

# • MECHANISMS •

## A Specialty Section of the Society of Toxicology

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### *A Message from the President*

*Dennis R. Petersen, Ph.D.*

September brings us closer to the upcoming SOT Meeting in Salt Lake City. As in past years, the meeting format and spectrum of scientific themes will be extremely informative. The Mechanisms Specialty Section (SS) continues to make valuable contributions to the Annual Meeting through a variety of avenues. Consistent with previous years, the Mechanisms SS will be sponsoring a variety of high-quality symposia, workshops and continuing education courses at this meeting. In order to continue this trend, the SS officers encourage all the members to begin consideration of timely topics for symposia and workshops 2011 SOT Meeting. A central activity of our SS is oversight of the Carl C. Smith Graduate Student Awards. As many of you know, this is the longest running graduate student research award given by any SS of the Society. In fact, this award has spanned two generations of toxicologists in the Society. The Mechanisms SS is privileged to

participate in this ongoing process that is made possible through the efforts of our Councilors and SS members involved the review of abstracts, manuscripts submitted by the applicants. Please encourage qualified graduate students in your program to apply for this prestigious award. Finally, the Mechanisms SS continues to provide awards for postdoctoral travel awards to the National Meeting. Again, encourage the qualified postdoctoral personnel in your programs to apply for these travel awards.

The Mechanisms SS continues to make significant contributions to SOT. Our success to date reflects the effort and interest of our SS members. On behalf of the Mechanisms Officers, I thank all of our members for their continued participation. We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming National Meeting and Mechanisms Reception.



**DID YOU KNOW?** The Mechanisms Specialty Section was the first section established in the Society of Toxicology. Specialty Sections developed out of discussions that began in the late 1970's, primarily among SOT members who served on the Toxicology Study Section. The Section was established in 1982–83. The Carl Smith Graduate Student Award was the first graduate student award established by a Specialty Section, making it the longest running, most visible award for graduate student research.

## IMPORTANT AWARD DEADLINES

### Carl C. Smith Graduate Student Awards: October 10, 2009

To be eligible for this recognition:

1. An abstract must be submitted to the 2010 Annual SOT Meeting with the graduate student as the presenting author.
2. A copy of the abstract and a statement that it is to be considered for this award must be sent as an electronic file attachment (Word or pdf) to [Peter Harvison](mailto:Peter.Harvison), and must be sent no later than October 10, 2009.
3. Two letters recommending the graduate student and the research project must be sent for each abstract. One of the recommendations must be from the Department or Section Head. The letter must verify that the work reported in the abstract was done while the student was enrolled in the graduate program and that this is the only specialty section to which this abstract is being submitted for an

award. The letter must also specially cite the role and contribution of the student in the completion of the work, especially when there are multiple authors. Letters should be sent electronically to [Peter Harvison](mailto:Peter.Harvison) by the individuals making the recommendations.

4. Up to three candidates may be nominated by a department or program.
5. The graduate student may be sponsored for this award by any person who is a member (active or pending) of the Mechanisms Specialty Section of the Society of Toxicology. Member sponsorship from the Mechanisms Specialty Section should be noted in one of the letters of recommendation.

### Postdoctoral Travel Awards: October 12, 2009

These are competitive awards to support the travel of two postdoctoral fellows (up to \$500 each) to attend the 49th annual meeting of the Society of Toxicology. Selection of the awardees will be based on the strength of the mechanistic focus of their research and letters of recommendations. For consideration as a candidate for an award:

1. An abstract must be submitted to the 2010 SOT Annual Meeting with the postdoctoral fellow as the presenting author. **A copy of the abstract and a statement that it is to be considered for this award** must be sent electronically as a file attachment (WORD or pdf) to [PUGAA@UCMAIL.UC.EDU](mailto:PUGAA@UCMAIL.UC.EDU).
2. Two letters recommending the postdoctoral fellow and the research project must accompany the abstract. One

letter must be from the postdoctoral fellow's mentor and must specifically state the role and contribution of the fellow in the completion of the work, especially when there are multiple authors.

3. The postdoctoral fellow may be sponsored for this award by any member (active or pending) of the Mechanisms Specialty Section of the Society of Toxicology. Member sponsorship should be noted in the sponsor's letter.

