Message from the President  
Dennis Petersen, Ph.D.

The 49th Annual Society of Toxicology meeting is fast approaching and, as in years past, will provide an excellent forum for exchange of information focusing on the latest developments in the toxicological sciences. The six thematic themes for this meeting provide a preview for rapidly emerging focus areas of toxicological investigation. The Mechanisms Specialty Section is playing a significant role in this year’s meeting by sponsoring or endorsing a number of quality Symposia, Workshops, Roundtable Discussions, Regional Interest Sessions as well as Student and Postdoctoral Fellow Sessions. In total, Mechanisms is sponsoring or endorsing 18 of these exciting sessions. Our Section takes pride in sponsoring high-quality sessions and encourages our members to begin the process for organizing such forums for the 2011 meeting.

The Mechanisms Section will hold its annual reception March 9th at 6:00-7:30 pm. Please plan to attend this reception where the winner of the prestigious Carl Smith Award will be announced as well as the recipients of postdoctoral travel awards. For the first time, the Renal Toxicology Award winners will also be announced. The Mechanisms Section is also partnering with the Risk Assessment Specialty Section in Awarding the Joint Society of Toxicology Robert J. Rubin Award for recognition of high-quality abstracts submitted by students working in the area of risk assessment with a special emphasis on mechanistic approaches to risk assessment. A new award honoring Gabriel Plaa will also be developed by the Mechanisms Section, and is certain to be a very prestigious award. The Gabriel Plaa Education Award was recently organized through the efforts Dr. Curt Klaassen and approved by the SOT Endowment Fund Board. We look forward to participating in its development and are extremely pleased to provide sponsorship for this award.

The Mechanisms Section continues to make very significant contributions to the Society of Toxicology. During my service as president, I have observed first hand that the officers of the Mechanisms Section work diligently to ensure that our diverse activities have successful outcomes. I certainly appreciate their efforts and thank each of them. Likewise, I want to thank all of our members for their help and continued participation in support of the Mechanisms Specialty Section.
A new award has been approved by the SOT Endowment Fund to be awarded through the Mechanisms Specialty Section. Dr. Plaa died in late 2009, and a tribute to his many contributions was published in the February issue of Toxicological Sciences (Toxicol. Sci. 2010, 1113: 279-280). His contribution to educating toxicologists is immeasurable, but the article especially notes his commitment to education and training as follows: Dr Plaa summarized his scientific career and concluded ‘‘the most satisfying ‘results’ of my research program are not the data or new observations acquired, but the graduate students and fellows with whom I collaborated over a span of nearly 40 years. I am forever grateful for their precious presence and participation in my laboratory.’’

Mechanisms-Sponsored Sessions at the 2010 Annual Meeting

Mechanisms will be widely represented and recognized for sponsoring and endorsing many sessions at the upcoming 2009 meeting. These include the following (bold denotes sponsorship):

Continuing Education:

Symposia
• Mechanistic Role of Reactive Intermediate Protein Covalent Binding in Target Organ Toxicity: Past, Present and Future
• Silica and Asbestos Immunotoxicity: Mechanisms of Fibrosis, Autoimmunity and Modified Tumor Resistance
• Metabolic Syndrome and Increased Sensitivity to Drug-Induced Liver Injury (DILI): Nonclinical Models and Clinical Implications
• Bile Salt Transport and Liver Injury
• MAP Kinase Signaling: A Common Target Eliciting Unique Tissue Responses
• Molecular Determinants of Mitochondrial Disease

Symposia (continued)
• It’s Not Your Father’s Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor: New Biological Roles for a Misunderstood Receptor
• Mechanisms of Chemical-Induced Liver Cancer: Putting the Pieces Together
• Recent Knowledge of Clinical Regulators of Lipid Homeostasis in Metabolic Disease
• Zinc, Copper and their Metabolic Effect: Myths and Musts
• Mitochondrial Toxicity in Disease and Death
• The Fetal Basis of Adult Disease
• Aging as a Determinant of Xenobiotic Toxicity
• TRPing the Sensor: The Role of TRP Channel Signaling in Cadiopulmonary Toxicity

Workshops
• Toxicology in the 21st Century: Stem Cells in Drug Discovery and Development
• Humanized Models in Toxicology and Their Application to Hazard Characterization and Risk Assessment

Roundtables
• Weighing Complex Data in Risk Decisions: Concepts of Evidence-Based Toxicology

Regional Interest Session
• Signaling Mechanisms for Metabolic Dysfunction Following Low Level Arsenic Exposures: From Mouse to Man

Student and Postdoctoral Fellow Events
• MAP Kinase Signaling: A Common Target Eliciting Unique Tissue Responses

Submissions For Mechanisms-Sponsored Symposia, Workshops and Continuing Education Courses for 2011

Although you may be putting the finishing touches on posters and presentations for the 2010 meeting, it’s also time to start thinking about proposals for symposia, workshops or continuing education courses for the 2011 Society of Toxicology meeting in Washington, DC. This will be a special meeting as the Society celebrates its 50th Anniversary. The Mechanisms Specialty Section has a long history of sponsoring high quality programs, and we would be pleased to work with you as you prepare your proposals. Joan Tarloff, serving as Vice President for 2011, is responsible for soliciting and helping to develop proposals. Final proposals will be due to SOT in the end of April, but we encourage you to contact Joan directly if you have ideas for Symposia, Workshops, Roundtables and Continuing Education Courses for the 2011 meeting. Remember to identify Mechanisms Specialty Section as your primary sponsor as you complete the online proposal form. Please contact Joan (j.tarlof@usp.edu) or any of the other officers of the Specialty Section if you need help in developing good proposals.
Mechanisms Specialty Section Reception and Business Meeting
Tuesday, March 9, 2010
6:00-7:30 pm
Convention Center Room 255E

2009-2010 Mechanisms Specialty Section Officers

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<th>Role</th>
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See you in Salt Lake City!