

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY SPECIALTY SECTION NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2008

2008-2009 MBSS Executive Committee

President	Thomas Sutter	(<i>Univ. Memphis</i>)
Vice President	Michael Carvan	(<i>UW-Milwaukee</i>)
Secretary Treasurer	Kristie Willett	(<i>Univ. Mississippi</i>)
Vice President Elect	Christopher Reilly	(<i>Univ. Utah</i>)
Senior Councilor	Rusty Thomas	(<i>Hamner Inst. Health Sci</i>)
Junior Councilor	Mark Hahn	(<i>Woods Hole OI</i>)
Student Representative	Sarah Wilson	(<i>Univ. South Florida</i>)
Past President:	Richard Pollenz	(<i>Univ. South Florida</i>)

Key Dates and Reminders



October, 2008 Check SOT website July 1 for deadline: SOT 2008 on-line abstract submission (March 15-19, 2009 Baltimore MD)

November 1, 2008 Deadline for submission of applications for student/post-doc awards

December 2008 Deadline for submission of nominations to MBSS executive committee

Fall 2008 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

I enjoyed seeing many of you at the 2008 Annual meeting of the SOT. I noted that attendance at the mixer was light compared with other years. However, given our strong and continued membership, now at 177, I

think that this had more to do with the lovely city of Seattle and our Wednesday evening date. Nonetheless, if you have suggestions for improving our specialty section, feel free to contact me or any of the members of the executive board throughout the year. The MBSS continued its tradition of

strong meeting attendance and member-chaired sessions on the annual meeting program. In 2007, we established the MBSS Endowment Fund and had achieved 50 percent of our initial goal of \$25,000 at the annual meeting. Thank you to all who have contributed. For those who have not yet done so, please consider what you may give – so that we can continue to support graduate student and postdoctoral awards, and in the future, travel. A link to the Endowment Fund Donor Form can be found at the homepage of the SOT website.

At the annual meeting, the Executive Committee agreed that we should continue to build membership in 2008-2009. Our membership numbers are up over 25 percent in 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 election process, initiated last year, allows for a MBSS student representative who provides a direct link for student involvement in the section. Finally, it is important to consider post-docs as session co-chairs when developing proposals.

The second major initiative of the upcoming two years is the MBSS endowment fund. In order to become a Permanently Restricted Net Asset Fund, we must raise \$25,000 within 3 years. This level of support ensures that the funds will be used in perpetuity for the support of student and postdoctoral awards and travel. Many of the Endowment Funds are named. We welcome suggestions over the next year for potential “naming rights” of this fund,

recognizing an individual or organization that reflects the commitment of the MBSS in support and development of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows within the SOT.

I look forward to continuing the momentum of the MBSS and strengthening its membership and financials. Do not hesitate to contact me directly with any concerns or comments. *TR Sutter.*

2008 Annual Meeting Wrap up

The MBSS was the primary sponsor of five sessions at the 2008 Annual meeting. Many thanks to the chairs, co-chairs and speakers in these sessions. 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. Here is a list of the sessions that were held:

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 (*Matthes, chair*)
5. Workshop: Getting the most out of model organism databases: from the basic to the complex (*Bello and Carvan, co-chairs*)

A highlight of the past year was the MBSS mixer/reception held on Wednesday March 19th during the annual meeting. After a brief presentation of the business meeting topics and plans for the upcoming year, the student awards were presented. As always, the student presentations of their research were excellent and appreciated by the audience.

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.

MBSS Logo Competition

We **still** need a modern MBSS logo to use on our Website, newsletter and other MBSS items! Submit your suggested logs to tsutter@memphis.edu by November 1, 2008 and we will announce the winner at the Annual Meeting in Baltimore.

Reminder of Election of MBSS Student Representative

Instituted in 2007 and on the ballot in 2008, the MBSS now elects a student representative through the annual ballot. This representative serves a two-year term on the Student Advisory Council (SAC), allowing 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 (2009-2011), you must be a full time graduate student in good standing that can fulfill the two-year commitment of the position and have interest in SOT policy and initiatives. Please submit your name, affiliation and a brief bio to TR Sutter (tsutter@memphis.edu) by December 1, 2008. Anyone interested in what the SAC does are encouraged to contact Sarah Wilson: (swilson@mail.usf.edu).

Nominations for the MBSS Executive Board 2009-2010

Nominations are solicited for the MBSS Executive Board 2009-2010. Three positions are open: Secretary Treasurer, Junior Councilor and Vice President Elect. If you wish to be considered for

any of these positions, please submit your name, affiliation and a brief bio (including past SOT service) to TR Sutter (tsutter@memphis.edu) by December 1, 2008. 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, 2008 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, 2008

Submission Information

Please submit applications electronically as PDF files to Dr. Rusty Thomas rthomas@thehamner.org

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

SOT SPECIALTY SECTION LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

July 24-25

*Hyatt Regency Reston
Reston, VA*

For the past three years, the officers of the Regional Chapters, Specialty Section, and Special Interest Groups of the Society of Toxicology have convened in the summer to enhance networking, discuss ideas, and express concerns that might be addressed by the National SOT. The fourth meeting for the Specialty Sections will be attended by Dr. Chris Reilly (VP-Elect) in July, 2008.

**Look for the next issue
Jan/Feb 2009**

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

**Please support the MBSS
Endowment Fund**