

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY SPECIALTY SECTION – MBSS

<http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/molecular/MBSS.html>

NEWSLETTER *of the*

Molecular Biology Specialty Section

Society of Toxicology, Feb., 2007



MBSS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, MIXER AND STUDENT AWARDS CEREMONY:

March 27, 2007 from 7:00-8:30 pm at the Charlotte Convention Center. This year MBSS will be celebrating its **20th Anniversary** as a Specialty Section. Please plan to attend and help us celebrate and recognize our charter members.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: RENEW YOUR SOT and MBSS MEMBERSHIPS!

SOT Membership renewals were due Dec 15th, 2006! If you have forgotten, be certain to renew your SOT membership.

Don't forget to sign-up for the MBSS and pay your SS dues when renewing your SOT membership! Your very modest SS membership dues help support all MBSS activities, student awards, and the Mixer at the Annual Meeting. You can renew both SOT and MBSS membership on-line at:

<http://www.toxicology.org/script/loginredirection2.asp?page=dues>,

or for new members wishing to join SOT for the first time:

http://www.toxicology.org/dotnet/membership_app.aspx

IMPORTANT REMINDERS: 2007 SOT 46TH MARCH 25th-29th ANNUAL MEETING IN CHARLOTTE, NC

Just as a reminder, the Housing Reservation Deadline is Feb. 21, 2007; the Standard Registration Deadline is Feb. 28, 2007 and the Cancellation Deadline is Mar. 21, 2007.

A preliminary program of the scientific sessions and important MBSS activities and reception is available on-line at
<http://www.toxicology.org/ai/meet/am2007/index.asp>.

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THE 2007 SOT MBSS GRADUATE STUDENT AND POSTDOC RESEARCH AWARDS:

The awards for the 2007 MBSS Graduate Student and Post Doc Research Awards will be presented at the MBSS Mixer at the 2007 Annual Meeting in Charlotte, NC, March 27 from 7:00-8:30 pm. Winners will present a 5-minute synopsis of their research at the MBSS meeting. Please plan to attend to recognize our outstanding students and post docs! Three student awards will be made: All winners receive a plaque, and 1st place will receive \$500, 2nd place will receive \$300, and 3rd place will receive \$100. A single, first place award of a plaque and \$500 for post docs will be presented. Many, many, thanks to Novartis for sponsoring and providing funding for the 2006 and 2007 student and postdoc awards!! *Also, many thanks to Counselor Michael Carvan and his panel of expert reviewers who volunteered their time to organize the competition and review all the highly competitive submissions.*

MBSS SPONSORED SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS AT THE 2007 ANNUAL MEETING:

Once again MBSS is a major sponsor of many scientific sessions at the Annual Meeting. MBSS is the primary sponsor of 7 sessions for the 2007 Annual Meeting. These 7 sessions were selected from 9 sessions submitted by MBSS members. Please show support for your colleagues who have worked diligently to arrange these sessions by marking them on your calendar and attending. Many thanks to all the MBSS members who developed proposals for the 2007 annual meeting.

ROUNDTABLE: Beyond the Single Point: The Use of Dose and Time in Genomic Data for Mechanistic-Based Risk Assessment.

SYMPOSIUM: Critical Roles Of Coactivators And Corepressors During Transcriptional Activation By Xenobiotic Receptors

SYMPOSIUM: Emerging Technologies in Imaging for Toxicology.

SYMPOSIUM: Aging as a modulator of chemical toxicity

SYMPOSIUM: Application of humanized mouse lines to toxicological and pharmacological studies.

SYMPOSIUM: Non-classical mechanisms of receptor-mediated transcription

WORKSHOP: Can species and strain differences in dioxin sensitivity be explained by differences in the Ah receptor?

