

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY SPECIALTY SECTION NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2008

2007-2008 MBSS Executive Committee

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|------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 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



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|--------------------------|--|
| January 25, 2008 | Deadline: Early bird registration for annual meeting |
| January 25, 2008 | Deadline to vote for MBSS officers |
| February 20, 2008 | Deadline for housing reservations for annual meeting |
| February 22, 2008 | Deadline for SOT annual meeting registration |
| March 16-20, 2008 | Annual Meeting, Seattle Washington |

From the MBSS President

A major initiative for MBSS over the next few years 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 develop an MBSS endowment fund to support initiatives in the future and make MBSS as strong financially as possible. Tom Sutter has spearheaded this process and has made an initial contribution of \$5,000 that SOT has matched. I also have contributed \$500 to the fund so we

\$11,000 toward the \$30,000 goal we need to reach by 2010. A good start!

To review information about the SOT endowment funds, you can check the link on the SOT web site: <http://www.toxicology.org/ai/csot/contribute.asp>. This will also give you a form that can be used to specify the MBSS Student Awards. We are considering naming the awards should we receive a sustaining contribution.

Please take the time to consider this opportunity, especially if you have been an MBSS officer. MBSS is up to over 175 members and through us all we can reach this goal and leave a legacy for the future. *RS Pollenz.*

2008 Annual Meeting Preview

At the 2008 meeting, MBSS is the primary sponsor for two CE courses, two symposia and one workshop. All proposals that were submitted by MBSS were selected by SOT (except one). This is outstanding and continues to set the MBSS as one of the top specialty sections in regard to high quality, topical science that crosses numerous disciplines. Special thanks go to all the session Chairs and co-chairs as well as the MBSS VP (Sutter) who was responsible for getting the submissions organized. Here is a list of the sessions that will be sponsored by the MBSS. Please consider supporting these sessions by enrolling in the CEs and attending the symposia.

1. *Continuing Education (AM06): Process-based approaches to modulating gene and protein expression in vivo and in vitro (Pollenz and Tanguay, co-chairs)*
2. *Continuing Education (PM12): Essential Informatics for Toxicologists: Knowledge Management End to End (Matthes)*
3. *Symposium: Environmental Influence on Female Puberty and Breast Tumorigenesis (Maull and Winn, NCI, co-chairs)*
4. *Symposium: Molecular and Genomic Insights into the Nrf2-Regulated Oxidative Stress Response: Impact on Carcinogenesis (Corton)*
5. *Workshop: Getting the Most Out of Model Organism Databases: From the Basic to the Complex (Bello and Carvan, co-chairs)*

This years MBSS VP is Michael Carvan and he will be responsible for organizing the sessions for the 2009 meeting. Please contact him directly with session ideas and remember that the MBSS works with everyone during the submission process to produce a complete proposal. This is one reason why MBSS has had such good success

with the proposals over the past several years. Be aware that all ideas will be considered and we will work with you to line up speakers and get it all organized.

MBSS Ballot (2008-2009)

All MBSS members have received a notice from SOT regarding the election of new officers for 2008-2009. The candidates and condensed synopsis of each are provided below. You will be able to access more information on each candidate when you go to vote at the following link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=mxOlgNGY960LFH3H0TkMuA_3d_3d.

It is essential for everyone to vote, **by JANUARY 25th** so take a minute to review the candidates.

VP-Elect (one candidate)

Christopher A. Reilly; Research Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Utah, 2001-current. Memberships: Society of Toxicology, 1997-present (Molecular Biology and Mechanisms specialty sections); ASPET 2001-present, ISSX 2001-present. Mountain West Society of Toxicology VP-elect 2003, VP-2004, President 2005. Mentor, Paracelsus Goes to School, 2003. Research Interests: Transient Receptor Potential (TRP) cation channels in respiratory physiology, toxicology, and disease, Endogenous TRP receptor agonists as mediators of inflammatory lung injury, Applications of mass spectrometry to biomedical research, Xenobiotic metabolism and Proteomics.

Junior Councilor

(two candidates, vote for one)

Mark E. Hahn; Senior Scientist, Biology Department, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, 2005-present; Walter A. and Hope Noyes

Smith Endowed Chair, Biology Department, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, 2006-present. Memberships: Society of Toxicology, 1986-present; SOT Molecular Biology and Mechanisms Specialty Sections; Judge, SOT Mechanisms student awards (2007); Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, 1987-present; American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, 1994-present; American Association for the Advancement of Science, ~1990-present, Society for Marine Mammalogy, ~1991-present. Research interests: Receptor-mediated mechanisms of toxicity, mechanisms of adaptation and evolved resistance to chemical exposure, comparative biochemistry and molecular evolution of the aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AHR), role of oxidative stress in developmental toxicity.

Bhagavatula Moorthy; Associate Professor (tenured), Department of Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, 2005-present; Memberships: AACR, Society for Pediatric Research, AAAS, ASPET (Drug Metabolism and Toxicology specialty Sections), Society of Toxicology (SOT); Molecular Biology Specialty Section (MBSS) and Mechanisms Specialty Section; member, GC-SOT, Chair of Continuing Education Session on Transgenic animals at SOT annual meeting in 2001; Research Interests: Molecular toxicology with focus on the mechanisms of cytochrome P4501A1 regulation, in relation to carcinogenesis; metabolism of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and other xenobiotics and their role in chemical carcinogenesis and aterogenesis, DNA adduct formation and repair; role of the Ah receptor and cytochrome P450 enzymes in hyperoxic lung injury.

*Student Activity Council Representative
(one candidate)*

Sarah Wilson; Graduate Student – Cell, Molecular, Microbiology Division of Biology - USF Tampa, FL August 2005 – Present Advisor – Dr. Richard Pollenz Research project - regulation of the Ah receptor degradation. Advanced to Doctoral Candidacy December 2007 Member of the Society of Toxicology March 2006 – Present; SOT Travel Award 2008; Bachelor's Degree in Biology, Honors College – May 2004; USF Tampa, FL Research Assistant – James A. Haley Veteran's Hospital/ Roskamp Institute May 2002 – May 2004 Mentor – Dr. Fiona Crawford Research Project – Genomics and Proteomics of Drug Abuse Member of the Society for Neuroscience May 2004 - 2005

**VOTE ONLINE
BY JANUARY 25th**

MBSS Logo Competition

We are still in 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 March 1, 2008 and we will announce the winner at the Annual Meeting in Seattle.

**Look for the next issue
April 2008**

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