

# Biological Modeling Specialty Section Newsletter

Volume 1, No. 1  
November, 2007



2007 – 2008  
Executive Committee

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The Biological Modeling Specialty Section Newsletter is published 3 times/year (February, August and November). If you have any items to contribute, please send it to us by the middle of the month preceding the planned publication date. All comments or suggestions are welcome.

Richard A. Corley, Editor  
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Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of the Biological Modeling Specialty Section. The executive committee (see left) hopes that this will become a valuable tool for communication among the BMSS membership. While we will include the obligatory financial reports, reports from the executive committee, and notices of upcoming conferences, symposia or workshops of general interest, we are most interested in including what you want to see in this newsletter. Perhaps a section on job postings, web sites of interest, news from other societies, reviews of important new publications would be of interest?? It's really *your* newsletter. We hope to publish this newsletter 3 times/year (February, August, and November). If you have any items to contribute, please send it to the newsletter editor (see contact information on left) by the middle of the month preceding the planned publication date. All comments or suggestions are welcome.

*Rick Corley  
VP-Elect  
Newsletter Editor*

## President's Message

It is my pleasure to oversee an exciting year for the BMSS. This year we are initiating several new activities and awards. This newsletter is the brainchild of Rick Corley and we thank him for his efforts and energy in organizing and getting this newsletter published. We hope that the entire BMSS membership will take part in helping to make this newsletter a valuable resource for the entire membership. Please send Rick your ideas and input.

This year, we have the great fortune to initiate a new award to recognize the best paper published in 2007 in the field of Biological Modeling (see further discussion later). This will be a nice way of recognizing the types of papers and efforts that are helping to improve the field of biological modeling.

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### **President's Message (*continued*)**

The BMSS also has the great fortune of being a recipient of funds from the Perry J. Gehring Family Fund. The Fund was started by a generous grant from the family of Perry Gehring and Joe and Terry LeBeau to honor the life and significant scientific and moral contributions made by Dr. Perry Gehring. I encourage you to read the excellent Profile of Perry written by his good friend Joe LeBeau and published in *Toxicological Sciences* (LeBeau, 2007, *Tox. Sci.* 77,1-2). Proceeds from the Gehring Family Fund will be used to fund student awards for achievements in biological modeling and risk assessment and to support student travel for individuals from groups under-represented in the sciences. The BMSS is honored to be a recipient of this fund. Honoring the wishes of Perry's family, the awards given to students and/or post-docs conducting excellent work in the field of biological modeling will be awarded the "Perry Gehring award for excellence in Biological Modeling".

As always, the BMSS leadership is here to serve you, the members. We value your feedback and hope that you will help us to improve how the BMSS helps its members and the field of biological modeling in general.

*Sean Hays*  
*President of BMSS*

### **BMSS LOGO Contest**

The Logo used in the header for the inaugural newsletter was shamelessly modified from the SOT website. Surely, our members can do better than this! Thus, the executive committee will hold a contest for best logo that will appear on future newsletters and our website. Please submit your candidate logos to the newsletter editor by February 29, 2008. The winner will be

announced at our specialty section meeting at the 2008 SOT meeting. Depending upon our budget, we may even come up with a prize that goes above and beyond the respect and admiration that the winner will receive from his or her peers.

### **Call for Nominations for BMSS Officers and Student Representative**

The executive committee needs new blood! Three of our elected members will reach the end of their terms next March. Brad Gutting (Secretary/Treasurer) and Cecilia Tan (Counselor) will be completing their two-year terms and Chuck Timchalk (past-President) will complete his four-year rotation as VP-elect, VP, President and past-President in 2008. Thus, we will hold elections this winter for Secretary/Treasurer, one Councilor & the incoming VP-Elect. Please consider running for one of these positions yourself or suggesting one of your colleagues. Don't make me start arm-twisting. It won't be pretty. We also need a new student representative (appointed position) to replace Rebecca Clewell. So those of you who have or know of a student that is interested in being a representative on the executive committee, please let us know. Send all nominations to Rick Corley at [rick.corley@pnl.gov](mailto:rick.corley@pnl.gov) by January 1 or the arm-twisting will begin.

### **2008 BMSS Best Paper Award**

Starting at the 2008 National Meeting of the SOT in Seattle, Washington, the Best Paper in the field of Biological Modeling will be recognized with an award from the BMSS. The process of selecting the best paper will be modeled after the approach used by the RASS to choose their best paper awards. The process of identifying and selecting the best paper published in 2007 will begin in January of 2008. We need volunteers to help serve on the awards committee to review the

papers and help choose the best papers. If you are interested, please contact Sean Hays at [shays@summittoxicology.com](mailto:shays@summittoxicology.com). Again, volunteers are preferred over those we have to arm-twist!

