



# Neurotoxicology Specialty Section

December 12, 2011

## **NTSS Members:**

It is hard to believe that 2011 is almost over. The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting is behind us. It was a great success for the specialty section. We supported several outstanding symposium sessions, the trainee poster session was impressive, and the Monday night business meeting/social was very well attended. Congratulations to the following trainees who received awards for their poster presentations:

### ***Predoctoral Student Poster Awards***

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: Hariharan Saminathan- Fyn Kinase Activation Contributes to MPTP-Induced Dopaminergic Neurotoxicity: Relevance to the Pathogenesis of Parkinson's Disease (advisor, Anu Kanthasamy)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Sarah Latchney - Deletion or Activation of the AHR by Dioxin Impairs Hippocampal Neurogenesis and Contextual Fear Memory in Adult Mice (advisor, Lisa Opanashuk)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Delfina Romero - Utility of C6-Glioma Cells for Exploratory Risk Assessment of Mixtures of Insecticides (advisor, Marcello Wolanski)

### ***Postdoctoral Poster Award***

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Judy Choi- Translocator Protein 18 kDa (TSPO): A Pre-Clinical Biomarker of Neurodegeneration in Sandhoff Disease Mice (advisor, Tomas Guilarte)

One item we would like to discuss at the [2012 business meeting/social](#) is symposia proposals for the annual meeting. We had one primary sponsored symposium accepted for the 2012 meeting. We believe that reasons why more of our primary sponsored proposals were not selected for the upcoming meeting include: (1) symposia based on many of our top ideas were selected for the 2011 meeting; (2) our proposals need to improve recruitment of outstanding speakers from outside SOT; (3) it is critical to not have one or at most two proposed speakers from the same institute; and (4) as a specialty section, we need to minimize repetition of similar content from year-to-year. Dr. Leigh Ann Burns-Nass recently prepared an excellent set of guidelines for submitting symposium proposals, which we strongly encourage any group planning to submit a symposia proposal to follow. We are willing to send these guidelines to any group considering submitting a proposal for next year's meeting. Let's start thinking now about innovative and cutting-edge ideas that would be of interest to our specialty section members and the society as a whole. For the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting we were strategic in our proposal preparation with several groups working towards preparing proposals with cutting-edge science and topics of widespread interest (and consistent with the SOT themes for that year). We may want to consider a similar strategy for the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting in 2013.

Another topic of interest to our members is the increased difficulty of getting neurotoxicology research funded through NIH. Neurotoxicology proposals have not been performing well at study section and this has the potential to weaken the overall standing of the field. We thought that we might spend 10-15 min discussing this topic at the meeting, but then have individuals interested in further discussion stay afterwards to participate in a more in-depth discussion and strategic planning.

If you have additional suggestions of issues to be discussed at the NTSS annual meeting and/or have a specific agenda item for the meeting, please email me and/or Tim Shafer directly.

**NTSS Postdoc/Grad Student Poster Awards.** Current [graduate students or postdoctoral research fellows/associates](#) planning to attend the 2012 Annual Meeting are eligible to compete for poster awards.

Submission requirements include a copy of the candidate's SOT submitted abstract (1 page) and a letter of support from the graduate student's advisor or postdoctoral mentor outlining the independence and role of the candidate in the research. Submit abstract and letter of support to **Steve Lasley**, Chair of the NTSS Student/Postdoctoral Awards Committee. Graduate students or postdocs giving platform presentations at the Annual Meeting are also eligible if they prepare a poster summarizing their talk. **Abstract submission deadline: January 31, 2012.** Participants will also be required to send an electronic copy (PDF) of their **poster** to **Dr. Lasley** by **February 28, 2012** to facilitate the judging (this presubmission of the poster need not be the final version presented at the 2011 Annual Meeting). Graduate students and postdocs should be members of NTSS or show evidence of application for membership. Advisors or mentors who are not members are strongly encouraged to join NTSS. In addition to recognition plaques for each winner, monetary prizes will be awarded, such as \$500, \$300 and \$150 for first, second and third place. Winners will be announced at the annual NTSS Business Meeting in San Francisco, CA. Contact: **Steve Lasley** ([SML@uic.edu](mailto:SML@uic.edu)).

In closing, I want to remind members of the NTSS Endowment Fund. We are near the end of our first year. One of our goals was to get as many members as possible to contribute \$50 or more in 2011, 2012, and 2013. Please consider contributing to this important fund. To remind members, the proceeds from the endowment would be used to fund the awards we provide to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. The donor form can be found at <http://www.toxicology.org/ai/csot/contribute.asp>. Be sure to select Neurotoxicology Fellowship Award under named funds.

See you in San Francisco!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. W. Miller', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gary W. Miller Ph.D.  
President, NTSS