**Full Instructions for consideration for the Carl Smith and Postdoctoral Travel Awards are available online at <http://www.toxicology.org/ISOT/SS/mechanisms/Awards.asp>**

### **New Awards from Mechanisms Specialty Section**

#### **Mechanisms Renal Toxicology Award**

The Mechanisms Renal Toxicology Award provide stipends to student and postdoctoral fellow recipients of awards given for excellence in understanding mechanisms of renal toxicity. The purpose of this award is to encourage students and postdoctoral fellows within the first 3 years of training to conduct research in the field of the mechanisms of renal toxicity. This award is made possible by the Renal Toxicology Fellowship Fund of the SOT Endowment.

We will communicate more information on this award directly to the membership as the full details for eligibility and application are developed.

#### **Mechanisms Robert J. Rubin Student Travel Award**

The Mechanisms and Risk Assessment Specialty Sections Robert J. Rubin Student Travel Award provides travel awards to one or more graduate students to participate in the Annual Meeting of the SOT. Recipients of the Rubin Award will be selected by a Committee jointly appointed by the leadership of the Mechanisms Specialty Section and the Risk Assessment Specialty Section. The Award Recipient(s) will be selected based on the scientific quality of the abstract of a presentation that applies mechanistic toxicology to risk assessment and that has been accepted for presentation at an Annual Meeting of the Society of Toxicology. The abstract and presentation should be based on the student's research. Applications for the Award will be accepted for presentations to be given up to one year after the Award Recipient receives their doctoral degree. This award is made possible by the Robert J. Rubin Student Travel Award Fund of the SOT Endowment.

We will communicate more information on this award directly to the membership as the full details for eligibility and application are developed.

### **Funding underway for the Ronald G. Thurman Student Travel Award from Mechanisms Specialty Section**

We are pleased to announce the formation of the Ronald G. Thurman Student Travel Award Fund, which will be part of the SOT Endowment Fund and administered through the Mechanisms Specialty Section. The Endowment Fund is currently setting up a link through the SOT web page as part of the Endowment Fund site where contributions can be made to the fund, which was created to support travel of graduate students to the annual Society of Toxicology meeting. More than \$5,000 have already been pledged and SOT can match on a 1:1 basis. **The target is to reach a total of contributions and matching funds of \$25,000 by July 2010 to allow the first award to be made for a student to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SOT in 2011.**

Dr. Ronald Thurman was Professor of Pharmacology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for more than 20 years, and had an extremely productive research and teaching career, with more than 400 peer-reviewed publications and numerous book chapters, abstracts and presentations in the fields of pharmacology, toxicology, drug metabolism, biochemistry, liver transplantation, carcinogenesis and hepatology. He was a teacher in the Toxicology Curriculum in Chapel Hill from the start of the program until his death in 2001, and was a mentor to many graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. During his long and productive career, Ron not only encouraged but insisted upon attendance at scientific meetings by his students to present their data and ideas for discussion and debate. **He said, “I feel that the best way to train graduate students is to be an appropriate role model. Accordingly, I see little difference between my research**

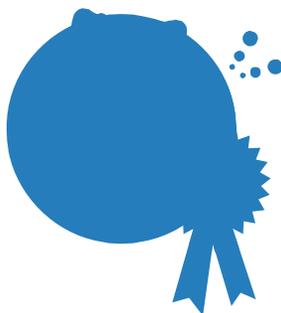
**goals and my role as an educator. It is my aim to encourage graduate students to gather data sufficient for them to appreciate how exciting biomedical research can be, and then guide them through the publication process.”**

Presentation at scientific meetings was the first step for Ron in the publication process, and was invaluable for teaching his students how to think through their work and present their data in a concise and organized fashion that would stimulate more ideas. As former students and colleagues of Ron’s, we can think of no better way to honor his commitments to scientific inquiry and education, and the large role he played in our own careers and lives, than to establish this award to help future generations of toxicologists to share their work, hone their skills, and become scientists that will shape the field of toxicology and biomedical research for years to come.



#### **ANOTHER AWARD REQUEST**

The Awards Committee of the Society of Toxicology encourages all Specialty Sections to consider its members for society-wide recognition. There are many prestigious awards given to SOT members including scientific achievement, education, public communications, enhancement of animal welfare, career merit, leading edge in basic science and translational impact. There are many members of the Mechanisms Specialty Section who are highly deserving of such recognition, so please carefully consider nominating colleagues for these awards. Full descriptions of all current awards are available on the SOT web site at [www.toxicology.org](http://www.toxicology.org). **The deadline for award nominations is October 9, 2009.**



