

## President's Message

The Stem Cells Specialty Section (SCSS) held its inaugural reception at the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., with approximately 30 members in attendance. The SCSS serves as the focal point for the interaction of SOT members interested in stem cells and stem cell toxicology. Section members have expertise in all types of stem cell models including embryonic, fetal, progenitor, induced pluripotent, mesenchymal, and immortalized stem cell lines. The SCSS is composed of academic, government, industry, clinical, and preclinical researchers and exists in order to relate the developments in stem cell research to the activities of SOT and to stimulate interest and growth in stem cells as it relates to the general science of toxicology. The Section will propose sessions for future Annual Meetings, exchange information *via* newsletters, present awards, host meetings, and participate in other scientific activities. At upcoming SOT Annual Meetings, the Section will sponsor symposia, workshops, and continuing education courses. In fact, the SCSS was successful in its first year in organizing an approved basic course in "Stem Cells in Toxicology." We are looking for additional ideas for sessions for next year's Annual Meeting.

We are a fledgling group and it would be very valuable if you would tell your co-workers in the area of stem cell research about us. It would also be of great value to help organize a Contemporary Concepts in Toxicology meeting (see pg. 5) with SCSS sponsorship to help ensure our fiscal future. We are in need of persons willing to run for elected positions this next year so nominate your co-workers, who are members, to any of the positions in the SCSS leadership ranks. Self-nominations are welcome (see pg. 3). Thank you all for your help in getting the SCSS off to a great start and see you in San Francisco.

Mike Waalkes

President – Stem Cells Specialty Section

## Officers

**President**  
Michael P. Waalkes

**Vice President**  
Robert E. Chapin

**Vice President-Elect**  
Thomas A. Gasiewicz

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Erik J. Tokar

**Councilors**  
Don A. Delker  
Rebecca C. Fry  
R. Clark Lantz

**Postdoctoral Representative**  
Amy M. Skinner

**Student Representative**  
Justin A. Colacino

**Newsletter Editor**  
Erik J. Tokar

**Website Liaison**  
Amy M. Skinner  
Justin A. Colacino

**Award Contact**  
Erik J. Tokar

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## ***Renew Your Stem Cells Specialty Section Membership***

*Students and Postdocs  
get one free specialty  
section membership  
with their SOT  
membership.*

In order to keep the SCSS going, we all need to remember to renew our membership in the Section when we renew our SOT membership. It will also be important for us all to recruit as many new members as possible. The more members that we have the more financial support we get from SOT. Mentors, encourage your students to join. Students and Postdocs, remember that you get one FREE specialty section membership with your SOT membership.

## ***Student Award Announcement***

The Stem Cells Specialty Section is pleased to announce that it will hold its first Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Fellow Award Ceremony for Research Excellence in Stem Cell Toxicology at the 2012 Annual Meeting in San Francisco. All Student and Postdoctoral members of the SCSS are encouraged to apply. To qualify, you must be a Stem Cells Specialty Section member or be able to show evidence of application for membership, and your work must be related to the field of stem cell toxicology. Submission requirements are: (1) An extended abstract of the work to be presented at the Annual Meeting, no more than two single-spaced pages in length, including figures and figure legends; (2) A letter from the Student's/Fellow's advisor stating that the research was performed while the applicant was a Student/Fellow and detailing the role of the Student/Fellow in the research project; and (3) The student must be first author on the abstract. One 1<sup>st</sup> Place and one 2<sup>nd</sup> Place awardee will be selected for both the Graduate Student and the Postdoctoral categories. Awardees will receive a monetary award and a certificate of recognition. Award amounts will be announced at a later date. Due date is January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012, to Dr. Erik J. Tokar ([tokare@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:tokare@niehs.nih.gov)).

*The Stem Cells  
Specialty Section will  
offer Student and  
Postdoctoral awards for  
research excellence at  
the 2012 Annual  
Meeting.*

## ***Membership News***

Membership in the SCSS has grown steadily since our inception in October of 2010. Since the Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. in 2011, membership has increased by approximately 35%! These numbers are very promising.

