

Neurotoxicology Specialty Section Annual Report: 2003

I. Slate of Officers and Committees

	<u>2002</u> - <u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u> - <u>2004</u>
President	Kevin Crofton	Stephanie Padilla
Vice President	Stephanie Padilla	Carey Pope
Vice President-elect	Carey Pope	Richard Seegal
Secretary/Treasurer	Mary Gilbert	Mary Gilbert
Councilors	Merle Paule (Past President) Evelyn Tiffany-Castiglioni Susan Schantz	Kevin Crofton (Past President) Susan Schantz Lisa Opanashuk

Committees:

Membership:	William Slikker (2003-2006)
Animals in Research:	Stephen Lasley (2002-2005) Brian Marable (2003-2006)
Board of Publications:	Marion Ehrich (2003-2004)
Finance:	Marion Ehrich (2003-2004)
Placement:	Ginger Moser (2003-2004) Mary Beth Genter (2002-2003)
Program:	Timothy Shafer (2001-2004) Larry Sheets (2003-2006)

Task Force on Chemical/Biological Terrorism Resource:	Marion Ehrich (Council Liason)
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2002 - 2003 Annual Meeting: March 20, 2002

II. Activities

The Officer's Meeting was called to order at 7:00am on Monday, March 10, 2003 by the Neurotoxicology Specialty Section (NTSS) President, Kevin Crofton. In attendance were President Kevin Crofton, Past President Merle Paule, President-Elect Stephanie Padilla, Vice President Carey Pope, Councilors Evelyn Tiffany-Castiglioni and Susan Schantz, Secretary-Treasurer Mary Gilbert, and newly elected officers Lisa Opanashuk (Councilor) and Richard Seegal (Vice President Elect).

The reception and business meeting for the Specialty Section was held on March 11, beginning at 6:00 p.m., and was attended by approximately 120 members. President Kevin Crofton called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. The following items were discussed:

A. Election Results

The election results were announced and the new officers, Lisa Opanashuk and Richard Seegal, were introduced. The Nominating Committee was recognized for its effort and the quality of the candidates that was provided for election. The committee consisted of Steve Gilbert, William Mundy, Nic Filopov.

B. Miscellaneous Items

1. Scientific Sessions at SOT. Neurotoxicology was well represented at this year's meeting, with symposia, workshops and poster sessions, as well as a session on Toxicology - Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues (see listing below).
2. Proposals for Symposia. Five of thirteen proposals for symposia/workshop that were submitted with a Neurotoxicology theme were accepted by the Program Committee. We were encouraged to re-submit the proposals that were not accepted.
3. C. E. Courses. Two Continuing Education Courses were sponsored by the Neurotoxicology Specialty Section.
4. Web Site. Kevin Crofton agreed to continue providing updates to the web page of the SS. He encouraged all to provide information that would be of interest to other members.
5. Membership Committee. A Committee formed last year to increase membership reported that the most frustrating aspect of membership tracking was to find a complete and accurate list of current members (see below). The committee consisted of Sue Schantz, Evelyn Tiffany-Castiglioni, with assistance from Mary Gilbert. This year Lisa Opanashuk will join the committee and their primary task will be to develop a letter outlining benefits of NTSS membership to encourage new members to join and old members to rejoin.
6. International Neurotoxicology Association (INA). INA's 9th Annual meeting will be held in Dresden, Germany in June 2003.

C. Secretary-Treasurer's report

Finances:

The SS account balance was \$9,693 on April 30, 2003.

Membership in the SS as of June, 2003 stands at 181 plus an undetermined number of student members. Some problem with dues payments of student membership was encountered such that students may not be included in the current membership list. A membership committee established last year continues to work on means of increasing our membership.

D. Monsanto Support for Student Awards

The pre-doctoral and post-doctoral winners of the student awards were announced (see below). As initiated last year, the cash awards to the first-place winners in the pre- and post-doctoral categories were paid from funds provided by Monsanto. Thanks were extended to Dr. Abby Li of Monsanto who made this possible but who unfortunately was not able to attend the meeting to present the awards.

E. Astra-Zeneca Traveling Lectureship

This year's winner of the Astra-Zeneca Traveling Lectureship is Dr. William D. Atchison. Bill is a long-time member of the Neurotoxicology Specialty Section. Also important is the fact that in the last six years this Lectureship has been awarded to four members of our Specialty Section (these include: Lucio Costa, Syed Ali, Rich Seegal and Bill Atchison).

