Greetings and Welcome to the SOT Mechanisms Specialty Section!

Greetings from the Mechanisms Specialty Section. It may be hard to believe but we are already planning for the March annual meeting in New Orleans. If you haven’t been to an SOT annual meeting when it’s held in New Orleans, you are really missing an event. Although the 2005 SOT meeting in New Orleans didn’t overlap with St. Patrick’s Day, this one will. As you may already know, New Orleans is quite a festive city and the parades can be a lot of fun. So plan on attending the annual meeting. You’ll see many of your colleagues, enjoy fine dining, and have a great time.

As a specialty section, we are putting a lot of emphasis on the student and post-doc awards this year. Due to the generosity of many members, past and current, we are fortunate to have lots of awards. Not only do those awards come with prestigious recognition but there is a financial component associated with each. That may be the “carrot” that mentors and advisors can use to prod applicants to apply. We encourage the students and post-docs to visit the SOT website to obtain more information. Also, refer to the website because some deadline dates may have changed from previous years.

We have two past recipients of the Career Achievement Award, Drs. Dean Jones of Emory University and Denny Petersen from the University of Colorado. Although this award is relatively new to our specialty section, it gives us the opportunity to recognize a prominent member of our society. I will be looking for nominations for this prestigious award. No doubt, we would like to continue the fine tradition that has been started by the past leadership of the Mechanisms Specialty Section. So please nominate an individual you wish to honor. The deadline is January 1, 2016.

In closing, I wish to remind you that your participation within this organization is essential. Consider running for office as elections are upcoming and nominations are always appreciated. We have a large and vibrant specialty section and we welcome new members. Consider asking a colleague or friend to join.

Finally, we welcome feedback, suggestions, and ideas on ways to make improvements. We have an outstanding leadership team of individuals who are passionate about the organization. If you have ideas on ways to make our specialty section even better, I know that the leadership team is willing to work with you to help implement your ideas.

Get those abstracts written and submitted. See you in New Orleans!

Richard Vaillancourt, Mechanisms President
Status of Endowment Funds

Our endowed awards are in great shape (see below)! However, the future of our named awards is dependent upon the support of our members. All members are encouraged to contribute, and are reminded to inquire whether your employer supports matched donations.

For additional questions or to contribute, please contact Rhiannon Hardwick (rhardwick@organovo.com) or visit: http://www.toxicology.org/endowment/contribute/donate.asp

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Leadership Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheldon D. Murphy Student Travel Award</td>
<td>October 9, 2015</td>
<td>Rhiannon Hardwick (<a href="mailto:rhardwick@organovo.com">rhardwick@organovo.com</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carl C. Smith Graduate Student Award</td>
<td>October 14, 2015</td>
<td>Daniel D. Petersen (<a href="mailto:petersen.dan@epa.gov">petersen.dan@epa.gov</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabriel L. Plaa Education Award</td>
<td>October 14, 2015</td>
<td>Vasilis Vasiliou (<a href="mailto:vasilis.vasiliou@yale.edu">vasilis.vasiliou@yale.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postdoctoral Student Travel Award</td>
<td>October 14, 2015</td>
<td>James Roede (<a href="mailto:james.roede@ucdenver.edu">james.roede@ucdenver.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal Toxicology Award</td>
<td>December 13, 2015</td>
<td>Brian Cummings (<a href="mailto:bsc@rx.uga.edu">bsc@rx.uga.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert J. Rubin Student Travel Award</td>
<td>December 31, 2015</td>
<td>Angela Slitt (<a href="mailto:angela_slitt@uri.edu">angela_slitt@uri.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald G. Thurman Student Travel Award</td>
<td>January 1, 2016</td>
<td>Richard Vaillancourt (<a href="mailto:vaillancourt@pharmacy.arizona.edu">vaillancourt@pharmacy.arizona.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2016 Awards—Call For Applications!!

Awards season is upon us! We have several prestigious awards offered to graduate students and postdocs by our Specialty Section. Awards are announced at the Mechanisms Business Meeting and Reception each year at the SOT Annual Meeting. We encourage students and postdocs across SOT to apply, you do not need to be a member of Mechanisms to be eligible.

