at the SAC, please forward his/her name to the IVSS Executive Committee.
- The SOTHQ has encouraged Specialty Sections to post newsletters, officer listings, meeting announcements, and any important information at the SOT web site. Rosita Rodriguez Proteau will be the liaison for the IVSS and Rita Rose for the SOTHQ.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the newsletter please send them to me, Julio C. Davila (julio.c.davila@pfizer.com) or to Peter Harvison (p.harvis@usip.edu). Also send us any news about your career changes, honors, promotions or publication as we would like to include information about our members in upcoming newsletters.