

Neurotoxicology Specialty Section
Annual Report: 2010-2011

I. Slate of Officers

	<u>2010 – 2011</u>	<u>2011-2012</u>
President	Steve Lasley	Gary Miller
Vice President	Gary Miller	Pam Lein
Vice President Elect	Pamela Lein	Anu Kanthasamy
Past President	Sue Schantz	Steve Lasley
Secretary-Treasurer	Tim Shafer	Tim Shafer
Councilors	Vanessa Fitsanakis Sue Marty	Sue Marty Chris Curran
Student Rep.	Jason Magby	TBD
Post-Doc Rep	Joshua Harrill	TBD

II. Activities

The annual officers meeting was called to order by NTSS President Steve Lasley on Monday, 7 March 2010 at 7:10 am at the Conference Center. In attendance were Vanessa Fitsanakis (Councilor), Chris Curran (Councilor-Elect); Susan Schantz (Past President), Steve Lasley (President), Pam Lein (Vice President-Elect), Chris Toscano (Councilor-Elect), Josh Harrill (Postdoctoral Rep), Jason Magby (Student Rep), Gary Miller (Vice President), Tim Shafer (Secretary-Treasurer); Sue Marty (Councilor). Topics of discussion included the current status of the budget, NTSS by-laws, the student/postdoc poster competition, the NTSS endowment fund, upcoming CE/program proposals for the 2012 SOT meeting and needed website updates.

The reception and business meeting for the Specialty Section was held on Monday, March 7th, beginning at 6:00 pm and was attended by approximately 240 members. President Steve Lasley 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 27th Annual Neurotoxicology Conference, INA 13, DNT3 and NBTS; the report of the Secretary/Treasurer; announcement of the awards for student and postdoctoral poster competitions; announcements from the NTSS President (Steve Lasley), and introduction of the President for 2011/2012 (Gary Miller). Outgoing President Steve Lasley was presented with a plaque thanking him for his service, and outgoing officer Vanessa Fitsanakis (Councilor) was also recognized for her service.

III. Election results. The President introduced and welcomed the new NTSS officers, including Vice President-Elect Anu Kanthasamy. There was a tie for the Councilor position between Chris Curran and Chris Toscano. It was decided that both would serve, beginning with Chris Curran for 2011-2013. Chris Toscano would begin his term in 2012 (to 2014), and that this position would not be up for a vote next year. The Nominating Committee was chaired by past, Past President Marion Ehrich. Other members were Bob MacPhail and Karen Steinmetz.

IV. Secretary Treasurer's report.

Membership. NTSS membership was 341 members which included approximately 60 students. At the last meeting there were 342 listed members, 60 of which were students.

Finances. As of May 2011, the NTSS net balance was \$3467. This does not reflect income expected due to membership, which will be posted to the account in the June report. Expenses included \$10,376 for the annual meeting, including awards (\$1450), plaques (\$473), and the reception (\$6038). Income from the annual meeting was \$4120. The NTSS Financial Report is available to the Executive Committee through the ToXchange forum on the SOT website.

V. Scientific Meeting. Steve Lasley chaired the review committee for NTSS program proposals for the 2011 meeting. Past President Susan Schantz and Vice President Gary Miller were the other members of the committee. 6 proposals requested primary sponsorship by NTSS and an additional 10 requested secondary endorsement.

This committee reviewed and rank-ordered proposals submitted to NTSS for sponsorship for the 2011 annual meeting. The criteria were novelty, consistency with the meeting themes, 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: 6 proposals were submitted and 3 were approved by the SOT program committee.

- (1) Human Pluripotent Stem Cells and Neural Progenitors as Models of Gene-Environment Interactions in Neurological Disease, Chair: Aaron Bowman; Co-Chair: Pamela Lein
- (2) Autism: Genetic, Epigenetic, and Environmental Factors Influencing Neural Networks; Chair: Isaac Pessah; Co-Chair: Cindy Lawler
- (3) Protein aggregation as a common mechanism of toxicity in neurodegenerative diseases. Gary W. Miller and Anumantha Kanthasamy.

Secondary/Tertiary sponsorship: 10 proposals were submitted and 5 were approved by the SOT program committee.