Application deadlines are fast approaching! Awards and deadlines are listed below. For application instructions and requirements, please visit: http://www.toxicology.org/groups/ss/Mechanisms/Awards.asp

Apply today!
Nominations Requested: Career Achievement Award

The Career Achievement Award was recently created by the Mechanisms Specialty Section, and is announced each year at the Annual Meeting. Past awardees have included Dean Jones (2014) and Dennis Petersen (2015).

To nominate a candidate for the award:
- Send the current CV for the candidate to Richard Vaillancourt (vaillancourt@pharmacy.arizona.edu) by January 1, 2016.
- Provide two letters of recommendation from members of the Mechanisms Specialty Section outlining the research accomplishments and service of the candidate.

A Message from Dwayne, Your Student Representative

Howdy! My name is Dwayne E. Carter and I am the 2015/2016 Graduate Student Representative for the Mechanisms Specialty Section of SOT. I am currently a PhD candidate at the University of Texas Medical Branch located in Texas. I work in the laboratory of Dr. Cornelis Elferink, who is interested in the role of the aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AhR) in liver homeostasis following liver injury. I have been attending the SOT scientific conferences since 2013, and became a full-fledged member in 2014. As a Graduate Student Representative, I also serve on the SOT Graduate Student Leadership Committee (GSLC), which aids in the coordination of many activities to enhance the professional and scientific development of graduate student members through various events and activities, volunteering opportunities and other student resources found at the GSLC corner on the SOT website. Here are some events and activities that all graduate students are encouraged to attend while at the 2016 annual SOT meeting held in New Orleans:
- The Student/Postdoctoral Mixer (Sunday evening of the SOT annual meeting)
- Chat with an expert (Rolling registration during the months leading up to annual meeting and also the during Student/Postdoctoral Mixer)
- Tox Showdown (Tuesday evening of the SOT annual meeting)

The Mechanisms Specialty Section is one of the larger specialty sections in SOT, and is highly supportive of student development and success by offering five graduate student awards to facilitate travel and to acknowledge meritorious mechanistic research. Therefore, I encourage all graduate students presenting research at the 2016 annual SOT meeting to apply for awards before their application deadlines listed in this newsletter. If you need more information about the
Mechanisms SS, please feel free to contact me via email or visit our website for more information. I look forward to seeing you all in New Orleans.

**A Note from Your Postdoctoral Representative**

Hello All! My name is Tod Harper and I am the current postdoctoral representative for the Mechanisms Specialty Section. I would encourage **ALL** postdoctoral members to take advantage of the numerous opportunities available through SOT and the Mechanisms Specialty Section as they played a large role in my success transitioning from an academic postdoctoral fellow to a scientist within the pharmaceutical industry. For a quick look at available opportunities and upcoming events for postdoctoral fellows please visit the [PDA website](#). Specifically I would like to highlight the PDA sponsored Career Development Session to be held at this year’s annual meeting in New Orleans: “The Evolution of the Postdoc: Transitioning from Trainee to Professional in the Modern Era”. This session will feature speakers from a variety of research sectors including Dr. Linda Birnbaum (Director, NIEHS), and Dr. Jon Cook (Senior Director, Investigative Toxicology Drug Safety R&D, Pfizer, Inc.). And speaking of New Orleans, the Mechanisms Specialty Section has several awards for postdoctoral fellows to support travel and recognize outstanding research and educational activities at the annual meeting. The deadline and contact information for each award is highlighted in this newsletter so please don’t hesitate and submit your application as soon as possible! Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding opportunities for postdoctoral fellows within the Mechanisms Specialty Section or SOT in general, and I hope to see you all in The Big Easy!

**Call for Officer Nominations**

Each fall we seek volunteers from our members to serve on the Mechanisms Leadership Committee. The continued success of our Specialty Section is dependent upon the efforts of those willing to serve. We have four positions that will be available for the 2016-2017 year (shown below). Self-nominations are highly encouraged. Nominees will be reviewed by current officers and a ballot compiled for election. If you are interested in any of the positions listed, please contact Richard Vaillancourt (vaillancourt@pharmacy.arizona.edu) or Angela Slitt (angela_slitt@uri.edu).

**Open Positions for 2016-2017:**

- **Vice President-Elect (1 year term, advances to President)**
- **Junior Councilor (1 year term, advances to Senior Councilor)**
- **Postdoctoral Representative (1 year term)**
- **Graduate Student Representative (1 year term)**