## Highlights of the 2009 Specialty Section Meeting in Baltimore

The Business Meeting of the Mechanisms Specialty Section was held Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> in Baltimore, with President Gary Rankin presiding. There was a brief overview of the Section's programmatic activities and session sponsorships. Financially, the section is in good shape with a balance of approximately \$28,000 in the general fund and over \$57,000 in the Carl Smith Fund. Gary also introduced the new Renal Toxicology Award, and acknowledged those members who generously contributed to the establishment of the fund. The initial contributors included:

Michael D. Aleo  
Brian S. Cummings  
Terrence Monks  
Serrine S. Lau

Edward A. Lock  
Lois Lehman-McKeeman  
Kenneth E. McMartin  
Ken Ramos  
Gary O. Rankin

Rick G. Schnellmann  
Joan B. Tarloff  
Monica A. Valentovic  
Cheryl Lyn Walker

A major portion of the meeting was dedicated to recognizing the finalists and winners of the Carl Smith Graduate Student Awards and the Postdoctoral Travel Awards. In addition to certificates, plaques and checks, winners also get to have their pictures in the Newsletter!

### The 2009 Carl Smith Award Winners



**First Place: Jingqi Fu**  
**The Hamner Institute**



**Second Place: Hongfei Zhou**  
**University of Colorado**

There were three 3rd Place winners including

**Karen C. Thomas**, University of Utah,

**Liang Chen**, Dept of Environmental Health, U. of Cincinnati College of Medicine

**Sanjeeva Wijeyesakere**, University of Michigan School of Public Health

There were 12 Honorable Mention finalists who were recognized with certificates:

**Scott A. Reisman**, University of Kansas Medical Center

**Derek A. Drechsel**, University of Colorado

**Jessica M. Weems**, University of Utah

**Jennifer D. Cohen**, University of Arizona

**Lauren L. Richards-Waugh**, Marshall University

**Teshome B. Gherezghiher**, University of Illinois at Chicago

**James R. Roede**, University of Colorado

**Brendan D. Stamper**, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

**David J. Castro**, Oregon State University

**Yan Li**, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center

**J. Michael Brown**, Marshall University

**Rhiannon N. Hardwick**, University of Arizona

### **The 2009 Postdoctoral Travel Award Winners**



**Dr. Lauren Aleksunes**

Department of Pharmacology,  
Toxicology and Therapeutics  
University of Kansas Medical Center



**Dr. Xinsheng Gu**

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences  
University of Connecticut

## ***A SPECIAL REQUEST FROM THE SOCIETY OF TOXICOLOGY***

**The Society is asking all members to provide input to the NIH urging ongoing support for continuation of the Special Emphasis Panel (SEP) for Systematic Injury from Environmental Exposures. Such support can influence the future of the SEP and provide for a fair and consistent review of toxicology and environmental health grant proposals.**

### ***What can you do??***

Send emails indicating the need to continue the SEP to Dr. Sy Garte, Director of the Division of Physiology and Pathological Sciences, Center for Scientific Review at [gartes@csr.nih.gov](mailto:gartes@csr.nih.gov) and copy Shawn Lamb at [shawnl@toxicology.org](mailto:shawnl@toxicology.org).

Send your email no later than October 6, 2009.



### **Other Reminders:**

- 1. Please make sure that graduate students sign up for student membership in the Mechanisms Specialty Section.** Student membership in SOT includes one **free** Specialty Section membership. Additional Student Specialty Section dues are only \$15 per Specialty Section.
- 2. Mark your calendars early:** The Mechanisms Specialty Section Reception is tentatively set for Tuesday evening, **March 9, 2010** at the SOT Annual meeting in Salt Lake City.
- 3. Fall is the time of year that we put together a slate of candidates for the specialty section offices of Vice President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, Junior Councilor, Graduate Student Councilor and Post-Doctoral Councilor. Self-nominations are more than welcome! If you want to serve in one of these positions, please let Alvaro Puga ([alvaro.puga@uc.edu](mailto:alvaro.puga@uc.edu)) Peter Harvison ([p.harvis@usp.edu](mailto:p.harvis@usp.edu)) or Gary Rankin ([rankin@marshall.edu](mailto:rankin@marshall.edu)) know.**

Comments, questions, ideas, please contact the specialty section officers as needed:

President:	Dennis Petersen
Vice-President:	Jose Manautou
Vice-President-elect	Joan Tarloff
Secretary/Treasurer	Lois Lehman-McKeeman
Councilors:	Alvaro Puga Peter Harvison
Past-President	Gary Rankin
SAC Representative:	Derek Dreschel
PDA Representative:	Midhun Korrapati

**Get your abstracts submitted by October 3, 2009, and we'll see you in Salt Lake City!!**