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS AT THE 2008 SOT ANNUAL MEETING:

It is already time to begin planning for the 2008 annual meeting in Seattle, WA (March 16-20). Program proposals for the 2008 meeting will be due shortly after the annual meeting in late April. If you already have suggestions for symposia, workshops, roundtables or CE courses, please contact Tom Sutter (tsutter@memphis.edu). Alternatively, bring your suggestions to the MBSS mixer, where proposed topics for next year's sessions will be discussed during the business meeting.

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SPECIAL EVENTS FOR STUDENTS AND POSTDOCS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING:

Keep these dates open for the 2007 SOT meeting! This is a great opportunity for students and post-doctoral fellows to gather, to meet new colleagues, and to re-establish relationships in an informal atmosphere at the meeting.

Student/Post-Doctoral Fellow Mixer: Sunday, March 25, 7:30 PM–8:30 PM

In Vitro Toxicology Lecture for Students: Monday, March 26, 12:15 PM–1:30 PM

Grantsmanship Forum: Funding Opportunities by NIH – Monday, March 26, 2007, 4:30 PM to 5:50 PM

Specialty Section Student Representatives Meeting. Tuesday, March 27, 7:00 AM to 8:30 AM Business meeting

Communicating Science: Writing for Technical and Lay Audiences – Tuesday, March 27, 2007, 1:30 PM to 4:15 PM;

Student Advisory Committee Meeting: Wednesday, March 28, 7:00 AM-8:30 AM Business meeting

Postdoc Assembly Luncheon: Wednesday, March 28, 12:00 NOON-1:15 PM

Lunch with an Expert: (for students). *Date and time varies by group (Meet at Bulletin Board in Registration Area)*

Informational Session: You Just Can't Focus on the Science: A Primer of Strategies to be Successful in Your New Position. Wednesday, March 28 from 4:30 PM–5:50 PM

Public Forum for Students and Postdocs with SOT Council: Wednesday, March 28, 4:45 -5:15 pm Room 210

A major benefit of SOT membership, especially for junior scientists, is the outstanding job placement services offered both year-round and at the annual meeting. If you are finishing up your degree or completing your post-doctoral fellowship, check out the SOT On-line Career Resource and Development Services and information about Placement Services at the Annual Meeting at the following link:

<http://www.toxicology.org/ai/crad/crad.asp>

Remember, you must register in advance of meeting if you want to participate in the on-site placement activities at the Annual Meeting.

http://www.toxicology.org/AI/PUB/w07/w07_jobbank.asp

UPDATE OF THE SOT SPECIALTY SECTION LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP: (by Dr. Tom Sutter).

Attending the Leadership Workshop this past August in Chicago was both interesting and educational, providing an opportunity to learn about the resources and activities of the “Big” SOT and how these can help us to function as a specialty section. MBSS is one of 21 specialty sections. We are the 11th in size (nearly 150 members) and just make ends meet financially each year. Our revenue is dependent on member dues and attendance of our constituency at the annual meeting. Similar to this

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year, our section has a history of making strong contributions to the program for annual meetings of

the SOT. To learn more about the activities and goals of the SOT, please visit www.toxicology.org.

NEW MBSS OFFICERS 2007 - 2008:

Congratulations and welcome our new team of MBSS officers. Their terms will begin effective at the MBSS Reception at the Annual Meeting in Charlotte. Many thanks to all the MBSS members who stepped forward and stood for election. It was an extremely close balloting and all the MBSS members are appreciative of the willingness of those not elected to contribute their time and effort. There are many opportunities for leadership and participation in MBSS, and all MBSS members are encouraged to consider becoming more active in MBSS activities and seeking leadership opportunities, especially the junior members, students and post docs.

