

# MOLECULAR BIOLOGY SPECIALTY SECTION

## ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

*Prepared by TR Sutter, 05/30/08*

### **I. MBSS Executive Board 07-08**

President	Richard Pollenz	(Univ. South Florida)
Vice President	Thomas Sutter	(Univ. Memphis)
Vice President Elect	Michael Carvan	(UW-Milwaukee)
Secretary Treasurer	Kristie Willett	(Univ. Mississippi)
Senior Councilor	John Robertson	(Univ. Kansas)
Junior Councilor	Rusty Thomas	(Hamner Inst. Health Sci)
Student Representative	Edward Dougherty	(Univ. South Florida)
Past President:	Craig Marcus	(Univ. New Mexico)

#### *Newly elected members (08-09)*

Vice President Elect	Christopher Reilly	(Univ. Utah)
Secretary Treasurer	N/A	
Junior Councilor	Mark Hahn	(Woods Hole Ol)
Student Representative	Sarah Wilson	(Univ. South Florida)

### **II. MBSS Membership (as of 5/3008)**

**Total Members** = 177 (similar to last year at 170; **>25% increase over 2 years ago**). Member distribution about the same, with modest increase in university members.

University/Colleges	104
Industry	44
National Inst./Service Branch	19
Non-profit	8
Undeclared	2
Student members	20(estimate from listed degrees)

### **III. Activities**

#### **A. Scientific Sessions as Primary Sponsor at the Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, March 2008**

- 1. Symposia:** Environmental influence on female puberty and breast tumorigenesis (*Maull and Winn, co-chairs*)
- 2. Symposia:** Molecular and genomic insights into the Nrf2-regulated oxidative stress response: Impact on carcinogenesis (*Corton, chair*)
- 3. CE:** Process based approaches to modulating gene and protein expression in vivo and in vitro (*Pollenz, chair*)
- 4. CE:** Essential informatics for toxicologists: Knowledge management end to end (*Mattes, chair*)
- 5. Workshop:** Getting the most out of model organism databases: from the basic to the complex (*Bello and Carvan, co-chairs*)

#### **B. MBSS Executive Board Meeting**

The annual meeting of the MBSS executive board was held on Tuesday March 18<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:30AM. Officers present included: Pollenz, Marcus, Sutter, Carvan, Willett, and Thomas, SAC representative Dougherty, and elected officers Reilly, Hahn and Wilson (SAC). The focus of the meeting was to review the financials, introduce the new officers and 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. Major areas of discussion were on Membership, Student Awards, Program Development and the MBSS Endowment Fund. At the time, the endowment fund had reached ½ of its initial goal of \$25,000. It was decided that the upcoming years activity would focus on giving by the general MBSS membership. Discussions followed on the SOT's strategic plan and the possibility of *Tox Sci* adding a new heading to attract papers from MBSS members. The meeting closed with thank you(s) from the President and encouragement to continue regular conferences calls of the MBSS executive board throughout the year.

#### **C. MBSS Mixer/Reception**

A highlight of the past year was the MBSS mixer/reception held on Wednesday March 19<sup>th</sup> during the annual meeting. At this meeting, MBSS membership was updated on membership, the endowment fund, and the

plans for 2009 programs sessions. Approximately 50 members attended the reception. The highlight of the night, the student awards were presented and each was followed by brief presentation. The awards were as follows:

#### *Graduate Student Awards*

First Place (\$500) Katy Olsavsky, Transcript profiling reveals divergent regulation of mitochondrial metabolism in human and mouse models in response to xenobiotics (Pennsylvania State University).

Second Place (\$300) Peili Yao, TNF-alpha-mediated disruption of spermatogenesis in response to sertoli cell injury is partially regulated by MMP-2 (University of Texas at Austin).

Third Place (\$100) Karen Thomas, Toxic endovanilloid accumulation in the lung leads to TRPV-1-mediated ER stress and acute lung injury (University of Utah).

#### *Post Doctoral*

First Place (\$500) Betina Lew, Aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AHR) activation decreases proliferation but does not increase apoptosis in mammary epithelial cells (University of Rochester).

#### *Travel Award*

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

### **IV. Future Directions/Initiatives**

#### **A. Produce cutting-edge sessions for the annual meeting**

As evidenced by the five 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 2008-2009 year is to continue 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. While very generous and helpful to the MBSS, it was not reasonable to expect such support to occur annually. Therefore, initiated in 2007, the MBSS established the MBSS Endowment Fund towards the immediate goal of raising \$25,000 within 3 years in order to create a "Permanently Restricted Net Asset Fund." This fund will be used in perpetuity to support MBSS graduate student and postdoctoral awards and travel to the annual meeting of the SOT. At the annual meeting in Seattle, the fund had achieved 50% of the required \$25,000. In 2008-2009, the emphasis of fund raising will be on the general membership of the MBSS.