Dear BTSS members –

As President, I would like to extend greetings to all of the members of BTSS and offer a special thanks to all of you who have contributed to this organization’s success over the years. It is truly an honor to be passed the baton of leadership for this organization and I look forward to working with everyone. Relative to other specialty sections, we are a young group - having been incorporated just six years ago. Back in 2010 the inaugural Executive Committee, led by Past President Barbara Mounho, set out to build an organization that would bring together experts from the varied disciplines within the field of biotechnology and provide a forum to foster education, collaborative discussion, and mentorship. I first joined the BTSS Executive Committee in 2012 as a first year Councilor and I have had the opportunity to watch this organization blossom from its embryonic state to the current roster of 208 members. Over the last 5 years I have been pleased to witness the maturation of the group as we have expanded our impact by sponsoring educational webinars and awards, expanded our influence on SOT annual programs, and fostered a community within the SOT organization to facilitate the exchange of ideas and opportunities for collaboration. Given the rapid pace of change in the biotechnology field, it is important to maintain an organization such as ours to ensure the free flow of ideas and information that help us as toxicologists to not only meet the needs of the biotech industry but to expand the frontiers of our scientific disciplines. I do hope to build upon the successes of Past Presidents and especially want to thank the efforts of Mary Jane Hinrichs, my immediate predecessor, who has done an outstanding job over the past year leading the BTSS. We have a great group of Executive Committee members returning from last year and I would also like to welcome our new BTSS Executive Committee members:

Vice President-Elect: Jorg Blumel
Secretary/Treasurer: Amy Sharma
Councilor: Jacintha Shenton
Postdoctoral Representative: Prathap Kumar S. Mahalingaiah

As we move towards 2017, we will strive to build upon the success of the last few years by continuing to support biotech-related educational opportunities, including sponsorship of webinars and outreach to new members, and we will seek to expand our influence into SOT session planning. As a member of BTSS, if you would like to participate in these or other BTSS-sponsored activities, please visit the Specialty Section area on the SOT website, visit us on Facebook, or simply reach out to any members of the Executive Committee as we are always on the lookout for interested volunteers – we need your support and participation to make these events successful!

I would like to extend my thanks to the Newsletter Editorial Staff who have put out a great summer edition to the newsletter. Please take time to read the summaries of our activities over the past year and I want to especially highlight the mentorship activities. The BTSS Executive Committee has always stressed the importance of mentorship for graduate students/postdoctoral fellows and this issue highlights some of our recent activities to provide helpful guidance for young and talented scientists seeking to initiate a career in the biotechnology field. Mentoring activities at last year’s SOT meeting included the Lunch and Learn Event and Coffee with a Mentor program and we have also recently sponsored an informational webinar for students interested in entering the biotech field. Finally, I would like to remind all BTSS members that it is not too early to start thinking about nominations for BTSS-sponsored awards. This year we are sponsoring four awards including the Career Achievement in Biotechnology, Outstanding Young Investigator, Student Achievement, and Best Paper awards. All of which have submission deadlines of January 15.

With that I look forward to working with the Executive Committee over the next year and look forward to seeing you all in Baltimore for the upcoming SOT meeting in March!
2016-2017 BTSS team

President
Thomas Gelzeichter,
Ph.D, DABT *

Vice President
Janice Lansita,
Ph.D., DABT

Vice President-Elect
Jorg Blumel
Ph.D., ERT

Past President
Mary Jane Masson Hinrichs,
Ph.D.

Secretary/Treasurer
Amy M. Sharma
Ph.D.

Councilor
Jacintha Shenton,
Ph.D., DABT

Councilor
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Prathap Kumar Mahalingaiah,
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Newsletter Editor
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Newsletter Editor
Vijay P. Kale,
M.V.Sc., Ph.D., D.A.B.T., ERT

Newsletter Editor
Deepkamal N. Karelia,
Ph.D.

Newsletter Editor
Kshama Doshi, M.S.

Newsletter Editor
Nicola Stagg,
Ph.D., D.A.B.T
The BTSS Executive Committee members showed exceptional teamwork in organizing all events, seminars, webinars and also the BTSS Annual Reception at the 55th Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting held in New Orleans, LA. We would like to thank everyone for their sincere efforts and active participation. Kudos!!