However, we still would like to encourage all SCSS members to remind their colleagues, co-workers, friends, etc. to join the SCSS. Students and Postdoctoral Fellows are important resources and are instrumental to the growth and future success of this dynamic new Section. We encourage all interested Students and Fellows to become members. Remember, all Students/Fellows are eligible to join one Specialty Section FREE with membership in SOT.

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*Membership in the Stem Cells Specialty Section has grown approximately 35% in its first year!*

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## ***Call for Officer Nominations***

Like all Specialty Sections, the Stem Cells Specialty Section runs on volunteer power. The more active our volunteers, the more exciting and valuable the Specialty Section is, and the larger an impact it makes to the overall Society. Now's your chance to get involved! The Stem Cells Specialty Section is currently accepting nominations for all leadership positions – President, Vice-President, Vice President-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, Senior Councilor (1 year term), Junior Councilor (2 year term), Postdoctoral and Student Representatives. If you would like to nominate someone, please contact Erik J. Tokar ([tokare@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:tokare@niehs.nih.gov)). Self-nominations are welcome. The nomination deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Candidates will submit a brief (180 word max) biosketch which will be posted during the election process. Formal elections will be held in early 2012. Newly elected leadership will be announced at the Stem Cells Specialty Section reception at the Annual Meeting and will take office starting May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

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*Being an Officer in the Stem Cells Specialty Section is an excellent way to network with other stem cells experts and a great way to make an impact to the SOT!*

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**Stem Cells Specialty Section Organized and Sponsored  
Continuing Education Course in San Francisco**

The Stem Cells Specialty Section is sponsoring a Continuing Education Course at the 2012 Annual Meeting in San Francisco. The course, titled “Stem Cells in Toxicology,” will take place on Sunday, March 11, from 8 AM–12 NOON. This will be a Basic Continuing Education course intended for all levels of stem cell toxicologists. Below is the Course itinerary.

**Chairpersons:** Michael Waalkes, Erik Tokar

	8:15 AM—8:20 AM	<b>Stem Cells in Toxicology</b> <b>Erik J. Tokar</b> <i>NIEHS</i>
<hr/> <p>The Stem Cells Specialty Section website is up and running! <i>See us at:</i> <a href="http://www.toxicology.org/isot/ss/scss/index.asp">http://www.toxicology.org/isot/ss/scss/index.asp</a></p> <hr/>	8:20 AM—9:10 AM	<b>The Concepts and Methods for Stem Cells</b> Ying Xia <i>University of Cincinnati</i>
	9:10 AM—10:00 AM	<b>Stem Cells in Carcinogenesis</b> Michael P. Waalkes and Erik J. Tokar <i>NIEHS</i>
	10:00 AM—10:30 AM	<b>BREAK</b>
	10:30 AM—11:15 AM	<b>Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine</b> R. Clark Lantz <i>University of Arizona</i>
	11:15 AM—12:00 PM	<b>Stem Cells in Safety Testing</b> Kyle L. Kolaja <i>Hoffmann-La Roche, Inc.</i>

## **SOT CCT Meetings Eligible for Seed Money and Profit Sharing**

SOT Sponsors two types of meetings outside of the SOT Annual Meeting: Contemporary Concepts in Toxicology (CCT) and Non-SOT meetings. CCT meetings are one- to two-day focused, open registration, scientific meetings in contemporary and rapidly progressing areas of toxicological sciences. Non-SOT meetings are sponsored by other not-for-profit organizations and SOT will either endorse or provide sponsorship money to toxicology-related meetings.

The Society will underwrite all the liabilities of the CCT meeting with the expectation that the meeting will at least break even financially. The goal of providing \$25,000 seed funds is to stimulate the creation of CCT meeting proposals.

For more information about CCT meetings, please visit the [SOT Web site](#).

*CCT meetings could provide seed money and profit sharing for things like the Stem Cells Specialty Section endowment fund.*

