



Biological Modeling Specialty Section Newsletter

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2010 – 2011
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The BMSS Newsletter is published in February, August and November. If you have items to contribute, please send them to the editor (or Committee members) by the middle of the month preceding the planned publication date. Comments and suggestions are also welcomed.

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President's Message

Welcome to the February issue of the Biological Modeling Specialty Section (BMSS) newsletter. This issue announces the 2011 election results for Vice-President Elect (Cecilia Tan) and two open council positions (John Wambaugh and Clay Federick), the 2010 Best Paper of the Year (Luke et al.), and the 2011 Perry J. Gehring Student Award for Excellence in Biological Modeling (Anne Loccisano). We also remind everyone that our BMSS annual reception this year will be on Wednesday night, March 9, from 6:00-7:30 pm in room 149 of the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

This was the first year that the BMSS used features in ToXchange (polling, surveying, rapid distribution of emails and announcements) to improve communications and to allow more active member participation in decision making and the direction of the BMSS. Although experiencing a few bumps along the learning curve, ToXchange did allow more members to have a say in meeting activities, and for the first time ever, the best paper award!

We encourage you to help improve the BMSS newsletter or expand our use of ToXchange or other “social media” forums. If interested, please contact me or any of your BMSS council members.

On behalf of the council, we look forward to seeing you all during the SOT meeting and at our BMSS reception!!

Rob DeWoskin
President of BMSS

BMSS Reception Wednesday March 9th*Rob DeWoskin, President*

This year's annual BMSS reception will be held on Wednesday, March 9 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm in room 149. The top two activities for the reception voted on by members in the ToXchange poll were "presentation" and "getting to know more about members."

In response to these choices, we are planning a combination of presentations from BMSS members representing different sectors (academic, nonprofit, government, industry, etc.) to provide a broad overview of current research activities and modeling events or research of interest that we can look forward to in 2011-2012. Each speaker will have 3-5 minutes in an informal forum with questions encouraged so that we have a lively exchange on the latest advances in our discipline, and what is to come.

To date, we have speakers from the US EPA, The Hamner, Pfizer, and the UK. We are looking for four more speakers, so if you would like to be on the roster for this BMSS informal exchange, please contact Rob DeWoskin at: dewoskin.rob@epa.gov.

2011 Election Results for the BMSS Council*Jim Bruckner, Vice President,**Hisham El-Masri, Vice President-Elect*

Congratulations to Cecilia Tan, our new 2011 Vice President-Elect, and to John Wambaugh and Clay Frederick, our two new Councilors. Council members who will rotate to new positions include Rob DeWoskin, who will become Past President, Jim Bruckner, who will become President, and Hisham El-Masri who will be the new Vice President. Retiring from the council, and with our many thanks for his service

over the past four years is Rick Corley, this year's Past President. Thanks also to Mike Bartels and Jeff Schroeter, our two retiring Councilors. The new 2011 BMSS council will officially take office on May 1.

On behalf of the entire membership, our sincere thanks to the BMSS members who volunteered to be on the ballot this year including Eva McLanahan, Michael Lumpkin, Jean Domoradzki, Nicole Kleinstreuer, and Ted Simon. We encourage you and other members to continue your interest in being on the BMSS council and your active involvement in BMSS activities.

A special thanks to Jim Bruckner and Hisham El-Masri for putting together such an excellent slate of candidates this year.

For further information about the roles and responsibilities of each position, go to the [BMSS By-Laws](#) available at the SOT/BMSS Web site or feel free to contact any of the current council members.

2011 Perry J. Gehring Student Award for Excellence in Biological Modeling*Hisham El-Masri, Vice President-Elect*

This year's winner of the Perry J. Gehring Student Award for Excellence in Biological Modeling is Anne Loccisano for her work titled "Development of Human Gestation and Lactation PBPK Models for Perfluorooctanoate (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonate (PFOS)." Anne is a postdoctoral fellow at the Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences working under the direction of Drs. Harvey Clewell and Mel Andersen, who were also coauthors on the study along with John Butenhoff.

Anne's poster will be on display during the BMSS reception and her abstract will be included in the SOT time capsule (see article below).

BMSS Best Paper in 2010 Award

*Jim Bruckner, Vice President, and
Jeanne Domoradzki*

The winner of the BMSS Best Paper in 2010 Award goes to Nicholas Luke, Reeder Sams, Mike DeVito, Rory Conolly, and Hisham El-Masri for their work titled "Development of a Quantitative Model Incorporating Key Events in a Hepatotoxic Mode of Action to Predict Tumor Incidence." Twenty seven BMSS members voted from a set of 10 papers posted on a ToXchange survey. There were many excellent papers in 2010, and the votes were very close.

