



Neurotoxicology Specialty Section

NTSS Members:

This Fall Newsletter will bring you up to date on recent Specialty Section activities, and issues/initiatives that need your response or encourage your involvement. Please consider contributing your time and expertise. I believe you will find this information useful.

Call for Nominations There are two officer positions that must be filled this year, one **Councilor** position and the **Vice-President-Elect**. Remember that the continued strength of NTSS is directly dependent on nominating officer candidates with the talent and willingness to lead the Specialty Section. Please consider nominating a worthy colleague or nominating yourself. Nominations should be submitted as soon as possible to **Marion Ehrich** (marion@vt.edu) who is Chair of the Nominating Committee this year.

SOT Award An NTSS member has been selected to receive an SOT Award at the upcoming Annual Meeting. **Dr. Michael Aschner** is receiving the **Merit Award** and will give the Merit Award Lecture in Washington, DC. This is the second year in a row that this Award has been given to an NTSS member. Congratulations to Miki on winning this prestigious Award.

NTSS Postdoc/Grad Student Poster Awards Current **graduate students or postdoctoral research fellows/associates** in attendance at the 2011 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 the **Sue Schantz**, 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, 2011.** Also, those participating will be required to send an electronic copy (PDF) of their **poster** to **Dr. Schantz** by **February 28, 2011** 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 Washington, DC. Contact: **Sue Schantz** (Schantz@uiuc.edu).

NTSS Program Proposals for 2011 Annual Meeting NTSS members were active this past spring in preparing program proposals for the 2011 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. **Sixteen** proposals – **six** seeking primary sponsorship - were submitted in late April to the NTSS Review Committee (G. Miller, S. Lasley, S. Schantz) for pre-review and comments before official submission to the Program Committee. Subsequently, **three** of the six NTSS-sponsored programs were selected for the Annual Meeting schedule:

- 1) "Autism: Genetic, Epigenetic, and Environmental Factors Influencing Neural Networks" (symposium)
- 2) "Human Pluripotent Stem Cells and Neural Progenitors as Models of Gene-Environment Interactions in Neurological Disease" (symposium)
- 3) "Protein Aggregation as a Common Mechanism of Toxicity in Neurodegenerative Diseases" (workshop)

In addition, of the 10 program proposals seeking secondary sponsorship from NTSS four or five also were accepted for the Final Program.

It is not too early to begin planning proposals for the 2012 meeting. **Continuing Education course** proposals are of particular interest since NTSS has not had a CE course on the Annual Meeting schedule since 2004. Members should also consider the **Contemporary Concepts in Toxicology** venue for their program ideas. These are 1-2 day programs developed around a central topic and are held outside the Annual Meeting. SOT headquarters will lessen the need for fundraising to support the program by underwriting some of the costs and will assume responsibility for the program logistics. If the program is successful, a portion of the profit will be returned to the sponsoring Specialty Section(s).

NTSS Historical Poster for 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting SOT headquarters has offered each specialty section/special interest group/regional chapter the opportunity to prepare a **poster** for the 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting that highlights their history, growth, activities, etc. Cost would be the responsibility of the originating group, and the posters will be displayed in a prominent place at the Annual Meeting. The officers would like to focus on the **research history in neurotoxicology** for the NTSS poster, so we're soliciting ideas from the members on what items to put in the poster. Examples might be old lab photos (the kind that embarrass **senior** investigators) or pictures of NTSS members, or symbols of pop culture from the 1960's and '70's. Send all communications or ideas to Steve Lasley (SML@uic.edu), and I will pass them onto the group working on the poster.

SOT Leadership Conference – August 2010 **Steve Lasley** and **Gary Miller** represented NTSS at the SOT **Leadership Conference** in August, which brought together the heads of specialty sections, special interest groups, and regional chapters for a 2-day meeting in Reston, VA. The conference is largely intended to have everyone understand how the Society functions. Many of the issues discussed have been described in the section on **NTSS Program Proposals** above, and also included how to provide better feedback for failed program proposals.

Stephen M. Lasley, PhD

NTSS President