

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY SPECIALTY SECTION

ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007

Prepared by RS Pollenz, 6/06/07

I. MBSS Executive Board 06-07

President	Craig Marcus	(Univ. New Mexico)
Vice President	Richard Pollenz	(Univ. South Florida)
Vice President Elect	Thomas Sutter	(Univ. Memphis)
Secretary Treasurer	Heidi Einolf	(Novartis)
Senior Councilor	Michael Carvan	(UW-Milwaukee)
Junior Councilor	John Robertson	(Univ. Kansas)
Student Representative	Edward Dougherty	(Univ. South Florida)
Past President:	Melissa Runge Morris	

Newly elected members (07-08)

Vice President Elect	Michael Carvan	(UW-Milwaukee)
Secretary Treasurer	Kristie Willett	(Univ. Mississippi)
Junior Councilor	Rusty Thomas	(CIIT)
Student Representative	Edward Dougherty	(Univ. South Florida)

II. MBSS Membership (as of 6/07)

Total Members = 170 (up from 138 in 05/06; **23% increase**)

University/Colleges	95
Industry	46
National Inst./Service Branch	18
Non-profit	6
Undeclared	5

Student members 21 (estimate from listed degrees)

III. Activities

A. Scientific Sessions as Primary Sponsor At the 2007 Annual Meeting, Charlotte NC, March 2007

1. Symposia: Application of humanized mouse lines to toxicological and pharmacological studies (*Nebert and Pollenz, co-chairs*)

2. Symposia: Non-classical mechanisms of receptor-mediated transcription (Perdew and Gallo, co-chairs)

3. Symposia: Critical roles of co-activators and corepressors during transcriptional activation by xenobiotics (*Hankinson and Pollenz, co-chairs*)

4. Symposia: Emerging technologies in imaging for toxicology (*Marcus and Peters, co-chairs*)

5. Symposia: Aging as a modulator of chemical toxicity (*Corton and Mehendale, co-chairs*)

6. Workshop: Can species and strain differences in dioxin sensitivity be explained by differences in the Ah receptor? (*Rowlands and Zacharewski, co-chairs*)

7. Roundtable: Beyond the single point: the use of dose and time in genomic data for mechanistic-based risk assessment (*Corton and Mattes, co-chairs*)

B. MBSS Executive Board Meeting

The annual meeting of the MBSS executive board was held on Tuesday March 27th from 7:00-8:30AM. Officers present included: Marcus, Sutter, Pollenz, Carvan, Eindorf as well as the SAC representative Dougherty. The focus of the meeting was to review the financials, go over the job descriptions for the various board members, discuss the topics for future scientific sessions and discuss the future directions of the MBSS. A major area of discussion was on the SOT endowment fund and whether MBSS could establish such a fund. The consensus was that with the large number of contacts that MBSS has with industry, a focus area for 07-08 will be to work with the contacts to build an MBSS fund. It was also noted that having conference calls with the MBSS executive board throughout the year should continue.

C. MBSS Mixer/Reception

A highlight of the past year was the MBSS mixer/reception held on Tuesday March 27th during the annual meeting. At this meeting, MBSS celebrated its 20th anniversary as a specialty section and invited all past members to attend. Approximately 75 members attended the reception and all were given a lanyard celebrating the 20th anniversary. At the reception, Bruce Kelman, gave a very nice synopsis of the creation of the MBSS. The

student awards were also presented at the reception and each was followed by brief presentation. The awards were funded by Novartis and Heidi Einolf was acknowledged for her work in obtaining the award money. The awards were as follows:

Graduate Student Awards

First Place (\$500) Lijoy Mathew: Crosstalk between the AHR and Wnt signaling pathways during tissue regeneration (Oregon State Univ).

Second Place (\$300) Edward Dougherty: Functional analysis of ARNT2 in Ah receptor mediated signal transduction (Univ. South Florida)

Third Place (\$100) Dinesh Puppala: Development of an AHR agonist using protacs: A potential approach for cancer chemoprevention. (Univ. Kentucky)

Post Doctoral

First Place (\$500) Aaron Rowland: Retinoic acid regulation of the pulmonary expressed cytochrome P450 2S1. (Univ. Utah).

Travel Award

As the SAC student representative, Ed Dougherty received a travel award.

The MBSS membership also passed a change to the bylaws whereby the MBSS student representative will be elected through the annual ballot and serve a two-year term on the Student Advisory Council (SAC). This will allow for a SAC-rep and a SAC-rep elect. The SAC-rep will then be able to run for office within the SAC and serve on its executive board as the role of SAC within SOT continues to be refined.

IV. Future Directions/Initiatives

A. Produce cutting-edge sessions for the annual meeting

As evidenced by the seven sessions sponsored by MBSS the past year, a point of emphasis in MBSS has been to provide top quality sessions that bridge multiple areas of interest. MBSS will continue to improve on the quality and number of sessions submitted.

B. Increase MBSS membership and involve more students and post-docs

MBSS membership has increased steadily over the past several years due to improved communication by MBSS members. A major goal for the 2007-2008

year is to increase the number of student members. One aspect that will help this initiative is the election of the MBSS student rep through the annual ballot. The executive board has also made a big push to inform laboratory PIs to talk with their students about membership. Members have also been asked to consider post-docs as session co-chairs when developing proposals.

C. Develop an endowment fund to support MBSS initiatives

Over the past several years, the student awards presented by MBSS have been sponsored by Norvatis. A goal of the MBSS executive board over the next year is to use this as a springboard to develop and MBSS endowment fund to support initiatives in the future and make MBSS as strong financially as possible.