MBSS 2007-2008 Officers:

- President: **Richard Pollenz**
- Vice President: **Thomas Sutter**
- Vice President-Elect: **Michael Carvan III**
- Secretary-Treasurer: **Kristie Willett**
- Senior Councilor: **John Robertson**
- Councilor: **Russell Thomas**
- Student Rep: **Edward Dougherty**

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE MBSS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING:

- Presentation of New Officers
- Membership
- New funding for MBSS
- Outreach and Communication
- Student and Post Doc Awards
- Session proposals for 2008 Annual Meeting
- Changing selection process for the MBSS graduate student representative

MBSS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PROPOSES CHANGES TO THE ELECTION OF THE MBSS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

The following revisions in the selection process and duties of the MBSS graduate student representative have been developed. These changes will be discussed and voted upon at the MBSS business meeting on March 27:

The SOT Student Advisory Committee (SAC) is made up of student members from regional SOT chapters as well as specialty sections. This committee interacts with the SOT executive committee on student based issues and initiatives. However, student reps are only eligible for office in the SAC if they have a two-year term within a given regional chapter or specialty section. Since 2005, MBSS has awarded the student representative position to the winner of the student poster competition. However, this mechanism has limited the pool of potential students and has not allowed the MBSS

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representative a chance to be involved in SAC since the appointment has only been for one year. The MBSS executive committee has proposed that the election of the student representative be separated from the poster competition starting in 2008. It is proposed that the students interested in the position be nominated by their peers and placed on the annual MBSS election ballot. The MBSS student rep-elect will be determined by a majority vote of the MBSS membership. It is also proposed that the elected student will serve a two-year term where they will be the student rep-elect during the first year and the student rep during the second. This election mechanism will allow the MBSS student rep to run for office within SAC and advise the student rep-elect on the duties of the position. Since this issue will be a topic of discussion at the meeting and March and will need to be approved by the MBSS membership.

PERSPECTIVE AND INSIGHTS FROM THE CURRENT MBSS GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

(by Edward Dougherty, MBBSS Student Representative 2007-2008)

The specialty section graduate student representative (SS-GS) is a student member of both SOT and the specialty section for which they are serving who is enrolled in a M.S. or Ph.D. program and conducting research in the disciplinary area of the specialty section related to toxicology. The student must be willing to commit to at least 1 year of service with the designated year being from May 1-April 30. The student is expected to make their presence as SS-GS representative known and become actively involved in their specialty section.

Overall, a specialty section graduate student representative's job is to recruit graduate students for their specialty section and to facilitate communication between the student members and senior members. Throughout the year, the SS-GS will also participate in conference calls with other SS-GS representatives regarding any changes to the graduate student committee by-laws and administration of student activities for the SOT annual meeting.

Additionally, SS-GS members who have served as a specialty section representative for at least 1 year may choose to run for election into the SS-graduate committee (SS-GC) executive board positions of Chairperson-Elect and Secretary. The Chairperson-Elect serving in the previous year becomes the Chairperson, thus a student choosing to run for Chairperson-Elect must be willing to serve for an additional 2 years beyond their 1 year of service as an SS-GS representative and therefore must not be graduating within this time. The responsibilities of this committee include, but are not limited to:

- Recruitment of graduate students into the Specialty Sections and into SOT
- Career development and networking within the diverse disciplines of toxicology as represented by the SOT Specialty Sections
- Sponsoring the Lunch with an Expert program, including recruiting the experts, representing various toxicological fields, and matching graduate students with the experts based upon mutual interests.

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This committee comprises half of the Student Advisory Committee (SAC), while the remaining half is comprised of a similar committee of Regional Chapter graduate student members (RC-GC) for a total of 6 members (Chairperson, Chairperson-Elect, and Secretary from RC-GC and from SS-GC). Together, the SAC will be responsible for coordinating student initiatives from the RC-GC and the SS-GC, communicating with the SOT Council, constructing and managing the budget for the student committees, and planning and production of the SOT student e-letter and the Student/Post-doctoral Fellow Mixer. Leadership of the SAC will consist of a President and a Secretary-Treasurer wherein the President shall be the Chairperson of the RC-GC serving in odd years and the Chairperson of the SS-GC serving in even years and vice-versa for the Secretary-Treasurer.

