

NAME OF SPECIALTY SECTION ____Stem Cells_____

ANNUAL REPORT: 2014-2015

May 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015

I. Officers/Committees:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>2013-2014</u>	<u>2014-2015</u>
President:	Kyle Kolaja	Jingbo Pi
Vice President:	Jingbo Pi	B. Alex Merrick
Vice President-Elect:	Erik Tokar	Harry Salem
Secretary/Treasurer:	Colleen Hegg	Colleen Hegg
Past President	Mike Waalkes	Kyle Kolaja
Councilors:	Charles Lindamood	Anna Vetrano
	Anna Vetrano	Chidozie Joshua Amuzie
PDA Representative:	Olive Ngalame	Joshua F. Robinson
GSLC Representative:	Sanket Gadhia	Joseph Shearer

Committees: This year's Awards committee, Endowment committee, and Program committee are being established and will be finalized in August/September 2015.

II. Activities:

2015 SOT Annual Meeting Reception was held in San Diego, CA, in the Conference Center room 30A on Wednesday, March 2. Approximately 30-40 people were in attendance. Dr. Merrick (SCSS Vice-President) called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. Meeting Minutes: (see Attachment I).

2015 Stem Cells SS Officers Meeting was held in Conference Center room 30A from ~5:15PM – 6:00PM. Officers in attendance were: Kyle Kolaja, Alex Merrick, Anna Vetrano, Joshua Robinson, and Joseph Shearer.

Awards: The student and postdoctoral awards for research excellence were presented. The winners were:

Postdoctoral

1st Place—Joshua F. Robinson, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, & Reproductive Sciences and the Broad Center of Regeneration Medicine and Stem Cell Research, University of California

“A Genomics Approach for Identifying Gene Networks as Biomarkers of Human Neurodevelopmental Toxicity”

Mentor—Susan J. Fisher, PhD

2nd Place—Chia-I Ko, Department of Environmental Health, University of Cincinnati

“Oscillating Expression of Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor in Mouse Embryonic Stem Cells Deregulates Mitotic Progression and Causes Pluripotency Loss”
Mentor—Alvaro Puga, PhD

Graduate Student:

1st Place - Qin Wang, Department of Environmental Health, University of Cincinnati

“Early activation of the aryl hydrocarbon receptor disrupts the expression of genes in the WNT and TGFβ/BMP pathways and inhibits the binding of key cardiac transcription factors to their target genes”

Mentor—Alvaro Puga, PhD

1st Place—Joseph Shearer, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Texas Medical Branch

“Dose Dependent Effects from Inorganic Arsenic Exposure on TGF-β Signaling in the Tumor Microenvironment”

Mentor—Marxa L. Figueiredo, Ph.D.

2015 SOT Annual Meeting Courses/Sessions:

Symposium Session:

1. “Adult Neurogenesis in Chemical-Induced Neurotoxicities: A New Frontier in Toxicological Mechanistic Investigations, Biomarker Research and Therapeutic Targeting” chaired by Drs. Aaron Bowman and Wei Zheng

Informational Session:

1. “Toxicological Application of Studies Funded by California Stem Cell Research and Cures Act (Prop 71)” chaired by Drs. Kyle Kolaja and Arezoo Campbell

Endowment Fund Details: SCSS Endowment Fund is being established. The Endowment Fund committee will be in charge of this.

Newsletters: The SCSS newsletter will be sent out sometime in August 2015.

Teleseminars: N/A

White Papers: N/A

Contributions to SOT website: SCSS website is continually being updated and was last updated in June 2014.

Other Specialty Section 2014-2015 Activities:

The Stem Cells SS is sponsoring an American College of Toxicology Webinar titled “Applications of iPS cell derived tissues in Safety Assessment” presented by Dr. Kyle Kolaja on September 17, 2015 (tentative date).

Attachment I
Stem Cells Specialty Section Annual Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2015

Reception and meeting were held at the San Diego Conference Center, Room 30A, in San Diego, CA. Dr. Alex Merrick (SCSS Vice-President) called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, March 25, 2015. Dr. Merrick discussed the SCSS activities and then announced the newly-elected officers and thanked the outgoing officers for their hard work. Dr. Merrick discussed following topics during business meeting:

Newly elected officers were introduced:

- Vice President Elect: Harry Salem
- Junior Councilor: Chidozie Joshua Amuzie
- Postdoctoral Rep: Joshua Robinson
- Student Rep: Joseph Shearer

SCSS Goals and Plans were discussed.

1. Membership Drive: The importance of continuing to increase the membership was emphasized. Goal: increase membership by $\geq 20\%$ by 2016. Challenge: every member bring in 1-2 new members by 2016 meeting.
2. Fund Drive: Goal is to establish Endowment Fund for Student/Postdoc Awards.
3. Program Drive: Goal is to endorse several scientific sessions for 2016. Program committee will be established again. SCSS endorsed 2 approved Sessions for the 2015 Annual Meeting.
4. New Committees will be established for each Drive.

SCSS program contributions were reviewed by Dr. Merrick. All courses were very well attended:

- **Symposium Session:**
 1. “Adult Neurogenesis in Chemical-Induced Neurotoxicities: A New Frontier in Toxicological Mechanistic Investigations, Biomarker Research and Therapeutic Targeting” chaired by Drs. Aaron Bowman and Wei Zheng
- **Informational Session:**
 1. “Toxicological Application of Studies Funded by California Stem Cell Research and Cures Act (Prop 71)” chaired by Drs. Kyle Kolaja and Arezoo Campbell

Programmatic themes and submission guidelines for SOT 2015 were presented by Dr. Merrick. Tips for successful proposals were discussed.

The treasurer’s report was presented by Dr. Merrick

- SCSS estimated balance as of March 2015: approximately \$820. Estimated income after membership dues and meeting revenue: approximately \$3,000.

SCSS student and post-doctoral awards for research excellence were presented by Dr. Merrick:
Graduate student Awards
1st place: 1st Place - Qin Wang, Department of Environmental Health, University of Cincinnati

1st Place—Joseph Shearer, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Texas Medical Branch

Post-doctoral Awards

1st place: Joshua F. Robinson, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, & Reproductive Sciences and the Broad Center of Regeneration Medicine and Stem Cell Research,

University of California

2nd place: Chia-I Ko, Department of Environmental Health, University of Cincinnati

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15PM.