2012 meeting. The NTSS encouraged members to submit proposals to the specialty section by April 1, and no later than April 15 for an initial review prior to the final submission to SOT by the April 30 deadline. This allowed the pre-review committee to work with applicants to refine the applications to fit better with SOT themes and criteria. Jim O'Callaghan made a special announcement at the reception/business meeting to request proposals for CE courses from NTSS, as there has not been one since 2004.

The NTSS pre-review committee for the 2012 meeting was chaired by Gary Miller (President). Steve Lasley (Past President) and Pam Lein (Vice President) served as committee members. The committee received 14 proposals for initial review. Of these, 6 were requests for primary endorsement (1 Workshop, 5 symposia) and 8 requested secondary endorsement. NTSS received no requests for Continuing Education courses for the 2012 meeting; however, there was considerable discussion about the need for developing a series of CE offerings for 2013 and beyond. Only 1 of the primary endorsement symposium was

accepted by the SOT Program Committee. The Executive Committee discussed strategies for increasing the competitiveness of the submissions in future years. The recommendations outlined in the article by Burns-Nass may be helpful in improving the competitiveness of NTSS-endorsed applications. We should provide the membership with these guidelines for preparing proposals that will fare well at Program Committee Review. In addition, it will be important for the President to provide compelling commentary on the SOT proposal website to support applications submitted by the NTSS membership.

VI. Awards

The judging and awards for student and post-doctoral posters at the Annual Meeting were coordinated by Susan Schantz (Past President). Nineteen students and four postdocs participated in the NTSS poster competition. The following members served as judges for the competition: Paul Eubig, Ed Levin, Mary Gilbert, Chris Curran, Diane Miller, Marion Ehrich, Vanesa Fitsanakis, Chris Toscano, Pam Lein, Nick Filopov, Jean Harry, Rich Seegal, Sue Marty, Per Eriksson, Chris Newland, Jason Richardson, and Lisa Opanashuk. Three students and one postdoc received awards.

1. Predoctoral Student Poster Awards

1st place: Hariharan Saminathan- Fyn Kinase Activation Contributes to MPTP-Induced Dopaminergic Neurotoxicity: Relevance to the Pathogenesis of Parkinson's Disease (advisor : Anu Kanthasamy)

2nd place: Sarah Latchney - Deletion or Activation of the AHR by Dioxin Impairs Hippocampal Neurogenesis and Contextual Fear Memory in Adult Mice (advisor : Lisa Opanashuk)

3rd place: Delfina Romero - Utility of C6-Glioma Cells for Exploratory Risk Assessment of Mixtures of Insecticides (advisor : Marcello Wolanski)

2. Postdoctoral Poster Awards (Only 4 entries were received, so only 1 award was given)

Judy Choi- Translocator Protein 18 kDa (TSPO): A Pre-Clinical Biomarker of Neurodegeneration in Sandhoff Disease Mice (advisor : Tomas Guilarte)

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 2011 SOT meeting (pictures, award winners, etc).
- 2. Endowment Fund-** The Neurotoxicology Fellowship Award Fund was officially approved in January 2011. This endowment fund was established to provide continuing support for the specialty section with the proceeds going to the student and postdoctoral awards. *Fund Established January 2011.* The

Award will be aligned with NTSS and the selection of award recipients is the responsibility of the executive committee of the NTSS. Bestowing of the awards will occur at the NTSS event held in conjunction with the SOT Annual Meeting. NTSS will send a solicitation out later in 2011 to encourage members to contribute in the current tax year.

3. **Leadership council.** Leadership Connection Webinars were conducted on June 7th and June 28th and each was attended by at least one NTSS officer.
4. **Revision of NTSS Bylaws.** NTSS bylaws were submitted to headquarters earlier this year. A revised version has been returned to NTSS and is currently being reviewed by the officers. It is anticipated that NTSS members will vote on the bylaws in the near future.
5. Long-time NTSS member Michael Aschner received the Merit Award at the 2011 SOT meeting.

VIII. Future plans.

Elections for student and postdoctoral representatives will be held in August, 2011. We currently have 5 student and 3 postdoctoral nominees.