

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY SPECIALTY SECTION NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2007

2007-2008 MBSS Executive Committee

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



Key Dates and Reminders



October 3, 2007	Deadline: SOT 2008 on-line abstract submission
November 1, 2007	Deadline for submission of applications for student/post-doc awards
December 2007	Deadline for submission of nominations to MBSS executive committee
Fall 2007	SOT Membership Renewal

(Be sure to renew your membership in MBSS and remind your grad students and post-docs to become members of MBSS)

From the MBSS President

It was great seeing you all at the 2007 Annual meeting in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the MBSS. The MBSS had one of the most successful turnouts in terms of members and chaired sessions, and this was due to the hard work of the MBSS executive committee as well as the work of the MBSS membership.

At the annual meeting, the Executive Committee agreed that one of the initiatives for 2007-2008 is to continue to increase membership in MBSS. Our membership numbers climbed over the past few years, and it is gratifying to see an increase in the number of student members and their direct involvement in MBSS activities. However, it is critical for MBSS to continue to have membership growth and there are

several ways this can be done. First, all MBSS members can contact 1-2 colleagues about MBSS and try to get them to join. Second, it is very important for all lab PIs to inform students and post-docs about the MBSS and get them involved. The new election process for the MBSS student representative is expected to get more students involved. Finally, it is important to consider post-docs as session co-chairs when developing proposals.

The second major initiative for MBSS over the next year is to develop an endowment fund to support MBSS initiatives. Over the past several years, the student awards presented by MBSS have been sponsored by Novartis. It would be great to use the involvement of Novartis as a springboard to develop an MBSS endowment fund to support initiatives in the future and make MBSS as strong financially as possible. Tom Sutter will be spearheading this process and will be contacting individual members for ideas (and donations!).

I look forward to a strong year for MBSS and as always, please contact me directly with any concerns or comments. *RS Pollenz.*

2007 Annual Meeting Wrap up

The MBSS was the primary sponsor of seven sessions at the 2007 Annual meeting and this was more than any other specialty section. It is a great deal of work to pull all of this together in the short time between the end of the meeting and the sessions submission deadline. Special thanks go to all the sessions Chairs and co-chairs as well as the MBSS VP (Pollenz) how was responsible for getting the submissions organized. Here is a list of the sessions that were held:

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

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

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

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

5. *Symposium: 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 does and time in genomic data for mechanistic-based risk assessment (Corton and Mattes, co-chairs)*

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 a 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).

MBSS Logo Competition

We need a modern MBSS logo to use on our Website, newsletter and other MBSS items! Submit your suggested logs to pollenz@cas.usf.edu by November 1, 2007 and we will announce the winner at the Annual Meeting in Seattle.

New Election Process for the MBSS Student Representative

At the 2007 Annual meeting, the MBSS 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. If you wish to be considered for the MBSS SAC representative (2008-2010), you

must be a full time graduate student in good standing that can fulfill the two-year commitment of the position and has interest in SOT policy and initiatives. Please submit your name, affiliation and a brief bio to RS Pollenz (pollenz@cas.usf.edu) by December 1, 2007. Anyone interested in what the SAC does are encouraged to contact Ed Dougherty: (edougher@mail.usf.edu).

Nominations for the MBSS Executive Board 2008-2009

Nominations are solicited for the MBSS Executive Board 2008-2009. Two positions are open: Junior Councilor and Vice President Elect. If you wish to be considered for either of these positions, please submit your name, affiliation and a brief bio (including past SOT service) to RS Pollenz (pollenz@cas.usf.edu) by December 1, 2007. For additional information, feel free to contact any of the current MBSS officers.

MBSS Student and Post-Doc Awards

The MBSS is pleased to announce the opportunity for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to compete for research awards in molecular toxicology.

Graduate Student Awards

Applicants must be full-time students as of October 1, 2007 and research should be in the general area of molecular toxicology. Applicants should submit an electronic version of their abstract, a 2-page narrative describing their research hypothesis, background and significance, and a letter of recommendation from their advisor. Three awards will be made: 1st place will receive \$500, 2nd place will receive

\$300, and 3rd place will receive \$100. All awardees will receive a plaque at the annual meeting of the SOT, and will present a 5-minute synopsis of their research at the MBSS meeting.

Post-Doctoral Fellow Research Award

Applicants must have completed a Ph.D. and be either a student or post-doctoral member of SOT. Research should be in the general area of molecular toxicology. Applicants should submit an electronic version of their abstract, a 2-page narrative describing their research hypothesis, background and significance, and a letter of recommendation from their advisor. A single post-doctoral award will be made for \$500. The winner will also receive a plaque at the annual meeting of the SOT and will present a 5-minute synopsis of their research at the MBSS meeting.

Submission Deadline: NOV 1, 2007

Submission Information

Please submit applications electronically as PDF files to Dr. John Robertson:
jrobertson3@kumc.edu

****Be sure to include a header with your name on all pages****

**SOT SPECIALTY SECTION
LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP**

July 20-21
 Sheraton Gateway Suites,
 Chicago, IL

The Society of Toxicology initiated a three-year experiment in the summer of 2005 by bringing together officers of the Specialty Sections (SS) with the objective of making them more effective organizations that would substantially contribute to the future success of the SOT. This was the third meeting for the

Specialty Sections and the inaugural meeting of this type for the Special Interest Groups. A number of sessions were held jointly, and there were multiple brainstorming sessions specific to the needs and activities the SS.

We started with a few informational sessions that detailed 1) the willingness of SOT Headquarters staff in assisting SS leadership on areas ranging from ballots and web site postings to events and awards announcements, 2) the SOT Council's strategic planning and implementation process underway, 3) efforts to improve the SOT Annual Meeting Continuing Education courses, and 4) web-based resources to support the business of the SS and facilitate communication. The brainstorming sessions provided significant feedback from the SS to the SOT Council on a variety of issues ranging from undergraduate outreach, coordination of annual meeting receptions, universal guidance documents for SS functions, and sponsorship for international speakers at the annual meeting. The meeting was highly successful and the SOT Council was encouraged by the SS representatives in attendance to continue these annual workshops.
Michael Carvan, VP-Elect.

**Look for the next issue
 Jan/Feb 2008**

**Be sure to tell a
 colleague about MBSS
 and get your students
 to join.**