The study abstract will be on display during the BMSS reception, and will also be included in the SOT time capsule.

Many thanks to Jean Domoradzki, whose help in identifying, circulating, and collating the top articles and abstracts to post on the ToXchange survey allowed the BMSS to finally accomplish this long standing goal of establishing an annual best paper award!

BMSS Contribution to the SOT Time Capsule

Hisham El-Masri, Vice President-Elect

One of the events in the 50th Anniversary SOT celebration is the sealing of a time capsule that will be opened at the 75th SOT Annual Meeting by future leaders. SOT Regional Chapters, Special Interest Groups, and Specialty Sections were asked to contribute to the contents of the time capsule.

The BMSS contribution to the time capsule include the following three items: 1) the Luke et al. 2010 article (i.e., the BMSS 2010 Best Paper); 2) examples of the M-file programming code used in the Luke et al.

article and 3) the Loccisano et al. abstract (i.e., the 2011 Perry J. Gehring Student Award).

PowerPoint slides of all SOT contributions to the time capsule will be on display at the 50th Anniversary Member Celebration Meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 4:30-6:00 pm in room 207 of the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. You are encouraged to attend.

BMSS Sponsored and Endorsed Sessions at the 2011 SOT Annual Meeting

Christopher Carosino, Student Representative

If you missed the previous issue of the BMSS newsletter, below are the upcoming SOT workshops, symposiums and continuing education courses that the BMSS either sponsored or endorsed.

Sponsored:

- PBPK Model Use in Risk Assessment: Why Being Published is Not Enough (workshop to be held March 10)

Endorsed:

- Best Practices for Developing, Characterizing and Applying Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic Models in Risk Assessment. (CE course to be held on March 6)
- Using Mode of Action Data to Guide Quantitative Cancer Risk Assessment: A Case Study of Hexavalent Chromium in Drinking Water (workshop)
- Understanding Structural and Physical Drivers of Drug Toxicity: Utility and Translatable Value (workshop)
- Approaches for Incorporating Non-Chemical Stressors into Cumulative Risk Assessments (workshop)

- Vascular Developmental Toxicity: Identification, Prioritization and Application (symposium)
- The Use of Epidemiological Data and PBPK Modeling in a Risk Assessment for Manganese that Considers its Essentiality (symposium)

Contribute to the Perry J. Gehring Biological Modeling Student Award Fund

News from the Endowment Fund Board

The Perry J. Gehring Biological Modeling Student Award Fund is a “net asset restricted” endowment fund, which means that the net asset base can not be spent, only a percentage of the base is available each year to support and recognize students. In 2010-2011, SOT’s Endowment Fund Board authorized use of up to 4% (\$1,312) of the net assets (\$32,789).

The good news is that BMSS members (or indeed anyone) can make tax deductible contributions to the Perry J. Gehring Biological Modeling Student Award Fund to increase its net asset base, and thus the amount of money available each year for student awards and support.

As you review your tax deductible charitable contributions, please consider donating to this very worthwhile fund and to the future of our biological modeling students and postdocs.

To recognize this year’s contributors to the fund plan, all attendees who pre-registered for the Annual Meeting by January 21, 2011 will receive their badges in the mail. In recognition of their support of the SOT Endowment Funds, contributors will be mailed distinctive ribbons. If you do not receive your badge or the appropriate ribbon by mail, please check with the Registration

Desk at the meeting. Look for “Badge Only” signage to facilitate pick up.

In addition to receiving ribbons, contributors’ names will appear on the SOT Endowment Fund Web site under the specific fund where they directed their contribution(s).

During the 2011 Annual Meeting, Specific Purpose Endowment Fund sign(s) will also be placed at the BMSS reception along with Endowment Fund donor forms for those who wish to contribute at the meeting. Extra copies of the 2009-2010 Endowment Fund Annual Report will be available at the SOT Pavilion located in the ToxExpo Hall.

The BMSS 2010 Numbers Corner

(as of February 2011)

Number of Active Members: 140

Operating Funds: \$11,566 (a 5% increase over the previous year).

Perry J. Gehring Endowment Net Assets = \$32,789; Total Funds Available for 2011 Awards = \$1,312