

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY SPECIALTY SECTION NEWSLETTER

2009-2010 MBSS Executive Board

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Postdoctoral Representative	Joanna Klapacz	(Dow Chemical)
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From the MBSS President

I enjoyed seeing many of you at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the SOT in Baltimore. I was pleased with the strong attendance at the Monday evening reception and business meeting. Over half our 176 members were present and enjoyed conversation with colleagues, refreshments, and presentations by our student and postdoctoral award winners. The MBSS continued its tradition of strong meeting attendance and member-chaired sessions on the annual meeting program. The Specialty Sections are being asked to play a larger role in the Annual Meetings and the business of the SOT regarding communication, web page content, annual meeting planning, etc. 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.

Our membership numbers are up over the past few years, and it is satisfying 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 to accomplish this. 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. Our by-laws allow for two MBSS student representatives (on staggered two-year terms) to the SOT Student Advisory Council and the MBSS Executive Board. Remember that it is important to consider postdocs as session co-chairs when developing proposals to get them involved in MBSS activities.

In 2007, we established the MBSS Endowment Fund and had achieved our initial goal of \$25,000 by the 2009 annual meeting. Therefore, it is now a Permanently Restricted Net Asset Fund to support student and postdoctoral awards and travel. Thank you to all who have contributed so generously. 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 is located on the homepage of the SOT website. 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.

Key Dates and Reminders

- **October 3, 2009**
SOT 2010 on-line abstract submission closes (March 7-11, 2010, Salt Lake City, UT)
- **November 1, 2009**
Deadline for submission of applications for Student and Postdoctoral awards
- **December 2009**
Deadline for submission of nominations to MBSS Executive Board
- **Fall 2009**
SOT Membership Renewal
(Be sure to renew your membership in MBSS and remind your grad students and post-docs to become members of MBSS)

I look forward to continuing the momentum of the MBSS and strengthening its membership, financial standing, and contributions to the SOT as a whole. Please contact me with any concerns or comments.

MJ Carvan.

2009 Annual Meeting Wrap up

The MBSS was the primary sponsor of seven sessions at the 2009 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 annual meeting and the session submission deadline. Here is a list of the sessions that were held:

- **Symposium: New Insights into Skin Homeostasis and Carcinogenesis**
- **Symposium: The Road to Personalized Medicine**
- **Symposium: Genomic, Non-Genomic and Epigenetic Mechanisms of Nuclear Hormone Receptor Action**
- **Symposium: From Mechanisms to Biomarkers: Basic and Applied Metabolomics in Toxicology**
- **Symposium: MicroRNAs in Biology and Toxicology**
- **Workshop: Interactomes and their Application in Toxicology**
- **Workshop: Mammalian Retrotranspositional Elements: Epigenetic Regulation, Species Differences, and Potential Roles as Mediators of Cellular Responses to Toxic Stress**

A highlight of the past year was the MBSS mixer/reception held on Monday March 16th 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)

Courtney Kozul, Drinking water alters immune responses to respiratory viral infection *in vivo*. (Dartmouth College)

Second Place (\$300)

Colin Flaveny, Differential gene regulation by the human AHR in transgenic humanized mouse hepatocytes. (Pennsylvania State University).

Third Place (\$100)

Jennifer Cohen, The tumor suppressor gene Tsc-2 modulates translation initiation of cyclin D1 through ERK crosstalk with 4EBP1 (University of Arizona).

Post Doctoral

First Place (\$500)

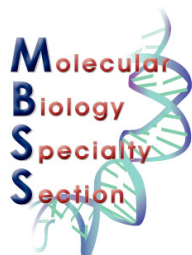
Jun Gao, Novel molecular pathways induced in functionalized fullerene exposed human epidermal keratinocytes (HEK) (Los Alamos National Laboratory).

Travel Award

Sarah Wilson, SAC student representative (University of South Florida)

Reminder of Election of MBSS Student Representative

The MBSS now elects a student representative through the annual ballot. This representative serves a two-year term on the SOT Student Advisory Council (SAC), allowing for the MBSS to be represented by a senior SAC-rep and a junior SAC-rep. The SAC-reps are 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 (2010-2012), 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 Michael Carvan (carvanmj@uwm.edu) by December 1, 2009. Anyone interested in learning what the SAC does is encouraged to



MBSS Logo Competition

We **still** need a modern MBSS logo to use on our Website, newsletter and other MBSS items! Submit your logo suggestions to Sarah Wilson (sewilson@mail.usf.edu) by November 1, 2009 and we will announce the winner at the Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City.

contact Sarah Wilson (sewilson@mail.usf.edu).

Nominations for the MBSS Executive Board 2010-2011

Nominations are solicited for the MBSS Executive Board 2010-2011. Two additional positions are open: 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 Chris Reilly (Chris.Reilly@pharm.utah.edu) or Michael Carvan (carvanmj@uwm.edu) by December 1, 2009. For additional information, feel free to contact any of the current MBSS officers.

MBSS Postdoc Representative

In preparation of including a Postdoctoral Representative on the MBSS Executive Board, we have appointed Joanna Klapacz to the position. Joanna had expressed a desire to serve in this capacity for the MBSS but we had no position in our by-laws. Joanna will serve the MBSS as representative to the SOT Postdoc Association and will assist members of the Executive Board in crafting the amendment to the by-laws.

MBSS Student and Postdoc 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, 2009 and research should be in the general area of molecular toxicology. Applicants should submit a copy of their abstract (which must be submitted to SOT by Oct 3), along with a 2-page narrative describing their research hypothesis, background and significance (both in one pdf file). They should also arrange for a letter of recommendation to be sent by 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.

- **Postdoctoral Fellow Research Award**

Applicants must have completed a Ph.D. and be either a student or postdoctoral member of SOT. Research should be in the general area of molecular toxicology. Applicants should submit a copy of their abstract (which must be submitted to SOT by Oct 3), along with a 2-page narrative describing their research hypothesis, background and significance (both in one pdf file). They should also arrange for a letter of recommendation to be sent by 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 Information**

Submission Deadline: NOV 1, 2009

Please submit applications and letters electronically as PDF files to Mark Hahn (mhahn@whoi.edu).

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

2010 CE Program Volunteer Opportunities:

MBSS is sponsoring three CE courses at the 2010 annual meeting. There are 13 courses offered and descriptions of each of the courses can be obtained at: <http://www.toxicology.org/AM/MEET/AM2010/ce.asp>. The CE committee is currently recruiting student volunteers to assist with the CE courses. Duties include collecting entry tickets, handing out course booklets, and other minor organizational duties. In return, the student has the opportunity to attend the course they are a volunteer for free of charge. Space is limited and requests for volunteering for specific courses will be prioritized by order of receipt. MBSS student members are encouraged to take advantage of this great opportunity. If you are interested in volunteering, please send your name, contact information, and a list of the top three courses you would like to volunteer for to Chris.Reilly@pharm.utah.edu no later than February 1, 2010.

Look for the next issue Jan/Feb 2010

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

Please support the MBSS Endowment Fund