**Executive Team members:**

- **President:** Mary Jane Masson Hinrichs (MedImmune)
- **Vice President:** Tom R. Gelzleichter (Genentech)
- **Vice President-Elect:** Janice A. Lansita (ToxStrategies, Inc)
- **Secretary/Treasurer:** Diann L. Blanset (Boehringer-Ingelheim)
- **Past President:** Robert V. House (Nanotherapeutics)
- **Councilors:** Scott Manetz (MedImmune) and Joseph Francisco (Charles River)
- **Postdoctoral Representative:** Amy M. Sharma (Amgen Inc.)
- **Student Representative:** Adhithiya Charli (Iowa State University)
- **Past Student Representative:** Vijay P. Kale (Battelle Memorial Institute)
This year the BTSS was once again proud to organize their annual reception at the 55th Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA. This event highlighted the summary of the events and sessions mediated and conducted by our specialty section. Also, it was a great evening of time well spent with the fellow BTSS members and supporters. The reception was held on 14th March, 2016 at the Hilton Riverside, Grand Salon 3.

The reception started with some great food and friendly greetings. The spotlight of this reception was mainly thanking the Executive Committee’s contributions to the BTSS, Awards ceremony and a very informative enthusiastic talk by Bethany Carl Kraft (Director, Gulf restoration program, Ocean Conservancy).
Awards Ceremony

2016 BTSS Award Recipients

- **Best Paper Award:**
  Drs. Mary Jane Hinrichs and Rakesh Dixit

- **Outstanding Young Investigator Award:**
  Dr. Kathila Rajapaksa (Genentech)

- **Student Achievement Awards:**
  Samantha Chun Feng and Blessy George

- **Career Achievement Award:**
  Jeanine Bussiere, Ph.D., DABT (Scientific Executive Director, Toxicology, Amgen Inc.)
The BTSS was very happy to organize the mentoring events during this year's SOT 2016. We have successfully initiated two events during the Annual Meeting.

**Lunch and Learn Event—**

The lunch and learn event was mainly targeted for the graduate students (mentees) who were interested in planning their career path and needed experts from the fields (academia, industry and government) to clarify some of their questions. The session was very well received by the mentees and we had around 30 participants from various universities. This platform for discussing career related options provided a great opportunity for the students to have direct interaction with the panel of qualified experts from the field of Toxicology and Biotechnology. The event first started with each expert sharing their career path, that they had experienced so far. Following this section of the event, we had the mentees interact with the experts by asking questions corresponding to their career of interest. We would like to thank all the expert mentors for making this event possible.

**The expert panel consisted of:**

- Rafael A. Ponce, Ph.D., DABT (Scientific Director in the Comparative Biology and Safety Assessment group at Amgen Inc.)

- Larry Thomas, Ph.D. (Celldex Therapeutics).

- Yamamoto Brent, Ph.D. (Senior Research Investigator—Drug Safety Evaluation department at Bristol-Myers Squibb.)

- Amy M. Sharma, Ph.D. (Lead Scientist—Comparative Biology & Safety Sciences at Amgen Inc.)

- Vijay Kale, B.V.Sc, M.V.Sc, Ph.D., DABT (Principal Research Scientist and Toxicology Study Director at Battelle Memorial Institute, Ohio)
Coffee with Mentor—

This was the first time the Coffee with Mentor event was organized by the BTSS at SOT. It’s a casual session/meeting between the mentors and mentees, which happens over coffee. A small group of 2-3 mentees were matched with a mentor from their corresponding career field of interest. The meeting between the mentor and mentees was decided and was all scheduled to be conducted during the 55th SOT Annual Meeting at a suitable time and location in accordance to the convenience of the mentor and their respective mentees. The idea of this light and informal mentoring session was to enable network development, which is definitely an instrumental factor for a career path and job search. Around 30 students enthusiastically participated in this event and were paired with their mentors. Also, the mentors took time off during their busy day to meet with the mentees and hence making possible an impactful session. We would like to convey our sincere thanks to all the mentors for making this event possible and also for their valuable time with the mentees.

Mentors for this event were:

- Mary Jane Hinrichs (MedImmune)
- Hanan Ghantous (FDA)
- Scott Manetz (MedImmune)
- Joseph Francisco (Charles River)
- Janice Lansita (TOX Strategies Inc.)
- Amy M. Sharma (Amgen Inc.)

For membership information and regular updates follow us on our facebook page - https://www.facebook.com/btsssot2016/

BTSS FINANCIALS

Net Assets at the end of May 2016: $14,090