E. Scientific Meeting

Sessions sponsored or co-sponsored by the Neurotoxicology Specialty Section

Continuing Education

Unfolding the Secrets in Culturing Brain Cells

Fundamentals of Risk Assessment.

Workshops:

Metal Speciation in Toxicology: Determination and Importance for Risk Assessment

Challenges of the Developmental Neurotoxicity Study

Vanilloid Receptors: Mediators of Respiratory Injury

Issues Session:

Toxicology - Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues

Poster Sessions

Metal Neurotoxicity II

Neurotoxicology: General

Neurotoxicity - Pesticide

Developmental Neurotoxicity

Cellular and Molecular Neurotoxicology

Neurotoxicity - Pesticides

F. Awards

1. Lifetime Achievement Award

A committee was formed to review candidates for selection to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. This committee consisted of Dr. Merle Paule, NCTR (Past-Pres), Dr. Deborah Cory-Slechta, University of Rochester, and Dr. William Boyes, US EPA.

The winner of this year's award was Dr. Bernard Weiss recognizing his long-standing contributions to the field of Neurotoxicology. Dr. Weiss is a Professor in the Dept. Environmental Medicine, School of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Rochester. A plaque was presented to Dr. Weiss at the NTSS Reception. This was the third year that the specialty section offered this award.

2. American Chemical Council Young Investigator Award

Young Investigator Award. The American Chemical Council (ACC) New Investigator Award has cycled back to the NTSS this year. An official announcement was made by Judy Graham at the NTSS Business Meeting/Reception on Tuesday, March 11 and instructions for qualification/application will be forthcoming. This award is worth \$100,000 for 3 years, NTSS sends three names forward and to the Award Committee of SOT. More information will be distributed to the membership as it is received. The Young Investigator Award from the American Chemistry Council was discussed, in terms of allocation to Neurotoxicology or other Specialty Sections. It is expected that this award will likely fund other areas of toxicology in future years, with consideration of Neurotoxicology again after supporting other areas.

3. Student Awards

Postdoctoral Awards

- **Monsanto First Place Award**

Dr. M. Riyaz Basha

U. Rhode Island

Paper: Heavy metals and PCBs promote beta-amyloid aggregation and its cytotoxicity in PC-12 cells.

Mentor: Dr. Nassar Zawia

- **Second Place Award**

Dr. Mark G. Opler

Columbia University

Paper: Prenatal lead (Pb) exposure and schizophrenia: Preliminary findings.

Mentor: Dr. E. S. Susser

- **Third Place Award**

Dr. Dan Qiao

Duke University

Paper: Fetal chlorpyrifos exposure: Adverse effects on brain cell development and cholinergic biomarkers.

Mentor: Dr. Ted Slotkin

Pre-doctoral Awards

- **Monsanto First Place Award**

Mr. Jong-Min Lee

U. Wisconsin-Madison

Paper: Identification of NRF2-dependent ARE-driven genes conferring protection against oxidative stress in primary cortical astrocytes and neurons: Cell type specific NRF2-dependent ARE-driven expression.

Mentor: Dr. Jeff Johnson

- **Second Place**

Mr. Timothy J. Kropp

U. Michigan

Paper: Mass spectral evidence that mipafox-inhibited neuropathy target esterase (NTE) does not undergo dealkylation.

Mentor: Dr. Rudy Richardson

- **Third Place Award**

Mr. Jeff C. Bemis

School of Public Health, U. at Albany

Paper: PCB-induced inhibition of monoamine transporters predicts rat synaptosomal tissue and media dopamine and DOPAC concentrations.

Mentor: Dr. Rich Seegal

III. Other 2001 - 2002 Activities and Accomplishments:

IV. Future Plans

1. To regain membership in the Specialty Section. Continue attempts to retain members after they have completed their doctoral or post-doctoral training.

2. Continue to foster new relationships with industry. The money provided by Monsanto to support the student awards is a very important benefit achieved this year.
 3. To continue to provide leadership in the area of neurotoxicology.
 4. To continue efforts to increase training opportunities for student and post-docs.
- To serve as a medium for disseminating information regarding research opportunities.