

**Neurotoxicology Specialty Section**  
**Annual Report: 2009-2010**

**I. Slate of Officers**

	<u>2009 – 2010</u>	<u>2010-2011</u>
President	Sue Schantz	Steve Lasley
Vice President	Steve Lasley	Gary Miller
Vice President Elect	Gary Miller	Pamela Lein
Past President	Marion Ehrich	Sue Schantz
Secretary-Treasurer	Tim Shafer	Tim Shafer
Councilors	Kathleen Raffaele Vanessa Fitsanakis	Vanessa Fitsanakis Sue Marty
Student Rep.	Jason Magby	Jason Magby
Post-Doc Rep	Donna Lee	Joshua Harrill

**II. Activities**

The annual officer's meeting was called to order by NTSS President Susan Schantz on Monday, 8 March 2010 at 7:10 am at the Conference Center. In attendance were Past President Marion Ehrich, President Susan Schantz, Vice President Steve Lasley, Secretary-Treasurer Tim Shafer, Vice President Elect Gary Miller, Councilor Kathleen Raffaele, Councilor Vanessa Fitsanakis, Student Representative Jason Magby, Post-doc Representative Donna Lee and newly elected councilor Sue Marty and newly elected Vice President Elect Pam Lein.

The reception and business meeting for the Specialty Section was held on Wednesday, 10 March, beginning at 6:00 pm and was attended by approximately 200 members. President Susan Schantz called the meeting to order at approximately 6:45. The agenda included announcement of the election results for officers, announcements about upcoming meetings including the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Neurotoxicology Conference, the report of the Secretary/Treasurer, announcement of the awards for student and postdoctoral poster competitions, announcements from the NTSS President (Susan Schantz), and introduction of the President for 2010/2011 (Steve Lasley). Outgoing President Susan Schantz was presented with a plaque thanking her for her service, and outgoing officer Kathleen Raffaele (Councilor) was also recognized for her service.

**III). Election results.** The President introduced and welcomed the new NTSS officers, Vice President-Elect Pamela Lein and Councilor Sue Marty. Tim Shafer was re-elected to another term as Secretary Treasurer. The Nominating Committee was chaired by past, Past President Chris Newland. Other members were Rich Seegal and Larry Sheets.

**IV) Secretary Treasurer's report.**

Membership. As of March 13, the NTSS membership was 342 members which included approximately 60 students. At the last meeting there were 336 listed members, 50 of which were students.

Finances. As of May 2010, the NTSS net balance was \$4835. This does not reflect income expected due to membership, which will be posted to the account in the June report. Expenses included \$10,652 for the annual meeting, including awards, web development, and the reception and support for NBTS and INA for student travel awards. Income from the annual meeting was \$3334. The NTSS Financial Report is available to the Executive Committee through the ToXchange forum from the SOT website.

**V. Scientific Meeting.** Susan Schantz chaired the review committee for NTSS program proposals for the 2010 meeting. Sue, Past President Marion Ehrich and Vice President Stephen Lasley were the other members. 3 proposals requested primary endorsement by NTSS and an additional 2 requested secondary endorsement.

This committee reviewed and rank-ordered proposals submitted to NTSS for sponsorship for the 2010 annual meeting. The criteria were novelty, consistency with the theme, quality of the proposals and the slate of speakers, and whether the topic had been covered in recent years. A summary of these follows:

*Primary sponsorship:* 10 proposals were submitted and 3 were approved by the SOT program committee.

- (1) Can Animal Neurotoxicity Predict Human Dysfunction?
- (2) Zebrafish Models for Developmental Neurobehavioral Toxicology
- (3) High-Throughput Electrophysiology - 21st Century Toxicity Testing Approaches With Functional Outcomes

*Secondary/Tertiary sponsorship:* 4 proposals were submitted and 2 were approved by the SOT program committee.

- (1) Inhaled particles: From the nose to the Brain?
- (2) Minerals and Metals: Pros and Cons of Deliberate Exposure

2011 meeting. The NTSS encouraged members to submit proposals for an initial review prior to the final submission to SOT. This allowed the pre-review committee to work with applicants to refine the applications to fit better with SOT criteria.

