Greetings to all,

The In Vitro Specialty Section (IVSS) Executive Committee had its initial 2005-2006 teleconference in June. The agenda included a discussion of the Colgate Palmolive Grants for Alternative Research program, website, revision of bylaws, and the soon-to-be-sent voting ballot. We are quite pleased that the Society has asked us to organize a panel of experts who will evaluate the submissions for the Colgate Palmolive Grants. We will be working with the Society and Colgate to facilitate the awarding of these grants. Robert Dunn is our website liaison to the Society and Bob has already put forth some ideas as to how to improve and update the site. The executive committee is initiating a process headed by our Secretary/Treasurer, Peter Harvison to revise the bylaws. We encourage past officers and current members who have suggestions as to changes to contact Peter at your earliest convenience. The bylaws can be found on our website. I certainly wish to thank those who were willing to be nominated for the recent vacant offices. I was surprised that we did not have more volunteers. I especially want to thank our students for “stepping up to the plate” and becoming more involved in their specialty section. It is clear to me that we are going to have a busy year, but we hope not to become so busy we cannot pay attention to the most important aspect of our specialty section and that is “you”. So please volunteer suggestions/opinions to any of the executive committee members (remember this includes our student representatives).
The students awarded this year at the 44th annual SOT meeting were as follows:

**First prize ($500)**
Name: KIMBERLY MILLER  
Institution: University of Maryland  
Mentor: Dr. J.A. Flaws  
Abstract: Bcl-2 Family Members Protect Against Methoxychlor-induced Toxicity of Mouse Ovarian Antral Follicles In Vitro

**Second prize ($300)**
Name: LEWIS SHI  
Institution: Purdue University  
Mentor: Dr. W. Zheng  
Abstract: Establishment of an In Vitro Brain Barrier Epithelial Transport System for Toxicological Studies

**Third prize ($100)**
Name: BRIANNA PETERSON  
Institution: University of Georgia  
Mentor: Dr. B. S. Cummings  
Abstract: Lipidomic Analysis of the Effect of Inhibition of Ca$^{2+}$-independent Phospholipase A$_2$ on Oxidant-Induced Neuronal Cell Death

**Fourth prize ($100)**
Name: CORA FONG  
Institution: Michigan State University  
Mentor: Dr. Timothy Zacharewski  
Abstract: Temporal Gene Expression Analysis of Mouse Hepa-1c1c7 Cells Treated with 17beta-Estradiol by cDNA Microarray

**Fifth prize ($100)**
Name: CATHERINE LOMBARD  
Institution: Virginia Commonwealth University  
Mentor: Dr. Mitzi Nagarkatti  
Abstract: CB2 cannabinoid receptor agonist, JWH015 triggers apoptosis in immune cells: Potential role for CB2 selective ligands as immunosuppressive agents

**Sixth prize ($100)**
Name: BANALATA SEN  
Institution: US Environmental Protection Agency  
Mentor: Dr. Douglas C. Wolf  
Abstract: Gene Expression to identify interspecies concordance of the mechanisms of arsenic induced bladder cancer
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.

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 are a letter of support from the advisor and that 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/AI/AF/awards_SS.asp

The IVSS Executive Committee would also like to thank Taylor & Francis for providing gift certificates that were given to some of the winners.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the newsletter please send them to me, Sidney Green, (sidgreen@howard.edu) 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.