### 2008 Perry J. Gehring Student Award in the field of Biological Modeling

The Biological Modeling Specialty Section (BMSS) is again sponsoring Student Award's for Meritorious Poster/Platforms that are focused on all aspects of biologically based modeling in Toxicology, at the 2008 Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington. The Student Awards will be named the "Perry Gehring award for excellence in biological modeling" and presented at our BMSS Business Meeting and Reception in Seattle. Each award will consist of a plaque and a cash award. The competition is open to any current graduate and post-doctoral students. Each candidate, whose abstract has been accepted by the SOT for presentation at the 2008 Annual Meeting, must submit: (1) a copy of the abstract, (2) a letter (2 pages maximum) discussing the significance and potential impact of the work on toxicology and biological modeling, and (3) a letter of support from their major advisor. The application submission should be submitted as a single PDF file containing all supporting documents. To participate in the BMSS Student Award competition, membership in SOT and/or BMSS is not necessary. Research areas of interest include all aspects of biologically based modeling and simulation. Issues of interest may include, but are not limited to: models of complex biological systems, biological insights gained through model development, model validation, and mathematical/statistical/computational approaches to modeling. The deadline for submission of applications is **January 31, 2008**. We encourage all interested graduate and post-

doctoral students to consider submitting their abstract for consideration. Full applications should be submitted to Craig Zwickl at [zwickl@lilly.com](mailto:zwickl@lilly.com).

### Additional suggestions for speakers/topics for 2008 specialty section meeting

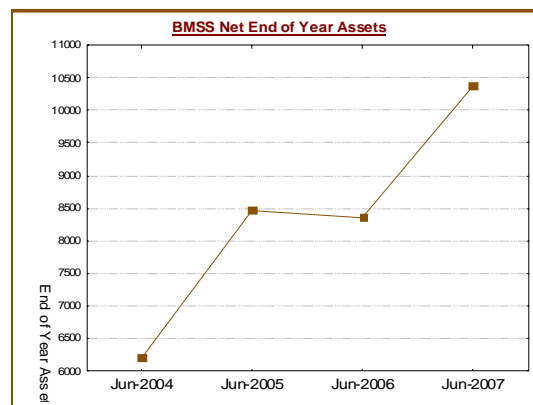
While the BMSS meeting will focus on awards, business items, and presentations from the best paper and Perry Gehring award winners, additional topics will be considered. Please forward your suggestions to Sean Hayes at [shays@summittoxicology.com](mailto:shays@summittoxicology.com). Remember, it's *your* meeting!

### 2009 SOT Annual Meeting Program Ideas

The 2009 Annual SOT meeting will be held March 15-19 at the Baltimore Convention Center. Proposals for workshops, symposia, roundtables, etc. will be due shortly after the 2008 meeting in Seattle. The executive committee encourages all members to plan ahead and take advantage of the SOT meeting and our specialty section meeting to organize a session. Let's have a good showing in 2009!

### BMSS Finances

By Brad Gutting, Secretary/Treasurer



Biological Modeling Specialty Section Financials	
	Jul '06- Jun '07
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
Income	
Contributions	2,100
Dues - '06	1,350
Student Dues - '05	-
Grants - Food Safety	-
Grants - Mechanisms	-
Misc. Income	-
Registrat'n	1,269
Interest	494
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5,213</b>
Expense	
Awards - Sections	1,750
Plaques	260
Ballot	-
Exec. Mtgs.	-
Miscellaneous	-
Newsletter	-
Reception	1,186
Steno/Clerical	-
Symposia	-
Web Development	-
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>3,196</b>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses	2,016
Net Assets Beginning of Year	8,361
Transfers from General Fund	-
Net Assets Beginning of Year After Transfers	8,361
<b>Net Assets End of Year</b>	<b>10,378</b>

(Immunotoxicity) and disturbances in the thyroid axis during development (Developmental Neurotoxicity).

**Position qualifications:** The incumbent is required to have a Ph.D. (or equivalent) in toxicology or a related discipline and interest in quantitative risk assessment methods. Experience in mathematical modeling of biological systems is useful.

**Compensation:** UGA health benefits will be provided. Salary will be commensurate with experience and prevailing UGA guidelines. The position is expected to be available for 1-2 years.

## Job Postings

### Post Doc Position Announcement- Risk Assessment (PBPK/BBDR Modeling) Developmental Neurotoxicity, Immunotoxicity, Cancer, CNS toxicity College of Public Health, University of Georgia

**Contact:** Jeff Fisher, Ph.D., Fellow ATS, [jwfisher@uga.edu](mailto:jwfisher@uga.edu), Voice: 706-542-1001

**Start date:** Open

**Location:** University of Georgia, Athens, GA, Environmental Health Science Bldg

**Position description:** Flexibility exists to work on a several interesting projects. PBPK and BBDR modeling projects are underway with solvents, jet fuels, anions such as perchlorate, bromate and bromide in either rats, adult humans, or pregnant human and fetus and lactating human and nursing child. Some modeling projects are accompanied with laboratory studies to support model development. In particular, these modeling projects are: Inhalation and systemic uptake of aerosolized fuel droplets