The NTSS pre-review committee was chaired by Steve Lasley (President). Susan Schantz (Past President) and Gary Miller (Vice President) served as committee members. The committee received 16 proposals for initial review. Of these, 6 were requests for primary endorsement and 10 requested secondary endorsement. NTSS received no requests for Continuing Education courses for the 2011 meeting.

## VI. Awards

The awards for student and post-doctoral posters at the Annual Meeting were coordinated by Marion Ehrich (Past President). Fourteen students and six postdocs participated in the NTSS poster competition. The following members served as judges for the competition: Robert Tanguay, Mary Beth Genter, Richard Nass, Pam Lein, Nick Filipov, Chis Toscano, Donna Lee, Gary Miller, Kathy Raffaele, Diane B. Miller, Peter Wells, Jonathan Doorn, Vanessa Fitsanakis, and Liz Tonkin. Three students and two postdocs received awards.

### 1. Predoctoral Poster Awards

1. Marc-Andre Verner, Universite du Quebec a Montreal. The poster was entitled, "Unveiling associations between lactational exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and infant neurodevelopment: Use of PBPK modeling vs traditional exposure metrics," and was authored by Marc-Andre Verner, P. Plusquellec, G. Muckle, P. Ayotte, E. Dewailly, S.W. Jacobson, J.L. Jacobson, M. Charbonneau, and S. Haddad of the University du Quebec a Montreal, Universite Laval, Wayne State University, and INRS-Institute Armand-Frappier.
2. Kristen Ryan, University of Colorado. The poster was entitled, "Chronic hippocampal mitochondrial oxidative and nitrosative stress following kainite administration," and was authored by Kristen Ryan, L-P. Liang, and M. Patel, University of Colorado, Denver.
3. Judy Choi, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. The poster was entitled, "Functional role of the neurotoxicity biomarker protein TSPO/PBR in primary microglia," and was authored by Judy Choi, M. Ifuku, M. Noda, and T.R. Guilarte of Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Baltimore, and Hyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan

### 2. Postdoctoral Poster Awards (Only 6 entries were received, so only 2 awards was given)

1. Shirley Wang, NIEHS. The poster was entitled, "The aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AhR) regulates P-glycoprotein at the blood-brain barrier (BBB)," and was authored by Xueqian (Shirley) Wang, D. Sykes, and D.S. Miller of the NIEHS Laboratory of Pharmacology.
2. Tamara L. Tal, Oregon State University. The poster was entitled, "The developmental neurotoxicity of microRNAs: Nicotine-induced defects in motor neuron axon guidance and behavior," and was authored by Tamara L. Tal, J.A. Fanzosa, E. Memelaou, K. Svoboda, and R.L. Tanguay of Oregon State University and Louisiana State University.

## VII. Other accomplishments and activities

1. **Web Page.** The NTSS web page was updated in early June to reflect the new officers, as well as the events from the March 2009 SOT meeting (pictures, award winners, etc).

**2.** Two Members of the NTSS were honored at the 2010 meeting with awards from the Society. Gary W. Miller received the Achievement Award and Marion F. Ehrich received the Merit Award.

**3. Leadership council.** Leadership Connection WebEx conferences were conducted on June 24, July 7, and July 19, and each was attended by at least one NTSS officer. The face-to-face Leadership Connection 2010 is to be held August 4-5 in Reston, Virginia with Steve Lasley and Gary Miller representing NTSS.

**4. Revision of NTSS Bylaws.** Past, past President Chris Newland has drafted revisions to the NTSS bylaws. These will be discussed at the August phone call and if acceptable to NTSS officers, will be placed on the election ballot for approval by NTSS.

### **VIII. Future plans.**

1. Efforts are underway to institute an endowment fund for the specialty section based on contributions from multiple sponsors. Most immediately, these funds would be used to allay annual postdoc/student award expenses.
2. Other initiatives may be undertaken as a result of the summer officers conference call in late August.